



Module Specification

Adaptation: Screenwriting and Narrative Form

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Adaptation: Screenwriting and Narrative Form

Module code: UPGNA6-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: English

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: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: Students examine the commercial, professional and creative practices underpinning film adaptation, through critical study and practical

screenwriting. The module also enhances students' understanding of narrative film form and convention (e.g., three act structure, the inciting incident, individual causality, transmedia narrative).

The majority of feature films are based on existing stories and characters, not original screenplays. The industry adapts diverse sources, including novels, short stories, plays, comic books, videogames – even toys and theme park rides. By exploring adaptation as both a process and a product, students will develop commercial awareness of the wider cultural economy supporting cross-media adaptation (e.g., copyright and licensing, synergy and transmedia franchises, tie-ins and merchandising).

Students will be introduced to professional screenplay layout and structure, drawing on examples of adapted screenplays as models for their own adaptation project. Students will also pitch their concept for the adaptation, embedding professional experience and enterprise skills.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Lectures provide a framework for thinking about adaptation and introduce core screenwriting skills. Workshops put this knowledge into practice through screenwriting exercises, including tutor and peer feedback on draft work for the Portfolio.

Students are expected to prepare appropriately for workshops by completing draft work in advance, doing core readings and watching film adaptations.

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

MO1 Demonstrate commercial awareness of cross-media adaptation practices within the contemporary film industry

MO2 Demonstrate understanding of professional screenwriting layout and techniques, including pitching

MO3 Demonstrate understanding of narrative structure through practical application to screenwriting

MO4 Reflect upon creative and commercial rationales for adaptations

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgna6-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgna6-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment is designed to test students' understanding of film adaptation, narrative structure and screenwriting techniques. The assessment builds on students' creative and commercial awareness from UPGN9B-30-1 Hollywood and Beyond: Commerce, Creativity and Authorship, and broadens the range of student writing skills to include creative and reflective pieces – skills that are complemented by UPGN9H-15-2 Professional Writing About Film, and which students will have further opportunity to develop at level 3 in UPGN9J-30-3 Film Studies Independent Project.

Students submit an initial proposal as a formative assessment point, allowing tutors to feed-forward before students complete the pitch.

Assessment: Portfolio (3000 words) The portfolio comprises a rationale for the project, extracts from the screenplay, a recording of the pitch, and a sequence outline.

Assessment components:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (3000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (3000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Film Studies [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Film Studies {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Film Studies {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Film Studies [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Film Studies [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21