

Course syllabus

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

School of Arts and Sciences

Screenwriting 1 (Section 101)

FILM 3010: CRN 80286

Fall 2025

Instructor Information	Name: Dr. Melanie Johnson
Office location:	Bldg. 100, Room 121
Office telephone:	404-653-1329/1314
Email Address	
Office Hours:	M,W 11-12:00; 4:00-6:00 pm
• In Person:	M, W, 12:20-2:15
	Bldg. 100, Lecture Room 212
Online	N/A
Omme	
By Appointment	Office hour disclaimer: If you are not able to meet with the instructor during office hours, you may schedule an appointment based on instructor's availability.
Course Information	
Pre-requisites	ENGL 1102
Credit Hours	3
Catalog Description	Using the three-act story structure, students will learn to create a cohesive and adequately formatted screenplay for film and television production and compelling craft characters.
Course Start and End Date	September 8, 2025-Dec 6, 2025. Final Exam Week Dec 8-11, 2025
Course Textbook	The Screenwriter's Bible by David Trotter, ISBN:978-1-935247-21-0. This text is included in Day 1 Ready Access. Be sure the Bookstore has your email address.
Required Resources	N/A
Recommended Resources	Streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, Tubitv, etc.
General Education Learning Outcomes	None
Program Learning objectives	 Describe and explain how current and emerging technologies will impact the creation, distribution, and exhibition of film and other entertainment. Demonstrate the evolution of film and entertainment from the silent film era to digital streaming platforms and virtual reality to emergent technologies. Critique the evolving needs and behaviors of the film and entertainment consumer, emergent trends in online and mobile distribution and exhibition, and interactive and responsive design concepts in film and entertainment. Interpret and demonstrate various essential skills for content creators in the digital age.

Course Learning Objectives		-					
Important Dates	Thanksgiving Nov 27-28	Attendance Verification (No Show) Sept 15-18	to Reinstate Sept 22- 25	Midterm Wk. Oct 11-16	Last Date to Withdraw Without Penalty October 27	Last Day of Class Dec 6	Final Exam Week Dec 8-11
Course Delivery Method	On Campus						
Email Preference		nicate primarily a daily for new e	_		_	-	king the
Online Courses	Please use the mail address	e internal course for emergencies s via external e-	e-mail for only. I can	general corres anot answer qu	pondence. I pro estions, accept	ovide my assignme	
On Campus Courses		ΓLM Ginger Em					ace (D2L)
Email Response Time	Unless you ar	re notified otherwars during the we					ns and email
Attendance:	Attendance is required at Atlanta Metropolitan State College. Students may view their attendance record by going to the Brightspace course page and clicking on "Attendance" from the "Assessments" menu at the top. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her recorded attendance is accurate. Any errors need to be brought to the attention of the instructor as soon as they are discovered.						
Online Attendance and Participation Policy	Being "Presen "academically	t" in class is deter related activity" v oup projects, com	which includ	des actual preser	nce in a virtual c	lass, subm	ission of an
Conduct:		C College Catalog		•		•	

Late Policy:	Students are expected to be in class on time. You are marked late after 10 minutes. Three lates equal one absence.
	Except in the case of emergency and illness (documentation or proof is required), the instructor does not accept late assignments or reschedule quizzes. No make up assignments are provided.
Enrollment Status:	Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the courses in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students must periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for making changes, if any, in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing re-instatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog.
Attendance Verification (No	Atlanta Metropolitan State College has a "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification)
Show)/Reinstatement	policy. This policy is to comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations. Financial Aid recipients at Atlanta Metropolitan State College may become ineligible for funds by not attending class session (per enrolled course). Students who do not complete Mandatory Attendance Assignments and attend class sessions are NOT entitled to keep their financial aid award. The Registrar's Office will notify the students and faculty when the Attendance Verification Period has opened. The established "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) procedure will enable Atlanta Metropolitan State College to adjust financial aid awards before funds are issued to students (thereby eliminating liability for both the College and the student). A student reported as non-attending a course must seek the approval of the instructor in order to be reinstated. Once approved, the student will complete the Reinstatement form and submit it. The Office of Registrar will notify students when the course reinstatement process has been completed during Reinstatement Period.
Computer Hardware & Software Requirements:	The student can demonstrate compelling reasons (s) that have prevented attendance and the instructor believes that there is a strong probability that the student can catch up in the class OR The instructor made an error, and the student was in attendance prior to being dropped. One of the challenges many encounter with enrolling in and completing an online course is the accessibility to the required and recommended software and hardware. Different institutions, and even different courses within the same institution, have varying technology requirements. Check
	your hardware and software systems to determine its compatibility with the online course you have selected.

Minimum Hardware	D2L System Requirement
Recommendations to take	Internet Connection:
courses:	· Ethernet Network Capability required
	· Wireless Network Capability required
	Operating System Requirements
	• PC:
	 Compatible Operating System:
	 Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome
	• Mac:
	 Compatible Operating System:
	 Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome, Safari
	Hardware requirements:
	Minimum Technical Specifications for Hardware:
	 A processor of 2GHz or faster
	4GB RAM or greater
	• 500 GB of Hard Drive space
	 Monitor and video card with a minimum resolution of 1024x768
	Keyboard and mouse
	Minimum Technical Specifications for Computer Peripherals:
	• Speakers
	• Headphones
	• Microphone
	• Webcam
	Software requirements:
	Browser Requirements/Supported Browsers
	Compatible Browsers:
	 Apple Safari - https://support.apple.com/downloads/safari (Mac)
	• <u>Google Chrome</u> - <u>https://www.google.com/chrome/</u> (Mac or PC)
	• <u>Mozilla Firefox</u> - <u>https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/</u> (Mac or PC)
	Application Software
	 Microsoft Office 2016 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) (Mac or PC)
	Adobe Reader - https://get.adobe.com/reader/
	Plug-ins
	• <u>Java</u> - <u>https://www.java.com/en/download/</u>
	 Adobe Flash Player - https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

	Windows Media Player - https://www.microsoft.com/en- us/download/details.aspx?id=20426 Apple QuickTime - https://support.apple.com/downloads/%2523quicktime Microsoft Silverlight - https://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get- Started/Install/Default Accessibility: Wi-Fi is also available for use in the campus parking lots.
Tutoring Services	Students improve their self-confidence and increase their chances of excelling in their courses when they utilize their college/university academic support services. The following tutoring services are available to AMSC students: The AMSC Writing Center is open year-round to support students, staff, and faculty at AMSC. It offers virtual and in-person tutoring for various writing projects, assists at any stage of the writing process, and increases improvement in structure, use of sources, style, grammar, and more. The Writing Center is located in Building 100, Room 211. Students can walk in during hours of operation or schedule an appointment at https://calendly.com/amscwritingcenter/30min Tutor.com is a virtual space for students to access writing tutors outside of AMSC faculty. Access tutor.com in Brightspace by logging into your course. Next, click the 'Free Tutoring' tab and choose Tutor.com from the dropdown options. Students are granted five (5) hours per semester, and registration is not required. Contact the Center for Student Success and Advising at (404) 756-5690 for assistance. TutorOcean is a tutorial for students enrolled in STEM courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer Science. Access TutorOcean and sign up at https://atlm.tutorocean.com
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement	Atlanta Metropolitan College is committed to providing support for all students and making their college experience an enriching opportunity. In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The Department/Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services, located in the Student Services & Success Center, building 650-Suite 252, oversees the coordination of services for students with documented disabilities. The Coordinator of Disability Services collaborates with faculty and staff to offer provisions for reasonable accommodation to students who meet the requirements. It is the policy and practice of AMSC to make all Web information accessible to students with disabilities. If you, as a student with a disability, have difficulty accessing any part of the course materials for this class, please notify the instructor immediately.

	Accommodation cannot be provided until a reasonable accommodation plan is in place. To the greatest extent possible, all college representatives shall observe confidentiality.
Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services	The Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services operates under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws in order to assist in leveling the playing field for students who have disabilities with those who do not.
	The amended ADA, otherwise known as ADAAAA defines "disability" as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. If you feel that you have a disability or impairment that may limit your academic functioning, please contact Dr. Dorothy Williams, the Director of Counseling and Accessibility Services at 404-756-4016 or at
	https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx.
	The Coordinator of Counseling and Accessibility Services reviews all accommodation requests. In order to receive accommodation, the student's illness or disability must be verified in writing by a physician, psychiatrist, or some other health care provider or specialist. Students who choose to access disability support services should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible after acceptance to AMSC. Please be aware that late notifications may result in complications for establishing accommodation in a timely fashion.
Withdrawal	Withdrawal from a course is solely the responsibility of the student. Instructors will not initiate student withdrawals. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course MUST submit a completed Withdrawal Form (Schedule Reductions Form) to the Registrar's Office before mid-term in order to receive a grade of "W" for the course.
	A student who withdraws after the Midterm date receives a "WF" unless the Vice President for Academic Affairs determines that it is a hardship case, then a "W" will be recorded. The possibility that a student may fail the course will not be considered a hardship
Incomplete Grade Policy	An incomplete may be awarded at the instructor's discretion for non-academic reasons which prevent the student from completing the course requirements. The student must have a passing grade in the course at the time that the Incomplete is awarded and must sign an "Awarding of Incomplete" agreement. Unless otherwise stated, the incomplete should be removed by the end of the following semester; otherwise, the instructor will change the grade to an "F" grade.

Time Commitment	To successfully complete this course requires discipline, devoted time, and commitment. A student must arrange his / her schedule to allow for the required time for this course. Expect to spend a minimum of seven (7) to ten (10) hours per week to thoroughly read each chapter and complete the required chapter assignments. Additional time most likely will be required to complete quizzes and exams.
Student Expectations	Students are expected to be fully invested and engaged in their learning. The following guidelines are included to facilitate your course success.
	 Participate in this course by following the guidelines of this syllabus and any additional information the instructor provides by email, telephone, discussion forums, etc. Please speak with your instructor in advance if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing your assignments by the designated due dates. If a medical emergency occurs, you will need to provide a written medical / doctor's notice for the period in which you are unable to participate in class or complete any of the assignments (discussion, case studies, quizzes, exams, etc.). Without a medical / doctor's notice, all assignments missed will be scored as zero. Sign-in to Brightspace D2L and / or Courseware to complete assignments regularly. Read, study, and complete all assignments by the due dates. Monitor Brightspace D2L course calendar. Have access to a computer and the Internet. Make certain computers meet the technical requirements for a computer course. Be courteous, polite, and respectful to faculty, staff, and fellow students.
	For online courses, the instructor will use Brightspace D2L email for all course related correspondence. Check Brightspace D2L email as well as Ginger email daily to stay abreast of what is going on in class.
Online Discussion Protocol	 The purpose of the discussion forum is to have interactive online discussions with our class community about specific topics, assignments, or readings. Be constructive and positive. You can challenge ideas and course content yet avoid becoming negative online. When you disagree respectfully and politely, you stimulate and encourage great discussion. You are expected to conduct yourself in a mature, courteous, and mutually respectful manner. Always sign your name.

	 Postings should be well-written with proper punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Avoid the use of all caps or multiple punctuation elements (!!!???). Postings should be a minimum of 3 – 4 sentences. Check postings for responses from others and respond in kind. Postings should be evenly distributed throughout the week. Avoid making only weekend postings. Encourage further discussion by building upon current threads. The instructor may not respond to every post but will be monitoring each discussion. A response may be made to contribute to a discussion, clarify a situation, or redirect the conversation
Degree Relevance and	Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the courses in which they enroll are included in
Enrollment Status	the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students must periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for determining changes, if any in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing reinstatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog
Abandoning a Course	Abandoning a course should be avoided at all costs. Abandoning a course instead of following official drop procedures will result in a grade of —F at the end of the course. It is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the withdrawal process.
Academic Honesty	Only the epitome of professionalism is expected of each student. Cheating or the abetment of cheating is not tolerated.
and AI Policy	Per page 91-93 of the 2019-2020 Atlanta Metropolitan State College Catalogue the Penalties for Academic Misconduct states:
	 In cases where a student is found guilty of cheating or exhibiting academic misconduct involving an instructor-generated assignment or examination, the instructor may impose a penalty. Types of penalties may include, but are not limited to, the instructor assigning a grade of "F" for the assignment, the instructor not accepting the work, the student being
	assigned additional work, or the student receiving a grade reduction for the assignment.
	The maximum penalty the instructor may impose is a grade of "F" for the course.

	USE of AI
	 Certain assignments may include the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The purpose is that you will reflect on what AI offers and critically analyze to expand your own thinking on various topics. One of the most important aspects of using AI is to discern whether it can simulate or replace human response in every area, such as human experience. Note, for example, if AI is asked to share an experience, does it recall it as such and does it seem authentic? Does AI admit to lacking experience and use "I imagine" instead? Of greatest importance, consider to what extent reliance on AI facilitates your own thinking and the potential it has to limit your capacity when you rely on it too much. Do you have a unique voice that AI cannot simulate? As part of any assignment, you must always cite your AI source. When you are asked to answer in your own words, use of AI is not acceptable and considered a form of cheating and will be treated as such in accordance with the Academic Honesty policy.
Class Cancellation	Procedure regarding long-term emergency closure of the college (attendance policy): In the event of an emergency that forces the college to close for an extended period, students MUST contact the instructor of this class within 48 hours using the contact information (e.g., email address in BrightSpace/D2L) on the syllabus to obtain directions for continuing the course. The instructor will provide directions for the transmission and submission of course assignments and course assessments, including due dates.
	The student is responsible for submitting valid, accurate contact information, including an active AMSC email address to the instructor by the end of the first week of the course. Students can obtain an Atlanta Metropolitan State College Student email address in the Academic Support Center on the third floor of the Library Building.
	If the instructor for the course cannot be reached within the specified period (within 48 hours), the Dean of the School responsible for the course can be reached at the email address posted on the college's website
Class Schedule	In person Mondays and Wednesday 12:20-2:15
Grading Scale	Each student's final grade is based on points earned during the semester on examinations, quizzes and assignments, presentations, and class participation. There are no make-up or extra credit assignments except in case of incapacitating illness or family emergencies.

Grade Distribution	100% - 90% of maximum points awarded = A 89% - 80% of maximum points awarded = B 79% - 70% of maximum points awarded = C 69% - 60% of maximum points awarded = D Below 60% of maximum points awarded = F
Grade Appeals and Student Complaint Policy and Process	Please follow the Grade Appeals Process outlined in the AMSC Student Catalog, Pages 61/62. You can also refer to the Grade Appeal brochure at: https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/CAAS%20Grade%20Appeal%20Brochure.pdf For student complaint policy and process, refer to AMSC student catalog pages 51/52.
Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Links	
I need:	LINK
What is Brightspace (D2L) and how can I access it?	Brightspace(D2L) is the virtual space where students access their online courses and some Face2Face class resources, quizzes, assignments, etc. You can access Brightspace (D2L) from https://atlm.view.usg.edu/ You can also access Brightspace (D2L) from the College's webpage and click on Brightspace (D2L) on top.
Who is my Advisor? Where can I receive Advisement and Tutoring assistance?	Center for Academic Advising and Success (CAAS)
What do I do if I get locked out of Brightspace (D2L) or face technical issues while taking a quiz or turning in an assignment in Brightspace?	https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/ 18557724423 If you are unable to submit a quiz or assignment or face a technical glitch, please contact the University System of Georgia's GaView Helpdesk at 1855 772 4423. The Helpdesk is open 24 all 365 days. If your issue cannot be resolved right away, the Helpdesk will issue a ticket to your ATLM Ginger email address. That ticket needs to be forwarded to your instructor to prove that you faced a technical issue that forced you to miss a deadline.

I can't download Respondus Lockdown Browser. What do I	If you are unable to download Respondus to your computer, please email the Office of Testing at Testing@atlm.edu at least 24 hours in advance requesting a testing appointment at the Testing Lab.
do?	For Respondus issues, please contact https://web.respondus.com/contact/.
Where do I go for ADA Accommodations	https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx
I have a complaint. Where do I go?	Fill out and submit the Student Complaint form
I have an issue with my grade. How may I appeal my grade.	Read the brochure and follow the instructions to <u>appeal your grade</u> .
How do I Withdraw from a Course	Follow the Course Withdrawal Process here
I have a Hardship. How do I do a Hardship Withdrawal?	Follow the Hardship Withdrawal Process <u>here</u>
To Know the Campus Carry/HB 280 Policy	House Bill 280 Guidelines
Disclaimer	Information contained in this syllabus and schedule was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. This syllabus should be considered only a guide for instructor and students, not a formal contract between Atlanta Metropolitan State College and any student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of AMSC, to make changes in course content or instructional techniques.
Weekly Lesson Schedule Note: Due to limited availability/access to films on	Wk. 1. Sept 8,10 . Syllabus Review, Class overview, first in-class written assignment, introduction to text and course materials. Assignment for Wk. 2 READ pp 3-10; 201-210.
free streaming platforms, weekly planned screenings are subject to change.	Wk. 2, Sept. 15, 17 . Discussion off assigned reading; in-class screening <i>An</i> , Assignment: READ pp 11-29.
Additionally, due to time constraints, movies more	Wk. 3, Sept 22, 24 . Discussion of assigned reading, in-class screening highlighting catalyst/ inciting incident. Assignment READ pp 30-45.
than 90 minutes cannot be screened in full and may be presented in a series of clips.	Wk. 4, Sept 29, Oct 1 . Discussion of assigned reading, in-class screening, highlighting three act structure In-class writing assignment (p45). Assignment, READ pp 211-213.

Selected films will be prescreened for appropriateness; however, some offensive or triggering material may remain.
Students are not obligated to view films that they find offensive. The IMDB database provides a summary of most films.

Wk. 5. Oct 6, In-class screening, Assignment: Revisions of p 45 assignments. Assignment: READ pp 46-60.

Oct 8, Midterm Review, MIDTERM is Monday, Oct 13 (Timed Exam on D2L)

Wk. 6. Oct 15, Discussion of reading assignment from Wk. 5, in-class screening. Assignment READ pp61-91.

Wk. 7, Oct 20, Discussion of reading assignment, in-class screening highlights character development. INTRODUCTION TO SCREENPLAY FORMAT. (Final Draft, Celtx, etc). Assignment: **OUTLINE the first 5 pages of your script.**

 Oct 22- Participation in the Trailblazer Film Festival (Assignment: paper on Film Festival due Oct 29)

Wk. 8 Oct 27, 29. Sharing/Discussion of Film Festival papers. Assignment READ pp92-108.

Wk. 9, Nov. 3, 5. Discussion of assigned reading, in-class screening (character-action). Assignment, read pp 228 (bottom) – 233; Complete Protagonist Character-Action Grid p232.

Wk. 10, Nov 10, 12. Discuss Protagonist Character-Action Grid. Assignment: **OUTLINE** pp 5-10 of your script to include catalyst/inciting incident.

Wk. 11, Nov 17, 19. In class- discussion, peer response. Assignment: **WRITE** the first five pages of your script.

Wk. 12 Nov 24, 26. Peer sharing/Presentations.

REVIEW Wk. Dec. 1, 3

Two-part Final Exam Dec 8, 10. First # pages of script, quiz questions.

