



Module Specification

Television Screenwriting

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Television Screenwriting

Module code: UALB63-45-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 45

ECTS credit rating: 22.5

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Field: Lens and Moving Image

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module allows students to familiarise themselves with professional development and working practices of writing a television series - from the conception, development and pitching of a series; to working in, and running a TV Writers Room.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Examine and explore the roles and career pathways of a writer in the television series development, pre-production, production and post-production phases of a television series.

The module will equip students with the relevant practical craft skills necessary to gain the level of confidence and independence required to work effectively and professionally, using a range of techniques and methodologies within the television series development process.

Outline syllabus: This module offers the opportunity to develop practical television series writing craft skills, and gain an understanding of working practices while engaging in research relevant to practice.

Workshops

Cover the professional working practices and etiquettes specific to a range of television series screenwriting processes and methodologies.

Television Series Development & Writers Room Simulations.

Students engage with a series of professional world simulations, designed to explore various aspects of television series development and production processes.

Independent Study.

This includes studio practice that allows students to gain a deeper understanding of existing skills, and acquire new ones through research activities appropriate to their developing practice.

Lectures/Screenings/Seminars.

A range of events that expose students to a range of ideas and critical debates relevant to the development of television series development and screenwriting processes and methodologies.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module will be delivered through a series of workshops, lectures, screenings, professional simulations, seminars, small group tutorials, one-on-one consultations and Q & A sessions with industry professionals. It is supported by other online materials via Blackboard.

Workshops may be delivered through demonstration, short practical exercises and writers room simulations that consolidate existing skills and introduce new ones.

Seminars and small group tutorials allow students to test and articulate ideas and to absorb new concepts and approaches to the practical aspects of work.

Professional simulations create controlled conditions for the students to experience the situations and pressures of a professional television writer's career.

Lectures and screenings are intended to broaden the students' experience of contemporary and historic feature film development and screenwriting.

Practical work allows the development of a range of screenwriting, script editing and development skills, and exploration of different forms of television series screenwriting appropriate to creative interests, skills and ambitions.

One-to-one consultations will further develop an understanding of the student's personal ambitions and career path, further encouraging ongoing reflective learning and self-assessment.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate the creative, analytical, evaluative and organisational skills necessary for the conception, development and writing of television series pitch documents and pilot episodes to professional standards.

MO2 Analyse the television series development process and the place of its key personnel, critique, notes, rewriting and revision in that process.

MO3 Demonstrate their ability to pitch television series projects, developed from their analysis on the role of pitching in the television series development process.

MO4 Develop through analysis the ability to evaluate teleplays, pitching documents, pilot episodes and television series across a range of criteria including narrative, technical, aesthetic, cultural, diversity and commercial.

MO5 Demonstrate through practical activities a knowledge of staffing in, and running a television series writers' room.

Hours to be allocated: 450

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 390 hours

Face-to-face learning = 60 hours

Total = 450

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/68B7939C-6A8E-BABA-AA80-7544B6037403.html?lang=en-US&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Teleplay(s) totalling 50-60 minutes of screen time – for an hour long television series, this will equate to the pilot, for a thirty minute television series this will equate to the pilot and a second episode etc.

A showrunner's television series bible/pitch document. This will also include a verbal pitch.

Formative feedback is given regularly in all classes by peers, staff and visiting professionals through tutorials, workshops and one to one sessions.

Summative feedback is given at the end of each module.

Assessment tasks:

Project (First Sit)

Description: Teleplay(s) totalling 50-60 minutes of screen time – for an hour-long television series, this will equate to the pilot, for a thirty-minute television series this will equate to the pilot and a second episode etc.

A showrunner's television series bible/pitch document. This will also include a verbal pitch.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Project (Resit)

Description:

Teleplay(s) totalling 50-60 minutes of screen time – for an hour-long television series, this will equate to the pilot, for a thirty-minute television series this will equate to the pilot and a second episode etc.

A showrunner's television series bible/pitch document. This will also include a verbal pitch.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Screen Production (Screenwriting) [Bower] MA 2023-24