

FILM/THEA 405 Scriptwriting

Trimester 1 & 2 2011

28 February to 12 November 2011

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	28 February to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	18 April to 1 May 2011
Mid-year break:	6 June to 10 July 2011
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	22 August to 4 September 2011

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

Course Co-ordinator: John Downie Email: john.downie@vuw.ac.nz Ph: 463 6826

Room: 101, 85 Fairlie Terrace

Office Hours: posted on office door.

Course Administrator: Claire O'Loughlin Email: claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz Ph: 463 5359

Room: 202, 83 Fairlie Terrace

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesdays (every second week starting 8 March) 3:10 – 6:00pm, Room 201, 83 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). 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

Students passing the course 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; and to have compiled an extensive 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

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 (Assignment 4).

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

There are four assessable components to this course:

Assignment 1 A short (5-10 minute) script written for any performance medium. 20%. *DUE Tuesday 5 April.*

Assignment 2 A scenario (20-30 minutes) for any performance medium. 25%. *DUE Tuesday 31 May.*

Assignment 3 A crafted and drafted full-length script (20-60 minutes), for any performance medium. 35%. *DUE Tuesday 11 October.*

Assignment 4 A course-long notebook on process. 20%. *Friday 14 October.*

Further details on these assignments, including relation of assessment to objectives, will be available early in the year. Please note that grades gained in individual courses are always subordinate to the overall assessment made by the full group of examiners for the Honours programme as a whole.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration Office in 83 Fairlie Terrace.

PENALTIES AND 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.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

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.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

The following text must be included in all course outlines.

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA / FILM 405

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 August – Sunday 4 September 2011

Week 7

Week 8 13 Sept Transformation.

Week 9

Week 10 27 Sept Athletes.

Week 11

Week 12 11 Oct Demonstrations.

Assignment 3 DUE 11 October.

Assignment 4 DUE 14 October.