uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Scriptwriting for television (fiction)

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024) Review date: 09-06-2021

Department assigned to the subject: Communication and Media Studies Department

Coordinating teacher: GALAN FAJARDO, HELENA MARIA

Type: Electives ECTS Credits: 3.0

Year: Semester:

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Understanding the creative and industrial process in developing a script for a television fiction.
- 2. Understanding the different tools available for a television writer.
- 3. Ability to undertake a fiction project for television.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

- 1. Introduction: audiovisual media and writing process.
- 2. Scriptwriting for television fiction: rules, languaje, trends.
- 3. The creation of a television series.
- 3.1. The starting point: the development of the concept.
- 3.2. The main concepts of the project: the "bible"
- 3.3. The characters and the characterization process.
- 3.4. The development of plot lines: the map frame.
- 3.5. The "escaleta".
- 3.6. Dialogues.
- 3.7. The presentation of projects: the "pitching."

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

1. Theorical classes:

Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of narrative television, specifically focusing on fiction. They will be also introduced to the differents tools that are necessary for creating a script for a fiction series. Competency 1.

2. Practical classes:

Through practical sessions, students will apply the concepts previously established and explained in the theorical lessons. Competencies 2 and 3.

3. Student work.

Students will develop a project of a fiction series for television ("bible"). Competencies 2 and 3.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

-Final exam: 50%.

-Work / Practical: 50%.

The active participation in practical classes and tutorials by the students will be considerated.

-It is imperative that the student obtains the equivalent of a 5 on the theoretical exam and in the practical activities, in order to be able to pass the subject.

% end-of-term-examination: 50
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 50

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dancyger, Ken Alternative Scriptwriting: successfully Breaking the Rules, Elsevier/Focal Press, 2007
- Goldberg, Lee y Rabkin, William, Successful television writing,, John Wiley &Sons, Inc., New Jersey, 2003...
- Ryan, M. L. (Ed.) Narrative across media. The languages of storytelling, University of Nebraska Press.
- Sandler, Ellen The TV Writer's Workbook : A Creative Approach To Television Scripts , Delta Trade Paperbacks, 2007
- Smethurst, William, How to write for television-A guide to writing and selling successful TV script,, Howtobooks, Oxford, 2007..

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- GARCÍA DE CASTRO, MARIO La ficción televisiva popular, Una evolución de las series de televisión en España, Gedisa, 2002
- Rueda Laffond, José Carlos y Coronado Ruiz, Carlota La mirada televisiva: ficción y representación histórica en España , Fragua , 2009