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ARTS2066

Writing for the Screen

Term One // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course introduces you to the study and practice of storytelling for screen media. It will provide you with a framework through which to recognise and critically analyse key elements of the screenwriting process. Through practical exercises, you will be able to develop fundamental skills in the art of writing for the screen. You will study a variety of screenwriting forms including short films, feature films and writing for television.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and implement the fundamental elements and techniques of screenwriting.
2. Engage critically and reflectively with critical and conceptual scholarship on screenwriting.
3. Compose, draft and revise a piece of screen writing.
4. Link creative production with theoretical and critical knowledge.
5. Collaborate in a collegial process of peer review

Teaching Strategies

This course introduces students to the fundamental skills and techniques in screenwriting by taking an approach that combines theory and practice. In the first instance the course will be taught in a traditional mode with a 1 hour lecture and 2 hour seminar (or equivalent in intensive mode). In this mode, the course will be supported by significant online material that will prepare students for active learning in the face-to-face teaching environment. In future iterations the course may be taught in a blended mode depending on staff expertise in this area. This will include online pre-learning material including screencasts, reading material and film viewing. An important part of the required pre-learning for the course in either mode will consist of reading and analysing a variety of critical and conceptual literature about screenwriting, as well as reading screenplay texts and viewing the corresponding films. Students will reflect on these and draw lessons from them during the 2-hour seminars.

Through exemplars, students will be provided with a model and point of departure for their own work. The majority of the 2-hour seminars will be devoted to practical writing, workshops and peer-to-peer learning activities. Through a structured range of activities, students will practice the skills to craft their own screenplays. In each seminar focus will be placed on a specific aspect of the screenplay, such as pitch, synopsis, plot, character, dialogue etc.

As an introductory course, the teaching methods are focused on showing students how and helping them to develop a level of competence, rather than developing high-level experience or mastery. At the same time, students will learn how to access knowledge and resources, as well as the value of incorporating peer feedback into the learning cycle, which will enable them to continue to deepen their learning beyond the course.

Assessment

[Here you can outline any relevant information that was not included in AIMS but may prove helpful for your students. For example, you might provide details on the referencing system, links to previous student exemplars or the designated week in the course that you will discuss the assessment at length. Importantly, this section is an area for you to provide information that does not go through the approved governance structure.]

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Dialogue with Turning Point Exercise	25%	13/03/2020 02:00 PM	1,3
Peer Feedback	25%	28/04/2020 02:00 PM	1,4,5
Script, synopsis and logline	50%	28/04/2020 02:00 PM	2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Dialogue with Turning Point Exercise

Start date:

Details: Individual 4 pages
Students to deliver four pages of dialogue in correct screenwriting formatting
Feedback via LMS

Assessment 2: Peer Feedback

Start date:

Details: Individual 250 words
Students are required to provide brief constructive written feedback each week to students presenting their work in class. For this assessment, students are to choose ONE of the feedback samples given during the course and to submit an extended (250-word) version of it. Feedback via LMS

Assessment 3: Script, synopsis and logline

Start date:

Details: Individual 10-12 pages complete screenplay in correct screenwriting format, plus 500-word synopsis and logline. Feedback via LMS

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Not available

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

Solo Performance Making 2019

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