

# SM3115: CHINESE SCRIPTWRITING

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Chinese Scriptwriting

### Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

### Course Number

3115

### Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

### College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

6

### Level

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

### Medium of Instruction

Chinese

### Medium of Assessment

Chinese

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This is an introductory course on screenwriting for would-be screenwriters and directors. Students will learn and practise the art of cinematic narration in the writing of screenplay. As a solid and well-written script always provides a strong

creative base for a director to construct or compose his/her cinematic work, the understanding of drama and the mastery of screenwriting technique is of utmost importance. To be an ‘auteur’ (writer/director as one) enables one to be more in control of one’s creative work, and in a better position to realize one’s personal vision. One films what one writes. But one has first to be able to ‘write’ in sounds and images before one can ‘create’ with sounds and images. This course therefore, other than teaching the basic concepts of drama, narration or story-telling, will focus on the imaginative use of film language in screenwriting, and teach students to create in cinematic terms rather than ‘literary’ images.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Judge and differentiate between good and bad works of drama, and elaborate on it by analyzing the narrative structure of the work and the inner workings of narration in cinematic terms.		x	
2	Create fictional character for screenplay that has depth, complexity and richness.		x	x
3	Create and write story or synopsis for screenplay by fully developing his/her creative ideas in cinematic terms, and structure scene-breakdown for screenplay.		x	x
4	Create and write a narrative script of quality.	x	x	x
5	Assign or link up extra self-initiated tasks on top of a coursework for further exploration of the subject.	x		
6	General personal insight as a result of critical interpretation of the subject matter.	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.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)	
1	Lecture	Lectures on the basic concepts of drama and the art and technique of narrative screenwriting. Excerpts from film classics are used as illustrations on the lecture texts.	1, 2, 3, 4	3hrs/wk

2	Lecture	In-depth lecture on creating characters in screenwriting. Also, a series of written exercises to ensure students' ability in creating their own fictional characters, and acquiring knowledge, through practice, of good characterization.	2	3hrs/wk
3	Workshop	Group critique, discussion and brainstorming-sessions on students' work-in-progress to guide them and monitor their creative process. These workshops are conducted for the entire course.	3, 5, 6	3hrs/wk
4	Workshop	Individual sessions with students to discuss and provide feedback for revision on their script in the final stage of their writing process.	4, 5, 6	1hr/wk

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Weekly in-depth analysis and useful feedbacks on classmates' work-in-progress.	1, 2	20	-	Yes
2	Students' passion, seriousness, efforts, artistic development and progress in the entire creative process of writing their story or synopsis, scene-breakdown, and screenplay.	3, 4	20	-	Yes
3	The completed, revised FINAL SCRIPT.	4, 5, 6	60	-	Yes

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)**

0

**Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)**

**Assessment Task**

1. Weekly Analysis

**Criterion**

This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

- Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition
- Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature
- Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue
- Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points
- Interpret others’ views with an open mind and ready to negotiate
- Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

- Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter
- Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition
- Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently
- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points
- Interpret opinions effectively

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

- Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter
- Fair organization with adequate structure and composition
- Relevant points made to the subject matter in question
- Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion
- Fair ability in interpreting opinions

**Marginal (D)**

- Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter
- Poor organization, structure and composition
- Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
- Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms
- Unmotivated to participate in class discussion or comment on other people’s views
- Poor ability in interpreting opinions

**Failure (F)**

- Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter
- No organization, structure or/and composition
- Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions
- Fail to respond to other comments
- Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher
- Minimal ability in interpreting opinions

## Assessment Task

### 2. Final Script

#### Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s proactively turning theory into praxis, to transform course material into self-owned authorship.

#### Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Work has strong affective quality and the articulation of personal styles and signature
- Excellent appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Work raises questions and instill insights about the process of conception, creative strategization and production
- Efficient adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available with constructive adjustment

#### Good (B+, B, B-)

- Strong appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available and constructive feedback/ suggestions

#### Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Basic appreciation and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Limited ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

#### Marginal (D)

- Marginal appreciation of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Marginal ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Limited adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

#### Failure (F)

- No appreciation of the aesthetics and expressive qualities of the medium
  - Fail to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
  - Minimal adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available
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## Additional Information for AR

All A+/A/A- grade assignment should comply with the highest performance of Discovery-oriented learning.

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

- What is drama
- The cinematic language of screenwriting
- Emotion and action
- Character and characterization
- What is plot
- Narrative and narration
- Voice of the narrator
- Theme and message
- Narrative structure

- 3-act structure and alternatives
- What is a scene
- Structuring a scene
- Action design
- Speech in screenwriting
- Dialogue / monologue / voice over

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	The Art & Science of Screenwriting – Philip Parker. Intellect Books
2	Alternative Scriptwriting – Dancyger & Rush. Focal Press
3	Writing the Character Centered Screenplay - Andrew Horton. U of California Press
4	The Art of Creative Writing - Lajos Egri. Citadel Press
5	The Art of Dramatic Writing - Lajos Egri. Citadel Press

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting – Syd Field