

Screenwriting

Academic Year: (2024 / 2025)

Review date: 19-03-2024

Department assigned to the subject: Communication and Media Studies Department

Coordinating teacher: MELERO SALVADOR, JOSE ALEJANDRO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 4 Semester : 1

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

- Film narratives.
- Introduction to Media Studies.
- Reading Moving Image.

OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the difficulties of finding creative ideas and developing them.
- To understand the complexities of working with other fellow writers: sharing ideas, finding consensus.
- To become familiar with the basic problems of scriptwriting: from structure to character's arc.
- To know the traditions in the schools of scriptwriting.
- Ability to analyse professional scripts and personal creative work.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

- Introduction to Scriptwriting.
- Finding and working with ideas.
- Structure, acts, plot points.
- The character: characterization & the character in action.
- Arc and character.
- Writing dialogues.
- The scriptwriter's toolbox
- Pitching.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Assignment 1. The writer within the industry. A global approach.

Assignment 2. The process of creating a story. Synopsis, argument, outline, treatment.

Assignment 3-4. Analyzing internal and external conflicts. Examples in feature films: Raging Bulls vs Rocky
Analyzing short films. Finding the objective that lead us to the end. Fighting for what we care. What are we talking about

Objective, obstacles and premises. Dramatic tension. Analyzing feature films.

Plot point, subplot. The classic narrative versus the character driven . Syd Field and his paradigm. Italian neorealism. The nouvelle vague.

Drama and Psychology. From Ibsen to James Joyce. From literature to Cinema. The three fronts. Tools for creating characters.

The process of improving the script. Finding what is wrong. The art of fixing problems. From the scene to the structure. Conclusions.

Assignment 5. Pitching

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination: 50

% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 50

-In-class work and homework is worth 50% of the total grade. The final exam/work is worth 50%. A minimum of 5 is required in both parts (in-class and final exam/work) to pass the course

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carrière, Jean-Claude & Bonitzer, Pascal *Práctica del guión cinematográfico, The End*. Paidós, Barcelona-Buenos Aires. (1991)

- Ernest B. Schoedsack *Una aventura en la niebla*, Cine Negro RKO (DVD), 2014

- King, Stephen *On Writing*, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1999

- Ted Nannicelli *A Philosophy of the Screenplay*, Routledge, 2013