

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code	DD0000
Course Title	Writing Narratives for Creative Media
Pre-requisites	NIL
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39

Course Aims

This course introduces you to the practice and theory of writing narratives for creative media. Narrative, the principles of storytelling, play a crucial part in much of the media and design landscape, and writing is a key tool for their construction. Narrative writing has to engage with the materiality of the media and is in a creative dialogue with form and content. During this course you will engage with and analyse notable examples, forms, techniques and ideas around narrative and storytelling, and you will begin to develop your own writing practice through a series of practical projects with the instructor and peer feedback.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Analyse the fundamental elements of a dramatic story, and how and why stories are constructed and designed.
2. Recognise the differences between narrative media and demonstrate various ways to communicate via 'storytelling' in those media.
3. Creatively and reflexively apply principles learnt in class (and through external reading) to develop your own narratives in several different media.
4. Communicate your ideas about story effectively in presentations.
5. Critique your own and your peers' work in a clear and constructive manner.

Course Content

- **Why do we have Stories?**
Overview of key concepts and theories around narrative and how we develop as consumers of narratives.
- **How do we construct Stories?**
An exploration of story structures from Aristotle to Dan Harmon, via Joseph Campbell and Shakespearean Drama. Examining the purpose of story structure and its uses for the writer and the storytelling process.
- **Exploring Narrative Forms**
Overview of key issues and concepts in relation to three major narrative forms – prose fiction, cinematic storytelling and interactive narratives, with many examples.

- **Story Development & Writing**

Three creative projects which explore three different kinds of writing – prose fiction, screenwriting and interactive narratives. Developed through proposals, workshops and peer/instructor feedback sessions.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	Course LO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes	Weighting	Team/Individual
Continuous Assessment 1 (CA1): Assignments: Short Story Short Screenplay	1,2,3,4	Competence, Creativity, Communication and Character	50%	Individual
Continuous Assessment 2 (CA2): Participation	1,2,4,5	Communication and Character	20%	Individual
Final Project: Interactive Narrative	2,3,4	Competence, Creativity, Communication and Character	30%	Team
Total			100%	

Recommended Reading and References

1. Aristotle, *Poetics* (translated and introduced by Kenneth McLeish) (1999: Nick Hern Books)
2. Joseph Campbell, *The Hero with A Thousand Faces* (2008: New World)
3. John Yorke, *Into the Woods: A Five Act Journey into Story* (2013: Penguin)
4. Denny Martin Flinn, *How Not to Write a Screenplay: 101 Common Mistakes Most Screenwriters Make* (1999: Lone Eagle)
5. Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics*, (HarperCollins, 2004)
6. Christopher Vogler, *The Writer's Journey* (1998: Michael Weise)

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

(1) General

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, activities, assignments, attend all classes punctually and complete all scheduled assignments by due dates. Students are expected to take responsibility to follow up with assignments and course related announcements. Students are expected to participate in all project critiques, class discussions and activities.

(2) Punctuality

Students are expected to be punctual for all classes. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will be deemed as absent and will not be able to sign in to the attendance register.

(3) Absenteeism

In-class activities make up a significant portion of your course grade. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your participation grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. There will be no make-up opportunities for in-class activities.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Planned Weekly Schedule*

*Subjected to adjustment by instructor according to students' progress, public holidays and unforeseeable circumstances.

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1 - 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do we have Stories? Overview of key concepts and theories around narrative and how we develop as consumers of narratives. 	1,2	Introductory Lecture In-class exercise on 'How to Begin A Story' Lecture on 'Story & Storytelling' In-class exercise on Personal Narratives
3 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we construct Stories? An exploration of story structures from Aristotle to Dan Harmon, via Joseph Campbell and Shakespearean Drama. Examining the purpose of story structure and its uses for the writer and the 	1,2	Lecture on Story Structure Part 1 & 2 Assign Project on analysing story structure Student Presentations on story structure

	storytelling process.		
5 - 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Narrative Forms Overview of key issues and concepts in relation to three major narrative forms – prose fiction, cinematic storytelling and interactive narratives, with many examples. • Story Development & Writing Three creative projects which explore three different kinds of writing – prose fiction, screenwriting and interactive narratives. Developed through proposals, workshops and peer/instructor feedback sessions. 	2, 3,4	<p>Workshop on Creative Writing/Prose Fiction Lecture on Cinematic Storytelling Lecture on Interactive Narratives In-class exercise Creative Writing Assign Readings Short Fiction/Screenplays Assign Projects Screenwriting/Interactive Narrative Project consultation Screenwriting/Interactive Narrative Project Critique Screenwriting/Interactive Narrative/Short Fiction Student Presentations on Interactive Narratives.</p>