UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Essential Scriptwriting Skills and Techniques					
Module Code	UPNN6D-30-1		Level	1	Version	1
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	60	WBL module?	No	
Owning Faculty	ACE		Field	Linguistics		
Department	Arts and Cultural Industries		Module Type	Project		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Creative and Professional Writing					
Pre-requisites	n/a		Co- requisites	n/a		
Excluded Combinations			Module Entry requirements			
First CAP Approval Date	*22/03/2016*		Valid from	September 2016		
Revision CAP Approval Date			Revised with effect from			

Review Date	

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students should be able to: • Demonstrate a thorough and confident understanding of key principles of story design and characterisation and the role of motivation in driving narrative in all forms of writing for performance. • Understand how dialogue is constructed to convey complex inter-character dynamics and multiple levels of meaning. • Deploy this understanding of structure and language imaginatively and effectively in a range of their own creative writing. • Creatively respond to peer critiquing and offer positive critiquing to their fellow students. • Demonstrate an understanding of how successful scene structure and dialogue is used by performed and produced writers in diverse areas of the arts and the media. • Recognise a range of key critical theories that influence how performed, produced and digitally distributed work is received and assessed.

Syllabus Outline	This module will provide students with a thorough, detailed and in-depth understanding of the key skills, structures and techniques that underlie all successful writing for performance. Students will be introduced to the theories and principles of story design, character-driven narrative and the dynamics of motivation and subtext. They will analyse how stage plays, feature and short films, radio and television dramas of different styles and genres, plus forms of writing for performance delivered through online platforms, all deliver coherence and credibility through common structures and techniques. Students will gain a clear understanding of how the power to entertain and deliver exciting, engaging plot lines is created through the adaptation of universal creative writing principles to specific media forms. The challenges and opportunities of writing within specific stage, screen and online drama formats will be explored through case studies of produced scripts. The broader media and cultural arena in which these scripts were written and produced will also be explored, in order to place the scripts within their historical context. Students will study the principles of effective dialogue, delivering subtext and using action to develop narrative. As well as studying and practising the skills needed to create original drama, students will analyse the principles and practice of adaptation, drama-documentary and working with biographical material. They will deepen their understanding of the language of writing for performance through the creation, sharing and peer critiquing of their own work, which may be for live performance, screen and/or online mediums. Principles of dramaturgy and script editing will be introduced and key critical theories and approaches discussed. This module is based on lecturer input, whole- and small-group devising and writing activities during scheduled sessions, plus individual writing outside them. Extracts from a variety of scripts will be studied or viewed. Efficient and supportive ways to receive and offer critiquing will be practised.
Contact Hours	A minimum of 72 hours contact time is provided for this module.
Teaching and Learning Methods	**Scheduled learning** Workshops and seminars are at the core of this module, with the contact model consisting of one three-hour session. This allows a flexible approach to be taken to combining workshop and seminar sessions, and to combining lecturer input with practical work. This flexible approach also enables students to develop the skills necessary to engage with different modes of learning. The module may require students to work both independently and in small groups on a variety of tasks. Guidance on work briefs and set reading or tasks will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on UWE online or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders. **Independent learning** Independent study may include a variety of tasks such as written exercises, assignment preparation, and recommended further reading. It will be guided by a clear syllabus outline in the module handbook and preparation questions and/or tasks communicated via Blackboard.
Key Information Sets Information	Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Key Information Set - Module data

Number of credits for this module				30	

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	
300	72	228	0	300	✅

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -

Written Exam: Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test
Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project
Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

Coursework assessment percentage	100%
Practical exam assessment percentage	0%
	100%

Reading Strategy	**Core reading** Any core reading will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students may be required to purchase a set text, be given a study pack or be referred to texts that are available electronically or in the Library. Module guides will also reflect the range of reading to be carried out. **Further reading** Further reading is advisable for this module, and students will be encouraged to explore at least one of the titles held in the library on this topic. A current list of such titles will be given in the module guide and revised annually.
Indicative Reading List	The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via via the module guide or Blackboard pages. **Indicative reading list** **On writing** Edgar, D. (2009) *How Plays Work*. London: Nick Hern Books Field, S. (2005) *Screenplay, The Foundations of Screenwriting*. Revised Edition. New York: Delta Books/ Random House McKee, R. (1999) *Story*. London: Methuen Philips, W.H. (1999) *Writing Short Scripts*. Syracuse (USA): Syracuse University Press Trotter, D. (2014) *Screenwriter's Bible: A Complete Guide To Writing, Formatting & Selling Your Script*. Los Angeles: Silman James Press Unwin, S. (2004) *So You Want To Be A Theatre Director*. London: Nick Hern Books

York, J. (2014) *Into The Woods: How Stories Work And Why We Tell Them*. London: Penguin

Stage Plays
Grieg, D. (2009) *Misummer, A Play With Songs*. London: Faber
Mamet, D. (1996) *Glengarry Glen Ross*. New York: Grove Books
McPherson, C. (2001) *The Weir*. London: Nick Hern Books
Prebble, L. (2009) *Enron*. London: Bloomsbury
Russell, W. (1986) *Educating Rita* and *Stags and Hens*. London: Methuen (Collection)

Film scripts – all free downloads at www.dailyscript.com/scripts/usualsuspects.html
Mamet, D. *Glengarry Glen Ross*.
McQuarrie, C. *The Usual Suspects*.
Fancher, H. & Webb, D. *Blade Runner. Shooting draft script*

Radio and TV scripts from BBC Writer's Room scripts store (online resource):
Casualty - Series 30, Episode 1 - 30th Anniversary (BBC TV)
EastEnders - 30 October 2015 - Halloween special (BBC TV)
Inside Number 9 – Series 2 'The 12 Days of Christine' (BBC TV)
Ivan and the Dogs (BBC Radio 4)
Jamaica Inn - Episode 1 (BBC TV)
'*Peaky Blinders*' Series 1, Episode 1. (BBC TV)
'*Rudi's Rare Records*', Episode 1. (BBC Radio 4)

Part 3: Assessment	
Assessment Strategy	**Assessments:** Portfolio (100%) Students are required to submit a portfolio of work that includes the outcomes of tasks set during the module. These tasks will be designed to enable students to demonstrate, for the purposes of assessment, the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and/or experience that meets the learning outcomes for the module. The word count will be determined by the nature of the tasks set, and a clear indication of word count limits will be included in the module handbook.

Identify final assessment component and element	**Component A**	
	A:	**B:**
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**100**	

First Sit	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(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%

If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.