

EN3575: SCRIPT WRITING

Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Script Writing

Subject Code

EN - English

Course Number

3575

Academic Unit

English (EN)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to introduce students to the techniques of writing stage plays and screenplays. Students will study the various elements of the script writing including concept, treatment, synopsis, format, characters, plot, conflict,

dialogue and visual telling. The course will be taught in a ‘workshop’ format in which students will read and critique one another’s work.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Describe the elements and techniques of script writing including concept, treatment, synopsis, format, characters, plot, conflict, dialogue and visual telling., and identify these elements and techniques in creative scripts by published writers.		x	x	
2	Evaluate and critique the script writing of others, pointing out strengths and weaknesses, giving reasoned arguments for their judgments and offering concrete suggestions for revision.		x	x	
3	Apply their knowledge of creative script writing to the writing and revising of their own stage plays and screenplays.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Reading representative scripts in English (and watching films) and analyzing and critiquing them in class discussions and in written assignments.	Using relevant concepts and terms, students will analyse and reflect upon an array of texts in small group and whole-class settings.	1, 2, 3
2	Listening to lectures on the elements and techniques of script writing.	Students will actively engage with lecture materials by responding and discussing in various ways	1, 2, 3
3	Participating in in-class writing exercises designed to develop the mastery of specific techniques.	Evaluating and critiquing the work of classmates and offering suggestions for improvement.	1, 2, 3

4	Writing and revising a at least two scripts.	In small peer-review groups, students will read and respond to one another' s writing as a way to reflect upon and develop various stages of the writing process.	1, 2, 3	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)	
1	Class participation, especially in workshop sessions in which students are expected to present cogent arguments regarding their evaluation of classmates' work and offer concrete suggestions for revision.	1, 2	20	
2	One stage play and one screenplay, each of which has undergone revision based on suggestions of the instructor and classmates.	3	60	
3	Written explication and critique of a stage play which or screenplay which describes and analyzes the various techniques used and the effectiveness of those techniques.	1, 2, 3	20	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Script Writing

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Writing demonstrates superior ability to combine verbal and visual elements in a dramatic structure to meet the requirements of the specific form(s) and genres employed. This includes a clear focus on a central conflict and scenes; the ability to collapse time and storyline to the most urgent and necessary scenes as well as dialogue that serves the scenes; and believable and effective dialogue. Regardless of form, the script must demonstrate a solid command of language, as well as a style suited to the chosen form and genre. With respect to genre, the writing must demonstrate a mastery of the traditions of the chosen genre or show innovation in a creative reworking or subversion of established traditions, which can be in terms of language or theme or elements of craft.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Writing demonstrates good ability to combine verbal and visual elements in a dramatic structure to meet the requirements of the specific form(s) and genres employed.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Writing demonstrates average but competent ability to combine verbal and visual elements in a dramatic structure to meet the requirements of the specific form(s) and genres employed.

Marginal (D)

Writing demonstrates weak ability to combine verbal and visual elements in a dramatic structure to meet the requirements of the specific form(s) and genres employed.

Failure (F)

Writing lacks competent ability to combine verbal and visual elements in a dramatic structure to meet the requirements of the specific form(s) and genres employed.

Assessment Task

2. Class Participation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Writing demonstrates superior ability to combine verbal and visual elements in a dramatic structure to meet the requirements of the specific form(s) and genres employed. This includes a clear focus on a central conflict and scenes; the ability to collapse time and storyline to the most urgent and necessary scenes as well as dialogue that serves the scenes; and believable and effective dialogue. Regardless of form, the script must demonstrate a solid command of language, as well as a style suited to the chosen form and genre. With respect to genre, the writing must demonstrate a mastery of the traditions of the chosen genre or show innovation in a creative reworking or subversion of established traditions, which can be in terms of language or theme or elements of craft.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Contributions to class discussions and workshop demonstrate a careful reading of the piece under discussion, the ability to adequately apply knowledge of the craft of fiction in identifying strengths and weaknesses, and useful comments and suggestions for the author. The contribution is expressed in a clear, detailed, tactful and professional manner.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Contributions to class discussions and workshop demonstrate an adequate though not always careful reading of the piece under discussion, the ability apply knowledge of the craft of fiction in identifying some strengths and weaknesses, and moderately useful comments and suggestions for the author.

Marginal (D)

Contributions to class discussions and workshop demonstrate cursory or incomplete reading of the piece under discussion, and the ability apply some knowledge of the craft of fiction in identifying some strengths and weaknesses, though these may not be accurate, insightful or helpful.

Failure (F)

Contributions to class discussions and workshop demonstrate little understanding of the piece under discussion, and little ability apply knowledge of the craft of fiction in identifying strengths and weaknesses. The contribution may be expressed in an unclear or unprofessional manner.

Assessment Task

3. Criteria: Explication/ Critique

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

The critique demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the elements, techniques and traditions of script writing and the ability to apply this knowledge in identifying and evaluating features in the script. The analysis is insightful, convincingly argued and clearly expressed.

Good (B+, B, B-)

The critique demonstrates good knowledge of the elements, techniques and traditions of creative script writing and the ability to apply this knowledge in identifying and evaluating features in the script. The analysis is relatively insightful, convincingly argued and clearly expressed.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

The critique demonstrates some knowledge of the elements, techniques and traditions of script writing and the ability to apply this knowledge in identifying and evaluating some relevant features in the script. There may be some problems with the way the argument is presented or the quality of the language.

Marginal (D)

The critique demonstrates little knowledge of the elements, techniques and traditions of script writing and little ability to apply this knowledge in identifying and evaluating some relevant features in the script. There may be major problems with the way the argument is presented or the quality of the language.

Failure (F)

The critique demonstrates no knowledge of the elements, techniques and traditions of script writing and no ability to apply this knowledge in any useful way. There may serious problems with structure, grammar or usage.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Differences between stage and screen
 Theoretical approaches to drama
 Watching films critically
 Concept
 Synopsis
 Treatment
 Conflict
 Format
 Scene heading
 Action
 Characters
 Dialogue
 Shots
 Visual telling
 Transitions

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Altman, R. (1997) Chinatown and the last detail: Two screenplays by Robert Altman. Grove Press.
2	Goldman, W. (2000) Four Screenplays with Essays. Applause Press.

3	Hatcher, J. (2000) The art and craft of playwriting. Story Press.
4	Mckee, R. (1997) Story: Substance, structure, style and the principles of screenwriting. It Books.
5	Moritz, (2001) Scriptwriting for the screen. Routledge.
6	Roudané, M. (2007) Drama essentials: An anthology of plays. Wadsworth.
7	Schultz, R. and Dario Pomo, R. (2001) The Longman anthology of drama and theater: A global perspective. Loongman.
8	Tottier, D. (2005) The screenwriter' s Bible. Silman-James Press.