

## Curricular revisions to SCREENWRITING MINOR

- Addition of existing course to minor: FILMSTD 4890.
- Removal of subcategory division under “Screenwriting Concentration” area of minor requirements.

### Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

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**Submitted to the College of Arts and Sciences: August 12, 2024**

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*A “track changes” version of the advising guide is provided in a separate document.*

## 1. LETTER FROM CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, FILM, AND MEDIA ARTS

Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts  
The Ohio State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Theatre, Film, and Media Arts Building  
1932 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210  
theatreandfilm@osu.edu

July 24, 2024

To the Council on Academic Affairs,

The Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts wishes to advance a proposal to add one existing department course to the Screenwriting Minor (FILMSTD 4890 "Advanced Screenwriting") to count toward the Minor in Screenwriting.

We additionally would like to make a minor curriculum adjustment to the Screenwriting Minor and remove a set of subcategory divisions under the "Screenwriting Concentration" course list within the minor. The minor is currently divided into three units: "Intro to Film Studies," "Intro to Storytelling," and "Screenwriting Concentration," each with a list of course options. The Screenwriting Concentration unit is then further subdivided into three subcategories that limits course selection by enrolled students as part of a prescribed sequence. The department advocates removing the subcategories, so as to allow more flexibility of course selection in the minor. The course list and requirements of the minor would otherwise not be changed, but students would be able to select three of five courses in the Screenwriting area (respecting existing course prerequisites).

The department supports these requested changes which will potentially bolster enrollments in FILMSTD 4880 and 4881 "Business of Screenwriting" sections and will increase availability of screenwriting seats for students who wish to take our in-demand courses of FILMSTD 4800 "Story Development" and THEATRE 5331 "Screenwriting introduction," both of which are frequently over-enrolled and waitlisted.

All five of our screenwriting courses are led by an instructional team who can provide the same broad training across the course catalogue. The removal of the subcategory divisions for the course list in the Screenwriting Concentration credit hours will allow students to select three of five available courses, respecting current course prerequisites, but removing barriers to enrollment. These changes do not remove any other existing credit hour or course requirements in the minor but simply redirect enrollments to more of the courses already approved for use in the minor. I support these proposed changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



**E.J. Westlake**

Professor and Chair, Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

cc: Academic Program Coordinator, Paige Piper, [piper.92@osu.edu](mailto:piper.92@osu.edu)

## THEATRE, FILM, AND MEDIA ARTS - Course addition and amendment to Screenwriting minor

Administered by the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts, the Screenwriting Minor combines theory and practice to prepare students to develop original stories, scripts, and screenplays for production as works of moving-image art. The Screenwriting minor integrates creative practice with critical study. In addition to developing skills for writing for the screen in a variety of forms, students garner a foundational understanding of film history and theory and of storytelling conventions across media. In the minor, students hone their distinct voice, and gain crucial professional experience for careers in film and television writing.

Students are required to complete 15 credit hours to complete a Screenwriting Minor.

**Current requirements** – see *advising guide for full requirements of minor*:

- I. Introduction to Film Studies (3 credit hours): Students select one of five course options.
- II. Introduction to Storytelling (3 credit hours): Students select one of eight course options.
- III. Screenwriting Concentration (9 credit hours): Students must complete nine credit hours split across three different screenwriting subcategories:
  1. Introduction to Development Course (3 CH)
    - Students must take FILMSTD 4800
  2. Introduction to Screenwriting Course (3 CH)
    - Students must take THEATRE 5331
  3. Business of Screenwriting Course (3 CH)
    - Students must take either FILMSTD 4880 or 4881

**1. Proposed addition of existing TFMA course FILMSTD 4890 “Advanced Screenwriting” to extend possible course options in Screenwriting Concentration.** FILMSTD 4890 is an intensive screen/script writing course taught by Screenwriting (TFMA/ENGLISH) faculty member, Angus Fletcher. This course is currently not part of the Screenwriting minor but is offered once every year and is a popular course that minors often take as a supplement to their learning (but it does not currently contribute to their current minor course requirements).

### **2. Removal of the Subcategories under “Screenwriting Concentration” area of minor requirements**

The Screenwriting Concentration is currently divided into three subcategories. Nine required credit hours are currently divided between three subcategory areas, “Development,” “Introduction to Screenwriting,” and “Business of Screenwriting” subcategories. We propose condensing the course lists of these three subcategories into one list of five options under “Screenwriting Concentration,” and removing the subcategory requirements.

Students will still be required to complete 15 credit hours to complete a Screenwriting Minor.

**Proposed requirements** – see *advising guide for full requirements of minor*:

- I. Introduction to Film Studies (3 credit hours): Students select one of five course options.
- II. Introduction to Storytelling (3 credit hours): Students select one of eight course options.
- III. **Screenwriting Concentration (9 credit hours): Students select from five course options.**  
Students may select three of the five courses below:
  - **FILMSTD 4800** (already part of minor in this Screenwriting concentration area)
  - **FILMSTD 4880** (already part of minor in this Screenwriting concentration area)
  - **FILMSTD 4881** (already part of minor in this Screenwriting concentration area)
  - **FILMSTD 4890** (existing course, new addition to minor; see #1)
  - **THEATRE 5331** (already part of minor in this Screenwriting concentration area)

**Justification:** The change would allow students more freedom to select from available course options already part of the minor. The removal of subcategories under “Screenwriting Concentration” would not change credit hours, minor requirements, or the course list of available options; the restructure simply reduces barriers to enrollment and minor completion by allowing course selection to be modular, rather than sequenced.

Removal of the subcategories under “Screenwriting Concentration” still respects the flow of THEATRE 5331/ FILMSTD 4800 as introductory screenwriting courses in the major due to the existing prerequisites for courses, but the removal of the subcategories in favor of a course list would eliminate artificial sequencing that restricts course selection.

**Benefits of proposed changes:**

- Change will reduce obstacles students face when enrolling for courses in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts. The Screenwriting Minor has grown in number over the last several years, and Academic Advising/the department has had to entertain several course petition requests from graduating seniors in the minor to use alternative course options for the frequently over-enrolled/waitlisted courses in the minor (FILMSTD 4800 and THEATRE 5331, and those offered once per year (FILMSTD 4800, 4890).
- Streamlining course options in the minor will reduce time-to-degree issues minors face, and boost enrollment in the current slate of Screenwriting classes (taken by Screenwriting minors, Film Studies majors with screenwriting upper-level focus area, English and Communication majors and minors, and students using these courses as electives for TFMA programs including the MIP-BA, Video Arts minor, and Film Studies minor). Students would still be required to meet the existing prerequisites for each of the courses in the minor, but the change redistributes enrollment to avoid logjams at the introductory and advanced points of the curriculum and redirects enrollment to available seats for courses more regularly offered (FILMSTD 4880, 4881).

There are no additional instructional needs or credit hour changes to the minor as a result of proposed changes. There are no amendments needed to program assessment design or data collection as a result of these changes.

**Effective date: changes to the minor would be effective for incoming and current students, with immediate implementation following CAA approval.**

Please see Advising Guides on the following pages.

*(current advising sheet, page 5; proposed advising sheet, page 6).*

Screenwriting (SCRNWRT-MN)

Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts  
Theatre, Film, & Media Arts Building  
1932 College Rd  
Columbus, OH 43210      Email: [theatreandfilm@osu.edu](mailto:theatreandfilm@osu.edu)

Combining theory and practice, the **Screenwriting Minor** prepares students to develop original stories, scripts, and screenplays for production as works of moving-image art. This minor integrates creative practice with critical study, developing skills for writing for the screen in a variety of forms: fictional narrative film, experimental film, documentary, animation, television, and/or new media. Students will garner a foundational understanding of film history, theory, and storytelling conventions across media, to hone their distinct voice and gain crucial professional experience for careers in film and television writing.

**A Screenwriting minor requires the completion of 15 credit hours spread across:**

- 1 Introduction to Film Studies course (3 CH)
- 1 Introduction to Storytelling course (3 CH)
- 3 courses in Screenwriting Concentration (9 CH)

**INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES COURSES**

**(3 credit hours):** Courses in this area focus on critical engagement with the cinema, the history of film, and an understanding of film as a cultural phenomenon.

**Choose one course:**

ACCAD 3350: The History & Theory of Animation  
ENGLISH 2263: Introduction to Film  
FILMSTD 2270 - Introduction to Film Studies (for non-majors)  
FILMSTD 2271 - Introduction to Film Studies for Majors  
HISTART 2901: Introduction to World Cinema

**INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING COURSES**

**(3 credit hours):** Students should choose a course that will help them explore writing styles that will aid them in the creation of specific types of screenplays. Options include exploring classic writing styles, writing fiction, or pursuing digital media composition.

**Choose one course:**

ENGLISH 2220: Introduction to Shakespeare  
ENGLISH 2261: Introduction to Fiction  
ENGLISH 2262: Introduction to Drama  
ENGLISH 2265: Writing of Fiction 1  
ENGLISH 2268: Writing of Creative Nonfiction 1  
ENGLISH 2269: Digital Media Composing  
ENGLISH 4559: Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory  
THEATRE 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

**SCREENWRITING CONCENTRATION (9 credit hours):**

The screenwriting concentration of the minor helps students move through multiple stages of screenwriting, from developing a story, creating a cinematic world, writing a short film script, understanding the business of being a screenwriter and writing a feature length screenplay.

*Note: Some advanced courses included in minor have prerequisites; check with advisor for information.*

**INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT COURSE:**

FILMSTD 4800: Story Development for Film and Television

**INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING COURSE:**

THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

**BUSINESS OF SCREENWRITING COURSE**

**Choose one:**

FILMSTD 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema  
FILMSTD 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of Television

**Screenwriting minor program guidelines**

- **Credit hours required:** A minimum of 15 credit hrs. 1000 level courses shall not be counted in the minor. At least 6 credit hrs must be at the 3000 level or higher.
- **Transfer and EM credit hours allowed:** Student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.
- **Overlap with GE:** Student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between GE and minor.
- **Overlap with major and additional minor(s):** minor must be in a different subject than major. Minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from major and/or additional minor(s).
- **X193 credits:** No more than 3 CH.

**Grades required:**

- Minimum C- grade for course to be listed on minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA for all minor course work
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count toward minor.
- No more than 3 credit hours of coursework graded *Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory* may count toward minor.

**Approval required:**

- Minor course work must be approved by Film Studies Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438.
- Minor program form must be filed prior to graduation application submission.

**Changes to minor:**

- Once minor program form is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438.

College of Arts and Sciences  
Curriculum and Assessment Services  
306 Dulles Hall, 230 Annie & John Glenn Ave.  
<http://artsandsciences.osu.edu>  
Approved CAA 7-6-16  
PMP 3.31.21  
DH 3-31-21  
DH 6-9-21B  
RLS 03-21-2023  
Revised CAA 06-23-2023

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**A Screenwriting minor requires the completion of 15 credit hours spread across:**

- 1 Introduction to Film Studies course (3 CH)
- 1 Introduction to Storytelling course (3 CH)
- 3 courses in Screenwriting Concentration (9 CH)

**INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES COURSES**

**(3 credit hours):** Courses in this area focus on critical engagement with the cinema, the history of film, and an understanding of film as a cultural phenomenon.

**Choose one course:**

ACCAD 3350: The History & Theory of Animation  
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HISTART 2901: Introduction to World Cinema

**INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING COURSES**

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ENGLISH 2269: Digital Media Composing  
ENGLISH 4559: Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory  
THEATRE 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

**SCREENWRITING CONCENTRATION (9 credit hours):**

The screenwriting concentration of the minor helps students move through multiple stages of screenwriting, from developing a story, creating a cinematic world, writing a short film script, understanding the business of being a screenwriter and writing a feature length screenplay.

**Students complete 9 credit hours of Screenwriting Concentration by selecting three of the following course options.**

**Choose three courses:**

*\*Note: Courses included in minor have prerequisites; check with advisor for information.*

FILMSTD 4800: Story Development for Film and Television  
FILMSTD 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema\*  
FILMSTD 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of Television\*  
FILMSTD 4890: Advanced Screenwriting\*  
THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

**Screenwriting minor program guidelines**

- **Credit hours required:** A minimum of 15 credit hrs. 1000 level courses shall not be counted in the minor. At least 6 credit hrs must be at the 3000 level or higher.
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The Ohio State University  
College of Arts and Sciences

Screenwriting (SCRNWRT-MN)

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**Choose one course:**

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THEATRE 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

**SCREENWRITING CONCENTRATION (9 credit hours):**

The screenwriting concentration of the minor helps students move through multiple stages of screenwriting, from developing a story, creating a cinematic world, writing a short film script, understanding the business of being a screenwriter and writing a feature length screenplay.

**Students complete 9 credit hours of Screenwriting Concentration by selecting three of the following course options.**

**INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT COURSE:**  
~~FILMSTD 4800: Story Development for Film and Television~~

**INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING COURSE:**  
~~THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting~~

**BUSINESS OF SCREENWRITING COURSE**

**Choose one:**

**Choose three courses:**

*\*Note: Courses included in minor have prerequisites; check with advisor for information.*

FILMSTD 4800: Story Development for Film and Television

FILMSTD 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema\*

FILMSTD 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of Television\*

FILMSTD 4890: Advanced Screenwriting\*

THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

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