

FILM/THEA 405 Scriptwriting

Trimesters 1 and 2 2010

1 March –13 November 2010

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 9 March to 15 October 2010

Study week: 18 to 22 October 2010

Last piece of assessment due: 26 October 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

John Downie Email: john.downie@vuw.ac.nz Phone: 463 6826

Room: 101, 85 Fairlie Terrace

Office Hours: posted on office door.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesdays 15.10-18.00 Every second week. Room 305, 77 Fairlie Terrace

Tutorials

Individual tutorials with John Downie TBA

COURSE DELIVERY

Fortnightly open seminars, plus two one-on-one tutorials.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information for this course will be posted under the course number on the Course Notice boards in 77 Fairlie Terrace (Theatre) and 85 Fairlie Terrace (Film). If you are uncertain about any elements relating to classes and course assignments, please email John Downie for advice.

COURSE CONTENT

This is a creative course employing a number of touchstone topics with which to work into and through the broader perspectives of script creation for different performance mediums, paying particular attention to dramatic and narrative structure, action, and dialogue.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should:

- be able to understand the ways in which the scriptwriting process contributes towards the final outcomes of a performance text.
- have developed personal scriptwriting skills, both in the area of locating and opening out ideas, and in the crafting and drafting skills involved in realising sequences, scenes and acts.
- be able to understand certain key aspects of a performance script provided by the scriptwriting process, such as the designing of actions to a timeframe, the employment of plot reversals (peripeteia), concealing and revealing, and so on.
- have completed the writing of two scripts for any performance medium, one being of short duration (5-10 minutes) and one of 20-30 minutes; to have written a short scenario for a 20-30 minute script; to have compiled a portfolio of creative writing exercises; and to have compiled some kind of notebook on process.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The University anticipates that you should be able to devote at least 10 hours per week to a full-year (two trimester) paper in a 4-paper Honours or Graduate programme. At Honours level, it is expected that students will attend every seminar; if you expect to be absent from a class seminar, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance if possible.

GROUP WORK

Though students will be assessed individually for all assignment work, informal collaborations between students will be invited and encouraged outside the formal class times.

READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

There are no set texts for this course, though there will be short handouts made available in the context of class work. Students will be encouraged to select and read (in literary, performance, and audio-visual form, as appropriate) a particular model or exemplar of 'performance authorship', and to record critical responses to this study in their individual notebooks.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

There are five assessable components to the course.

Assignment 1 A short (5-10 minute) script written for any performance medium. 10%. *Due Tuesday 23 March.*

Assignment 2 A short scenario (20-30 minutes) for any performance medium. 20%. *Due Tuesday 1 June.*

Assignment 3 A workbook/folio of writing exercises. 20%. *Due Tuesday 14 September.*

Assignment 4 A crafted and drafted full-length script (20-30 minutes), for any performance medium. 30%. *Due Tuesday 12 October.*

Assignment 5 A notebook on process. 20%. *Due Friday 26 October.*

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day or part work day, starting from the hour the work is due. This means late work will drop one 'grade-step' every second day—i.e. from C+ to C, or A- to B+. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete all assignments within the stipulated deadlines and options, and to attend a minimum of 80% of weekly class sessions.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

FILM / THEA 405 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 2 9 Mar Self.

Week 4 23 Mar Moment. Assignment 1 DUE

Week 6 20 Apr Dance.

Week 8 4 May Story.

Week 10 18 May Montage.

Week 12 1 Jun Predicament. Assignment 2 DUE

Mid Year Break: 7 June – 11 July

Week 14 20 July Seen.

Week 16 3 Aug Heard.

Week 18 17 Aug Myth/History.

Week 22 14 Sept Transformation. Assignment 3 DUE

Week 23 28 Sept Athletes.

Week 24 12 Oct Demonstrations. Assignment 4 DUE

26 Oct Assignment 5 DUE