

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Screen Story: Structure and Short Film Writing
Status: Definitive
Code: **5021CRWRI** (117438)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2013

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School

Team	Leader
John Maxwell	Y
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Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 36.00
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 204

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12.000
Seminar	12.000
Workshop	12.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	AS1	Report - A textual intervention.	20.0	
Essay	AS2	Essay (max. 1500 word) on a feature film in terms of its story structure.	40.0	
Portfolio	AS3	5 minute film script with treatment and selling document.	40.0	

Aims

1. To raise the sensibility of students to visual language.
2. To develop students' awareness of dramatic storytelling structures that operate in

film and television.

3. To develop students' awareness of formatting requirements for film scripts.

4. To develop students' awareness of a range of film and TV genres.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of story structure and relate this to particular screen examples.
- 2 Relate this visual knowledge to the written text - demonstrating an understanding of the status of the script in relation to the completed film or TV show.
- 3 Identify characteristics of TV and film genres and discuss related issues.
- 4 Write a short film treatment and script (10 mins) in the appropriate format which demonstrates understanding of the constrictions and possibilities of visual storytelling.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Report	2	
Essay	1	3
Script	4	

Outline Syllabus

Viewing of a selection of film and TV dramas and script extracts; study of sequences and their construction; the classic Hollywood 3-act paradigm; Vogler's 'Hero's Journey' model; formatting of submission scripts; the requirements of visual story telling; the discussion and practical application of techniques.

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, workshops and screenings.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Field, S.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Screenplay
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Delta

ISBN	
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Course Material	Book
Author	McKee, R.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Story
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Methuen
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Potter, C.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Screen Language
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Methuen
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Vogler, C.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	The Writer's Journey
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Pan Books
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	Lawton, C. dir.
Publishing Year	1955
Title	Night of the Hunter
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	film
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	Gallo, V. dir.
Publishing Year	1988
Title	Buffalo 66
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	film
ISBN	

Notes

This module aims to raise the sensibility of students to visual language through screening and discussions of film and television texts, with particular reference to their structure. It will also introduce students to screenplay formatting and allow them to develop visual storytelling skills.