

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: NARRATIVE THEORY  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **7000SW** (110936)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

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

Team	Leader
David Jackson	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ7      **Credit Value:** 30.00      **Total Delivered Hours:** 66.00  
**Total Learning Hours:** 300      **Private Study:** 234

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11.000
Seminar	21.000
Tutorial	1.000
Workshop	33.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1 x 5 minute screenplay without dialogue, including a treatment, selling document and self-reflective statement of intent.	20.0	
Essay	AS2	1 x 10 minute screenplay including a treatment, selling document, character biographies and a self-reflective statement of intent.	35.0	
Essay	AS3	1 x 3000 words analysis of a film in terms of its narrative structure.	45.0	

## **Aims**

- 1. To impart a systematic knowledge of current professional practice in screenwriting at Masters level.*
- 2. To develop a critical awareness of current issues in the forefront of the contemporary practice of screenwriting.*
- 3. To equip students to exercise originality in the application of knowledge and of practical techniques in order to create original short film scripts.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Successfully utilise a range of screenwriting skills that may be combined in systematic and complex ways to create original short film stories.
- 2 Show a systematic understanding of structure, theme, character, visual exposition, dialogue, setting and format in the practice of screenwriting.
- 3 Create original work that demonstrates knowledge of screen craft in relation to the dictates of developing and writing short film scripts and the capacity to tackle and solve creative problems.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

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

5 mins Screenplay	1	3
10 mins Screenplay	1	3
3,000 word Essay	2	

## **Outline Syllabus**

- 1. Introduction to narrative structure.*
- 2. Introduction to writers' workshops.*
- 3. Creative thinking: generating and developing ideas.*
- 4. Introduction to Genre, Story and Theme*
- 5. Character, Setting and Dialogue.*
- 6. Layout.*
- 7. How to write a treatment.*
- 9. Analysis of contemporary films.*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures  
Workshops

Sessions with visiting industry professionals  
 One-to-one tutorials.

## References

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Aristotle,
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1999
<b>Title</b>	The Poetics
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Nick Hern
<b>ISBN</b>	1854593331

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Ballon, R.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2005
<b>Title</b>	Blueprint for Screenwriting
<b>Subtitle</b>	A Complete Writer's Guide to Story Structure and Character Development (Electronic Resource)
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Bowden, D.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2006
<b>Title</b>	Writing for Screen
<b>Subtitle</b>	the basics of Screenwriting
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	"Sight and Sound" journal'
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Field, S.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1994
<b>Title</b>	Four screenplays
<b>Subtitle</b>	studies in the American screenplay'
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Dell
<b>ISBN</b>	0440504902

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom">www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom</a>
<b>Publishing Year</b>	0

<b>Title</b>	
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	<a href="http://mediaguardian.co.uk">http://mediaguardian.co.uk</a>
<b>Publishing Year</b>	0
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	
<b>ISBN</b>	

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### Notes

This module aims to teach students systematic and comprehensive knowledge of screenwriting to Masters level.