

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: ELEMENTS OF SCREENWRITING
Status: Definitive
Code: **7001SW** (110937)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School

Team	Leader
David Jackson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 30.00
Total Delivered Hours: 66.00
Total Learning Hours: 300
Private Study: 234

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11.000
Seminar	21.000
Tutorial	1.000
Workshop	33.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	AS1	revised treatment 30 minute screenplay; 30 min screenplay 1st draft; redraft to 50-60 mins & treatment for a feature-length screenplay	90.0	
Presentation	AS2	Pitch and presentation of a 1-page selling document of a feature treatment.	10.0	

Aims

1. To develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques relating to, treatment

development, character development, dialogue function and scene and sequence construction in screenwriting.

2. To develop advanced skills of pitching and presentation informed by practice at the forefront of the profession.

3. To develop a deeper understanding of genre, theme, causality and exposition in relation to original screen storytelling.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Produce original creative work that shows a systematic understanding of treatment writing, character development, dialogue function and scene and sequence structure.
- 2 Present and pitch ideas appropriately including the capacity to adapt their presentation in complex situations or to varied audiences.
- 3 Produce original creative work that shows a systematic understanding of genre theme, causality and exposition.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Portfolio of screenplays	1	3
Presentation	2	

Outline Syllabus

- 1. Treatment and Outline writing*
- 2. The shot, the scene and the sequence*
- 3. Feedback on treatments in progress*
- 4. Rewriting in terms of genre and theme*
- 5. Feedback on Screenplays*
- 6. Dialogue and Exposition*
- 7. Causality and connectivity*
- 8. Advanced development techniques.*
- 9. Pitching and selling a treatment.*

Learning Activities

Lectures
workshops
One-to-one tutorials
Pitching sessions

Sessions with visiting industry professionals
Actors' rehearsed readings of student scripts.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Langford, B.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Film Genre
Subtitle	Hollywood and Beyond
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Dancyger, K.
Publishing Year	1995
Title	Alternative Scriptwriting
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Focal Press
ISBN	0240802187

Course Material	Book
Author	"Broadcast" (journal)
Publishing Year	2010
Title	
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Seeger, L.
Publishing Year	1990
Title	Creating unforgettable characters
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Henry Holt & Co
ISBN	000492417

Course Material	Book
Author	Lee, L.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	A Poetics for Screenwriters

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Gerstner, D.A.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Authorship & Film
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	www.talentcircle.co.uk
Publishing Year	0
Title	
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	www.shootingpeople.co.uk
Publishing Year	0
Title	
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Seger, L.
Publishing Year	1990
Title	Creating unforgettable characters
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Henry Holt & Co
ISBN	000492417

Course Material	Book
Author	Lee, L.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	A Poetics for Screenwriters
Subtitle	
Edition	

Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Gerstner, D.A.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Authorship & Film
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	www.talentcircle.co.uk
Publishing Year	0
Title	
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	www.shootingpeople.co.uk
Publishing Year	0
Title	
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Notes

This module gives the student experience of 'and training in' the creation of original screenplays with particular reference to scene and sequence structure. It also offers practical training in techniques of pitching and presentation to industry standard.

The Basic Film Genres. *Gone with the Wind* is considered a drama/romance is a perfect example of a hybrid genre. Image via MGM. One of the earliest film genres in existence, the action genre has close ties to classic strife and struggle narratives that you find across all manner of art and literature. With some of the earliest examples dating back to everything from historical war epics to some basic portrayals of dastardly train robberies, action films have been popular with cinema audiences since the very beginning. Film Genres: Film genres are various forms or identifiable types, categories, classifications or groups of films. (Genre comes from the French word meaning "kind," "category," or "type"). Genres provide a convenient way for scriptwriters and film-makers to produce, cast and structure their narratives within a manageable, well-defined framework (to speak a common 'language'). Genres also offer the studios an easily 'marketable' product, and give audiences satisfying, expected and predictable choices. A film genre is a stylistic or thematic category for motion pictures based on similarities either in the narrative elements, aesthetic approach, or the emotional response to the film. Drawing heavily from the theories of literary-genre criticism, film genres are usually delineated by "conventions, iconography, settings, narratives, characters and actors." One can also classify films by the tone, theme/topic, mood, format, target audience, or budget. These characteristics are most evident in genre... Film genres are categories that define a movie based on its narrative elements. Each genre is unique in the types of stories they tell. Genres have changed and evolved over time, creating several subgenres that further define the filmmaking styles. Save. Share. Jump To Section. 13 Classic Movie Genres. Want to Learn More About Film? 13 Classic Movie Genres. Film genres are important for screenwriters and film audiences because they establish a tonal expectation. Some basic movie genres include Learn about film genres with free interactive flashcards. Choose from 500 different sets of flashcards about film genres on Quizlet. Staged and directed for the camera by the director in a studio; Categorization of films by the stories they tell or the ways a film may fall into more than one genre. Narrative Films. Movies that you are most familiar with, also known as fiction;