Course COMM3017
SCRIPTWRITING
Second Semester, 2024/2025

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Office hours: Thursday   5:30pm - 6:30pm (or by prior appointment)

Course description

This course aims at stimulating students' creativity, equipping them with sense of storytelling and thus leading them to develop their ideas into stories. Through individual and collaborative exercises, students will learn how to understand a story, analyze a script, and can then structure their own writing. In this semester, students are encouraged to open their minds to the art of cinema, and cultivate their time in creativity. More importantly, students of this course are expected to develop into a more confident communicator who cares about society as well as life.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Create a 10 to 15 minute script that demonstrates the knowledge learned in this course.
2. Analyze the structure of a script and the telling method of a story, including film genre and character development.
3. Differentiate among film/television script, stage play, fiction and radio text.
4. Demonstrate and apply film language.

Course materials

Robert McKee (1997) *Story: Substance, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting.* ReganBooks

Syd Field (2005) *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting.* Delta

http://www.imsdb.com The Internet Script Movie Database

Assessment

Project…………………………………………………….………………… 30%

Course work…………………………………………………………….. 60%

Class Participation…………..……………….……………………..…………… 10%

Course Schedule

		Objectives	Assignments and Notes
1	09 Jan	Understanding the course	- Course overview Self-introduction(ice-breaking) - Narration Game
2	16 Jan	Three Act Structure - Act 1	-An overview of scriptwriting Watch a movie opening Brainstorm an idea
3	6 Feb	Three Act Structure - Act 2	-Prepare for a script synopsis Distinguish between film, tv and novel.
4	13 Feb	Three Act Structure - Act 3	-Presentation on script synopsis - Mock Pitching -Assignment on reading.
5	20 Feb	Studying the audience & Analyse the structure of a short film Connecting people & Character building	- Introduction to analysis on film structure - Analyse the structure of Oscar Winner Shorts - Game: A story about Secret. - Group Improvise a script based on news. - Assignment on structure analysis.

6	27 Feb	Interpreting character development 1. Film Opening and Film Ending	- An introduction to good Film Opening. - Before writing, think of one to dedicate. - Discussion on how to write a good ending of a story.
7	06Mar	Interpreting character development 2.	- Individual presentation on assignment structure. - Analysis on character development. - Assignment on main character development.
8	13Mar	Film and the City	- Assignment on final project. (10-15min.) - Individual advise.
9	20Mar	Film and World History	- Brief introduction on film history. - Individual advise on final project.
10	27Mar	Film editing Introduce film Genre and the art of cinema	- Watch a movie and analyze the film language used. - Modify final project synopsis and character development.
11	03 Apr	Discussion on scriptwriting skill - visual and audio	- Presentation on Montage and Long Take. - Analysis on script adaptation.
12	10 Apr	Discussion on scriptwriting skill - Dialogue	- Assignment on final project and character development.
13	17 Apr	Discussion on scriptwriting skill - Rhythm	- Revise on final project and character development.
14	24 Apr	Film and Social issue. Evaluation.	- Revise on final scripts. - Conclusion. Share the knowledge we gain from this semester.

Academic integrity and university regulations

Students are required to follow university regulations, especially the "Rules on handling student academic dishonesty" (approved on 6 December 2011).

Academic dishonesty, according to the document, means "any fraudulent actions or attempts by a person to use unauthorised or unacceptable means in any academic work. It is any type of cheating that occurs in relation to an academic exercise and can come in many different forms including cheating, fabrication, collusion, and plagiarism".

When a suspected case is found, the student or the students will be required to provide written explanations. Confirmed cases of academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course.

Course policy

Attendance & absence   The *General Regulations Governing Bachelor's Degree Programmes* (revised and approved by the Senate on 20 March 2013) outlined policies on attendance and absence: "A student who is absent without applying for leave of absence from a course for more than 20% of its scheduled teaching periods in the aggregate will not be allowed to take the final examination and will receive a failing grade for that course."

A copy of student leave application form was usually made available on the Web page of students' home faculty. The policy on leave applications for medical reasons and for non-medical ones was documented in J.2 of the Bachelor Degree General Regulations.

Absences affect in-class activities, especially group work and the progress; other group members may need to put extra efforts to take care of the jobs or tasks in the activity. Absences, with or without approved leave applications, lead to a zero score in the activity.

Punctuality   Students who are late will not be offered extra class time, especially in the case of assessment and class activities. Late comers are responsible for the information that they missed. The students who come 21 minutes late or more are considered to be absent.

Assignments   All course activities bear their deadlines. Late submissions are subject to a penalty of score deduction by one letter grade.