



COMM- Scriptwriting I

Course Code COMM-340	Course Title Scriptwriting I	Credits (ECTS) 3
Department Communications	Semester Fall, Spring	Prerequisites
Type of Course Elective	Field Communications	Language of Instruction Greek/ English
Level of Course 1 st cycle	Year of Study 3 rd	Lecturer Mr. Christos Kaniklidis
Course Days/Times	Course Venue B 209	Student Consultation Hours
Telephone 22-351274	E-mail	Office

Objectives of the Course:

1. To develop a basic understanding for dramatic and visual writing.
2. To make the student realize the classical narrative structure and the dramatic form which is inherent in this basic form. To theoretically understand the differences when writing different genres such as drama, comedy or the documentary.
3. To help the student understand what are the essential ingredients that make one's text successful on the screen.
4. To lead the student to apply all that s/he learned, by writing a 25 minute draft/pilot in the genre that interests the student.

Learning Outcomes:

By the time a student finishes the course s/he should be in a position to:

1. Have a sound knowledge of the dramatic form and the theories that shape and communicate the message effectively.
2. Be able to analyze and understand a well-written text for television.
3. Include in their writing those constituent elements that make the text successful.
4. Understand the audience's point of view and how their text can be a carrier of their attentiveness.
5. Our emphasis will be focused in making the student associate his creative attempts and understanding to the medium of television, where s/he is most likely able to find a venue to apply his/her ideas

Course Contents:

Theories will involve:

1. Understanding Narrative Structure
2. Storytelling and documenting reality
3. The elements of the dramatic form
4. Understanding conventions
5. Television demands and viewership
6. The applied dramatic form in everyday life.
7. Foreground and background stories. Multilayered action

Teaching Methods:

Tutorials shall give a thorough theoretical direction for the student. Excerpts from video material will be viewed in class. Short dialogue projects will be read in class and discussed. The ideas of students will be developed and discussed with the assistance of the tutor.

Assessment Methods:

Completion of 5 required story developments, 50%
Class participation -10%
Final Project – 40%

Required Textbooks:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN

Attendance Regulations:

Students are required to attend all classes. Those who are absent for 20% or more of the course will be withdrawn.

Course Requirements:

- The Final Project will be due the last lecture.
- No late homework/projects/courseworks will be accepted. Documented evidence is required to support such cases.
- Plagiarism in all assessment work is a serious offense which leads to severe punishment.
- Please consult the relevant reading material before coming to the lecture.

Grading Policy:

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Numerical Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>
A	Excellent	93-100	4.0
A-		90-92	3.7
B+	Very Good	87-89	3.3
B		83-86	3.0
B-		80-82	2.7
C+	Good	77-79	2.3
C		73-76	2.0
C-		70-72	1.7
D+	Poor but Acceptable	67-69	1.3
D		63-66	1.0
D-		60-62	0.7
F	Failure	0-59	0.0

Schedule of Lectures and Assessment:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Week 1,	<p>Introduction Understanding Narrative Structure The three act structure- Introduction of character & premise, Act two: Confrontation and Struggle, Act three: Resolution of crisis.</p> <p>Introduction to the elements of Drama: Unities of time, place & space. Origins of Drama (Aristotle's Poetics) The birth of an idea. What is a worthy idea? (Assignment- Write a one page project idea and a backstory)</p>	Lect. 1.
Week 2,	<p>The elements of Drama, revisited in more depth. Premise, Conflict, Character, Active Dialogue, Rising Action, Discovery, Reversal, Turning Point Working on Students' initial premise ideas</p>	Lect. 2

Week 3,	Understanding Conventions of the three act structure in different genres- Drama, Comedy, Suspense, Action. The spice of dramatic writing- intensity, surprise, subtext, high and low concept. (Application of conventions in Students' projects.	Lect. 3
Week 4,	Television Demands and Viewership- Meeting the audience. Analysis of successful Television programming. Identification, mimesis, Globalizing your idea. Making your character universal. The individual and the collective. Socially responsible & ethical directions that may permeate dramatic writing.	Lect. 4
Week 5.	The applied dramatic form in everyday life- Seeing the big picture through a small window. Compressed time and the emergence of meaning. The ritual as a powerful means to maintain and transmit culture. Framing Rituals. The human need to seek change. The need to transgress to another perceptive level.	Lect. 5
Week 6	Working the Scene- The scene as the building unit that transfers dynamism into the script. Active dialogue as the basis of a successful script.	Lect.6
Week 7	Comedy and the audience- Understanding the need of the audience to disengage from reality. The idea that will tap successfully into the viewer's reality and cause transference into a less "real" world through laughter.	Lect. 7
Week 8	Working On Character and conflict. Characterization is a symbolic process- Meeting the character- Should the carácter be likeable? The individuality of desire. Desire as the basis of individual action. Desire as a directive for action. .	Lect 8
Week 9	Foreground and Background Stories- Multilayered action. Enriching the script through parallel action. Workshop- Working on Rising Action, Reversal, Discovery and Turning point.	Lects. 9

Week 10	Writing the Television Series- Engaging the audience. Understanding target groups and offering appropriate types and form Differentiating the plot	Lect. 10
Week 11	Workshop- Working on Students' Scripts	Lect. 11
Week 12	Workshop- Working on Students' Scripts	Lect 12
Week 13	Ethics & the social responsibility of the scriptwriter. Developing other TV formats. Linking all TV programming to the narrative structure. <u>Submission of Scripts</u>	Lect 13