

## COURSE CONTENT

<b>Course Code</b>	DF2005
<b>Course Title</b>	Writing for Film
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	NIL
<b>No of AUs</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours</b>	39

### **Course Aims**

This course is designed to introduce you to fiction film screenwriting. It covers the professional practice of developing, writing and rewriting short film scripts in a collaborative, workshop environment. Upon completing this course, you will have significantly developed your practice in preparation for future screenwriting projects.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

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

1. Analyse dramatic construction, narrative techniques and story structure in finished films and screenplays.
2. Effectively develop stories from their initial concepts/ideas to treatment/outline stage.
3. Write drafts of short screenplays through effective revision across multiple drafts.
4. Communicate your ideas about story/screenplays effectively in pitch presentations and discussions.
5. Critique your own and your peers' screenwriting work in a clear and constructive manner.

### **Course Content**

The majority of the course takes the form of a screenwriting workshop, with you sharing your story ideas, from initial premises/concepts through to draft screenplays, and receiving feedback from the instructor and their peers. This is enhanced with seminars and workshops that focus on more specific topics within the field of screenwriting.

### **Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Course LO Tested</b>	<b>Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Team/Individual</b>
Continuous Assessment: Writing Assignments Presentations Pitching First Script	1,2,3,4		30%	Individual
Continuous Assessment: Participation	5		20%	Individual
Final Project: Second Script	2,3,4		50%	Individual

Total			100%	

### Recommended Reading and References

1. Dan O' Bannon, *Guide to Screenplay Structure*, Michael Weise Productions, 2013
2. Cooper, Patricia; Drancyger, Ken, *Writing the Short Film*, Focal Press, 2004
3. Desser, David; Lester Friedman; et al, *An Introduction to Film Genres*, W.W. Norton, 2013
4. Slater, Ben (Ed), *Nang 1: Screenwriting*, Cinemasias Editions, 2016
5. Yorke, John, *Into the Woods: A Five Act Journey into Story*, Penguin, 2013

### Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

#### (1) General

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

#### (2) Punctuality

You 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\*

\*Subject to adjustment by instructor according to the teaching situation, your progress, public holidays and unforeseeable circumstances. A revised schedule will be issued you at the start of the semester.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Course LO</b>	<b>Readings/ Activities</b>
1 - 2	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Workshop on specific aspects of Screenwriting</p> <p>Developing Ideas for Short Films</p> <p>Preparing To Pitch</p>	1,2,4	<p>Reading/Discussing Script Pages</p> <p>Writing exercises</p> <p>Developing Pitches</p> <p>Writing a synopsis</p> <p>Watching/discussing clips/short films</p>
3 - 5	<p>First Project: Script Workshop from Synopsis to Drafts</p>	2,3,4,5	<p>Redrafting synopsis</p> <p>Developing/Writing Outlines</p> <p>Refining Story</p> <p>Writing First &amp; Second Drafts</p> <p>Table Read of Drafts</p> <p>Feedback and Peer Critique</p>
6-8	<p>Feedback on First Project</p> <p>Specialised Workshop on specific aspects of Screenwriting</p>	1,4	<p>Critique and reflection</p> <p>Writing Exercises</p> <p>Presentations</p> <p>Watching/discussing clips/short films</p>
9-13	<p>Second Project</p> <p>Developing story towards Drafts</p>	2,3,4,5	<p>Developing/Writing Outlines</p> <p>Refining Story</p> <p>Developing/Writing Treatments/Synopsis</p> <p>Writing First &amp; Second Drafts</p> <p>Table Read of Drafts</p> <p>Feedback and Peer Critique</p>

