

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code	DF2012
Course Title	Advanced Screenwriting
Pre-requisites	DF2005 Writing for Film or HZ9205 Creative Writing: Screenwriting or CS4024 Writing for Cinema and TV
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39

Course Aims

This course is designed to further refine and develop screenwriting skills for those who have already completed an introductory level class in writing for Film or Television. You will study advanced topics, such as scene construction and characterisation, intended to develop your professional practice, and you will focus on developing and writing an original short film script in a collaborative, workshop environment. The script you develop in this class can be the basis for final year production projects.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

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

1. Analyse how scenes are constructed in order to create dramatic impact in their story-telling.
2. Create richly nuanced characters that can be used for developing story ideas.
3. Write drafts of a short screenplay that demonstrate higher levels of craft in terms of scenes and structure.
4. Communicate your ideas about characters/story/screenplays at an advanced level in pitch presentations and discussions.
5. Critique your own and your peers' screenwriting work in order to be a highly effective collaborator.

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 your peers. It is targeted at an advanced level for more experienced writers, and therefore you will be expected to fully contribute, especially to workshop discussions. Seminars that focus on key areas such as constructing scenes and characterisation will help you develop your professional practice as a screenwriter.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	Course LO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes	Weighting	Team/ Individual
Continuous Assessment:	1, 2, 4, 5		20%	Individual

Scene Exercise Characterisation Workshop				
Continuous Assessment: Participation	4,5		20%	Individual
Final Project: Second Script: Pitch 10% Treatment 10% Drafts 40%	2,3,4,5		60%	Individual
Total			100%	

Recommended Reading and References

1. Cooper, Patricia; Drancyger, Ken, *Writing the Short Film*, Focal Press, 2004
2. Desser, David; Lester Friedman; et al, *An Introduction to Film Genres*, W.W. Norton, 2013
3. O' Bannon, Dan. *Guide To Screenplay Structure*, Michael Weise Productions, 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 15 minutes late, you will be deemed as absent and will not be able to sign on 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.

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Introduction to Advanced Screenwriting	1,2, 4,5	Introductory Presentation.
2-4	Advanced Screenwriting Skills 1 Scene Construction	1, 4, 5	Assignment Students to prepare to write a self-contained scene Students to present their scenes in-class for critique Assignment: Develop the scene into longer script.
5-6	Advanced Screenwriting Skills 2 Characterisation Workshop	2, 4,5	Seminar on characterization and how to generate complex characters. Assignment: Develop a character. Review characters in-class.
7	Developing Story Ideas 1 Pitch/Outline	3,4,5	Develop initial ideas based on feedback in previous session.
8	Developing Story Ideas 2 Synopsis/Story Breakdown	3,4,5	Refine story into a concrete structure based on feedback.
9	Developing Story Ideas 3 Treatment/Long Synopsis	3,4,5	Create a formal story document that can be used in the development/pitching process.
10-11	First Draft	2, 3,4,5	Write first draft in two instalments – first 7-8 pages

			<p>followed by second 7-8 pages.</p> <p>Receive detailed feedback at each stage.</p> <p>Critique peers screenplay pages.</p>
12	Table Read of First Draft	2, 3,4,5	<p>Organise and present a table read of each first draft.</p> <p>Give feedback and self-reflect on your own script based on the performance.</p>
13	Second Draft	2, 3,4,5	<p>Final in-class reflection on the next stage development of your screenplay.</p>