

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communication and the Arts

Programme: Study Abroad

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Script Writing

Course Code: LITR THEA 5601

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

Students are guided through the creative processes of writing scenes for the stage, TV, and film. The building of character and plot is examined as well as the industry standard formats for writing in these media. Group and team work is encouraged as well as discussions, critique and analysis of the narrative techniques used in existing stage plays and films.

Prerequisites:

40 Credits

Students will not be able to take the four-credit version of this course if they had previously taken this three-credit course.

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to introduce students to a variety of narrative scripts, providing them the theoretical knowledge base to critically analyse central issues such as how to format a script, identify the narrative structure of a script, and build character and plot. Students will put theory into practice as they try their hand at creating scenes for film, stage and television.

Programme Outcomes:

A5I

B5I

C5I, II

D5II

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

Demonstrate a detailed understanding of contemporary theories and practices in script writing.

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of how different audiences and cultures perceive, consume and understand scripted narratives.
- Deliver work with limited supervision to a given brief, referencing their sources and ideas where relevant and using a problem-solving approach.
- Exercise a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis.
- Demonstrate their project management skills, including the ability to work within a group, to engage in self-reflection and to employ their imaginative abilities needed to effectively undertake the entire process required in script writing.
- Demonstrate the ability to adapt to non-routine performance tasks using ICT for specific purposes as they produce original scripts and deliver a creative portfolio.

Indicative Content:

- Narrative structure and techniques
- Plot development
- Character development
- Stage play scripts
- Screen play scripts
- Settings
- Creating effective and believable dialogue

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

Each session includes an interactive discussion on a particular approach or theory. The structure and narrative techniques of various film and theatre pieces are examined through readings and the viewing of video extracts. Classes are structured around a series of writing workshops, which lead to the creation of scenes for the stage and for the screen. Regularly, these scenes are performed in class readings and then critiqued by the group. Group discussions aid in the development of the way a particular student's piece might develop. Guidance and appraisal techniques also include one-to-one sessions with the lecturer.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Indicative Text(s):

Dancyger, K, Rush, J., Keyt, J. (2023) *Alternative scriptwriting contemporary storytelling for the screen*. 6th edn. London: Routledge.

Kramer, S. (2023) *Writing for stage and screen: creating a perception shift in the audience*. London: Bloomsbury Methuen Drama.

Gulino, P.J. (2024) *Screenwriting: the sequence approach*. 2nd edn. London: Bloomsbury.

Storr, W. (2020) *The science of storytelling*. Glasgow: William Collins.

Landau, N. (2024) *TV writing on demand: What's now + what's next*. 2nd edn. London: Routledge.

Hewitt, D. H. (2024) *Mastering screenwriting: from shorts to features*. Signal Hill, CA: Foreign Films Publishing.

Journals

Sight and Sound

Websites

<https://www.celtx.com/index.html>

www.bafta.org

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 2024	