

**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Scriptwriting		
Module Code	UALAKJ-15-1	Level	1
For implementation from	September 2017		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	ACE	Field	Lens and Moving Image
Department	Film and Journalism		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Filmmaking (compulsory)		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	N/A		

Part 2: Description
<p>The module introduces students to the professional craft of writing fiction for the screen. Although the primary focus is the short form, the module establishes the importance of the script as a blueprint for longer filmmaking forms and other forms of media production. The aim is to create a series of foundational understandings and skills that students can revisit and deepen in future levels of the award as they develop and specialize.</p> <p>The emphasis is on research, creative development and the process of writing. Students explore a range of ideas, researching and testing them in order to select the strongest for further development. They then work on selected projects to build the dramatic potential of their screen stories through plot and character development and from treatment to the first draft script. Writing practice is set in the context of professional screenplay craft standards, and the module critically examines some important industry themes such as, the interplay between genre and audience expectation and satisfaction.</p> <p>Indicative syllabus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The short film form • Identifying audiences and creating emotional engagement • Creative idea development using research and also autobiography and personal themes • Principles of dramatic narrative: structure, character function, conflict • Developing characters and writing believable dialogue • Introduction to theme, subtext, symbolism and metaphor, genre and tone, visual style and non-verbal storytelling • The development process: premise, step-outline, treatment, pitch, script drafts, script editing and analysis • Professional screenplay writing: industry standard vocabulary and formats

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Students undertake short practical assignments in small groups or individually that enable them to apply understandings developed in the module and as well as practice the professional screenplay form. These exercises also support discussion and interaction in relation to wider aspects of creative practice, professional attitudes and learning skills. The specific assignments will be expanded upon in the Module Handbook.

Lectures introduce aspects of the syllabus which are expanded on in screenings, seminars and workshops. In addition, there are group tutorials to support project work. Support for library access and information skills is available through the UWE Study Support and the UWE Library Services web pages, including interactive tutorials on finding books and journals, evaluating information and referencing.

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment strategy

The assessment enables the student to demonstrate achievement across all the learning outcomes of the module. This assessment type has been chosen to enable students to combine a range of outputs supported by the teaching and learning and to facilitate the development of creative scriptwriting in professional formats. Formative and summative assessments are designed to provide the opportunity for students to understand and reflect upon their achievements and to support the monitoring of progress by tutors and students.

Formative assessment

During the module, students participate in live critiques of presented work (their own and others') in which all students will be expected to contribute to the constructive critical evaluation of fellow students' work. Feedback (verbal and/or in writing) from tutors at regular points throughout the module provides students with a clear understanding of their progress and how this can be improved.

Summative assessment

Component A, 1: Portfolio (100%)

For the summative assessment, students are required to submit a portfolio of documents demonstrating their engagement and the development of the concepts, exercises and assignments explored and set in the taught sessions. Guidance as to the contents of the Portfolio is contained in the Module Handbook. Some of the assignments may be written collaboratively. However, it will be possible to weigh the balance of the individual students' effort and contribution via the particular nature of the research, documentation and evaluation that may also form part of the Portfolio requirement.

Assessment criteria (as related to learning outcomes)

Students will be assessed using the following criteria:

- **Research and Creative Development:** the level of the creativity and imagination of ideas and a correlation between research and concept development (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5);
- **Audience Engagement and Storytelling:** the level of appreciation of genre and clear consideration of how to engage the audience in the development of work (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5);
- **Craft and Technical Skills:** the level of use of writing craft skills in the development of a first draft script, including the effective use of narrative structure (LO2, LO3, LO5, LO6, LO7, LO8);
- **Professional Practice:** the level of correct use of professional scriptwriting formats; commitment to group work through self-management; the confident use of transferable and verbal and written communication skills (LO2, LO7, LO8);
- **Contextual Understanding and Critical Evaluation:** the level of ability to situate and evaluate work in the broader context of screenwriting and media production (LO4).

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	Component A1	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	100%	
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions)	Element weighting	

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Description of each element		(as % of component)																														
1. Portfolio		100%																														
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)																																
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element		Element weighting (as % of component)																														
1. Portfolio		100%																														
Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods																																
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use a variety of creative idea generation and research strategies to initiate and develop fictional ideas; 2. Collaborate in the creative development of imaginative script ideas for short film production; 3. Identify and apply the principles of dramatic writing, the elements of narrative design and the distinctive features of the short film screenplay form; 4. Situate work in the broader context of screenwriting and fictional media production; 5. Explain and apply principles of genre and audience engagement; 6. Use constructive criticism, script analysis and creative editing skills; 7. Use professional writing craft skills including vocabulary and layout to a basic level; 8. Clearly communicate their ideas verbally and in writing. <p>All assessed through Component A1.</p>																															
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: left;"><u>Key Information Set - Module data</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="5"><i>Number of credits for this module</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid black;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Hours to be allocated</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Independent study hours</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Placement study hours</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Allocated Hours</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">150</td> <td style="text-align: center;">36</td> <td style="text-align: center;">114</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">150</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5" style="text-align: right; text-align: center;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Key Information Set - Module data</u>					<i>Number of credits for this module</i>									15	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	150	36	114	0	150					
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Total Assessment	<p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p> <p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p>																															

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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total assessment of the module:</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Written exam assessment percentage</td> <td></td> <td>0%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework assessment percentage</td> <td></td> <td>100%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical exam assessment percentage</td> <td></td> <td>0%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>100%</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Total assessment of the module:				Written exam assessment percentage		0%		Coursework assessment percentage		100%		Practical exam assessment percentage		0%				100%	
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Reading List	<p>The following list is indicative and will up-dated for publication as a reading list on http://readinglists.uwe.ac.uk and in the Module Handbook and as an on-line list on Blackboard.</p> <p>Core Reading Johnson, C.H. (2000) <i>Crafting Short Stories That Connect</i>. Woburn, MA: Focal Press. Practical book about writing short film scripts for the first time writer Potter, C. (2001) <i>Screen Language: From Film Writing to Film Making</i>. London: Methuen. Inspirational creative writing exercises for the screenwriter / filmmaker Scher, L. (2011) <i>Reading Screenplays</i>. Harpenden: Kamera Books Essential guide from founder of The Script Factory</p> <p>Further Reading: Books Aronson, L. (2001) <i>Screenwriting Updated</i>. Los Angeles: Silman James. Cooper, P. and Dancyger, K. (2000) <i>Writing the Short Film</i> 2nd ed. Oxford: Focal Press. Goldman, W. (1983) <i>Adventures in the Screen Trade</i>. London: Abacus. Hoffman, A. (2003) <i>Research for Writers</i>. 7th ed. London: A&C Black Hunter, L. (1994) <i>Screenwriting</i>. London: Hale Indick, W. (2004) <i>Psychology for Screenwriters: Building Conflict in Your Script</i>. Studio City, CA: Michael Wiese Productions. Marks, D. (2009) <i>Inside Story, The Power of the Transformational Arc</i>. London: A&C Black. McKee, R. (1999) <i>Story, Substance, Structure and Style and the Principles of Screenwriting</i>. New York: Harper Collins. Phillips, W. (1991) <i>Writing Short Scripts</i>. New York: Syracuse University Press. Robinson, A. (2009) <i>Writing and Script: A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Rabiger, M. (2005) <i>Developing Story Ideas</i>. Oxford: Focal Press. Truby, J. (2007) <i>Anatomy of Story</i>. Oxford: Focal Press.</p> <p>On-line resources http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/ Key industry resource http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004221f Archive examples of short films http://encounters-festival.org.uk/digital-viewing-library/ Examples of short films http://www.depict.org Examples of very short films and concise storytelling www.script-o-rama.com Free movie scripts and screenplays; a great way of seeing how industry writers work www.scripts.com Searchable directory of downloadable scripts across film, TV and radio http://www.TwelvePoint.com/ Over 5000 pages of free resources for writers http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/ Ground breaking script development organisation</p>																				

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First CAP Approval Date	1 June 2012			
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