

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: CN 4337 Screenwriting										
<div>Instruction hours/lab hours/ US credits: 3/0/3 UK LEVEL (appropriate only for validated courses): L6 UK CREDITS: 15</div> <div>(Updated: Fall 2025)</div>										
PREREQUISITES:	WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics CN 2127 Introduction to Film and Television Studies									
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Methods of film screenwriting. Examination of the principles of cinematic stories, structure, character and dialogue. Film screenings and script analysis.									
RATIONALE:	The ability to structure and deliver a screenplay is a fundamental communication industry skill, and this module allows the student to master it. Students learn to apply different techniques and methods in creating an original short screenplay.									
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to: 1. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the principles and techniques of screenwriting 2. Analyse between different genres and styles 3. Evaluate the elements, style and structure of already existing screenplays 4. Apply relevant techniques and methods to complete an original short screenplay 5. Communicate using relevant film and screenwriting terminology									
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Classes consist of lectures and class discussions.Film screeningsScreenwriting exercisesOffice Hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions and go over lecture material.Use of a Blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements, and additional resources.									
ASSESSMENT:	<div>Summative:</div> <table><tr><td>First assessment: First assessment: Portfolio (Preparatory material for original short screenplay of 4,000-4,200 words)</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Final assessment: Original short screenplay (15-20 pages)</td><td>60</td></tr></table> <div>Formative:</div> <table><tr><td>In-class exercises</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Case Studies</td><td>0</td></tr></table>		First assessment: First assessment: Portfolio (Preparatory material for original short screenplay of 4,000-4,200 words)	40	Final assessment: Original short screenplay (15-20 pages)	60	In-class exercises	0	Case Studies	0
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Final assessment: Original short screenplay (15-20 pages)	60									
In-class exercises	0									
Case Studies	0									

	<p>The formative assessments prepare students for their summative work.</p> <p>The first assessment (preparatory portfolio) tests learning outcomes 1, 2, 3</p> <p>The final assessment (original short screenplay) tests learning outcomes 1, 4 and 5</p> <p>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</p>
INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: McKee, R. (2010). Story. HarperCollins.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Aristotle. The Poetics of Aristotle Perlego. 1999Batty, Craig, Screenwriters and Screenwriting: Putting Practice into Context. Palgrave Macmillan UK; 2014 Cowgill, Linda J., Writing Short Films: Structure and Content for Screenwriters. Lone Eagle Publications, USA; 2005 Field, S. Screenplay : the foundations of screenwriting (Rev. ed). Delta Trade Paperbacks.2005Field, Syd. Four Screenplays, Bantam Dell: New York, 1994. Field, Syd. The Screenwriter's Workbook, Bantam Dell: New York, 2006. Johnson-Hunter, Claudia, Crafting Short Screenplays that Connect. Focal Press: Amsterdam; 2010 Horton, Andrew. Writing the Character-Centered Screenplay, University of California Press: Berkley, 1999. Phillips, William, Writing Short Scripts. Syracuse UP: USA; 1999 Scott, Kevin Conroy (ed). Screenwriters' Masterclass, Faber and Faber: London, 2004. Selbo, J. Film Genre for the Screenwriter (1st ed.). Routledge. 2014 Duncan, S. Genre Screenwriting (1st ed.). Bloomsbury Academic. 2014 Odajnyk, V. Archetype and Character.Palgrave Macmillan. 2012 Campbell, J. The hero with a thousand faces (Second edition). Princeton University Press.1968</p> <p>Scripts: Classic and contemporary scripts are available on blackboard</p> <p>Other sources, including journal and newspapers' articles, research papers etc. recommended by the instructor throughout the semester.</p>
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Blackboard and an active ACG email account. High standards of oral and written English for all assignments

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	MS Office and Blackboard CMS Cloud-based screenwriting software
WWW RESOURCES:	www.imdb.com www.networkisa.org https://www.dailyscript.com/movie.html https://www.scriptsbug.com/ http://www.moviescriptsandscreenplays.com/ https://thescriptlab.com/ http://www.awesomefilm.com/
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<p>What Is a Screenplay?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Introduction to the art of script writing and the role of the script in filmmaking 1.2 Coming up with ideas, research and development <p>2. Short Screenplay Form</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Writing the screenplay 2.2 Structure and format 2.3 Synopses, outlines, treatments 2.4 The final draft <p>3. Character</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 The creation of an original character 3.2 Building a character 3.3 Story and character 3.4 Structure and character 3.5 The role of empathy in character development <p>4. The Elements of a short Story</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Structuring the story 4.2 Building the story line 4.3 Plot points 4.4 Opening and closing 4.5 Structure, meaning and substance 4.6 The principle of antagonism <p>5. The principles of short story design</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Act design 5.2 Scene and sequence design 5.3 Scene and sequence analysis 5.4 Composition 5.5 Crisis, climax, resolution <p>6. The Text</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Film dialogue 6.2 Short speeches 6.3 Silence and suspense 6.4 Visual images and description <p>7. Script Analysis</p>

	<p>8. Genre and screenwriting</p> <p>8.1 How screenwriters use genre</p> <p>Outlining different genre categories</p>
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