

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Art and Social Sciences

**Programme:** BA Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Script Writing

**Course Code:** CRW 5200

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 15

Seminar / Tutorials: 30

Independent / Guided Learning: 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:** ARW 4195 or GEP 4180

**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:**

5Aiii, 5Biii, 5Cii, 5Ciii, 5Di, 5Dii, 5Diii

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):**

Field, Syd. *Screenplay: the Foundations of Screenwriting*. New York: Delta, 2005.  
 Gooch, Steve, *Writing a Play*. London: A&C Black, 2001  
 McKee, Robert. *Story*. London: Methuen 1999

**Journals**

*Sight and Sound*

**Web Sites**

<https://www.celtx.com/index.html> [www.bafta.org](http://www.bafta.org)

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

| Major or Minor Change? | Nature of Change                            | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC) | Change Actioned by Academic Registry |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Major                  | Change number from COM to CWR               | LTPC 28/11/2014                                |                                      |
| Major                  | Change Programme Outcomes to new CLCW Prog. | LTPC 28/11/2014                                |                                      |
| Major                  | Revised Learning Outcomes                   | LTPC 28/11/2014                                |                                      |
|                        | Annual update                               | May 2023                                       |                                      |
|                        |   |  |                                      |
|                        |   |  |                                      |