



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007417	Version: 1 Date Amended: 27/Jan/2020
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1. Module Title
Screenwriting: Writing and Selling the Feature Film

2a. Module Leader
Toby Venables

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisite:	MOD004993	Screenwriting: The Short Film	Compulsory
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA(Hons) Film, BA(Hons) Writing and Film, BA(Hons) Film and Media		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The module builds on the skills you have acquired in Screenwriting: The Short Film at level 4 and Script to Screen at level 5. Through small group work and discussion with the seminar leader, you will develop an original screenplay idea. The module will cover basic narrative conventions, including the role of conflict, the line of action and plot reversals, character building, and atmosphere. You will be encouraged to experiment with the representation of place, space and time, and build in subplots when appropriate. You will be expected to consider your target audience, and will be given the opportunity to explore the role of genre as a means of making narrative choices.

6b. Outline Content

- Critical study of story structure
- Critical study of genre
- Critical study of films and screenplays by established and new directors;
- Critical study of the work of major screenwriters:
- Discussion of elements such as: building character relationships; developing themes and subplots; experimenting with narrative structure (representation of space, place and time);
- Generation of original ideas, development of research plans, and pitching to peer groups; Research, newspaper archives etc.
- Creation of the first act of a screenplay;
- Consideration of good practice for presentation of a screenplay;
- Consideration of target audience;
- Writing a critical commentary and evaluation.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Seminar rooms with tables and VCR/DVD screening facilities.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate critical understanding of a range of key features and issues of writing for the screen;
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Illustrate detailed awareness of innovative ways of preparing a feature length screenplay in terms of narrative structure; characterisation; atmosphere and dialogue;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically evaluate aesthetic and practical issues of writing for the screen and gain knowledge of the craft of screenwriting through the study of well known screenwriters.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Engage in research to develop original ideas into structured and coherent stories for the screen.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	2 hour seminar/workshop per week
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Self directed learning
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1,2,4	80 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Feature film treatment, and preparatory work. End of semester submission

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1,3	20 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Commentary and evaluation on the final work (1000 words)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]