

FILM/THEA 405 Scriptwriting

Trimester 1 2012

5 March to 4 July 2012

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	5 March to 8 June 2012
Mid-trimester break:	6 to 22 April 2012
Study week:	11 to 15 June 2012

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 Coordinator	John Downie	john.downie@vuw.ac.nz	463 6826	FT85/Room 101
Course Administrator	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83/Room 202

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesdays 3:10 – 6:00pm FT83 Room 201

Tutorials

Individual tutorials with John Downie TBA

COURSE DELIVERY

Weekly 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.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course provides both a theoretical and a practical approach to writing scripts for theatrical and screen media performance. Particular topics covered are myth and story, dramatic and scenographic mise-en-scene, spoken dialogue, and both narrative and organic dramaturgy. Study is made of playscripts, theatre works in performance, film and TV drama. Students pursue individual study of selected writers and compile portfolios of their own original writing, including a full length script.

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 (live performance) or 10-15 minutes (Film); to have written a short scenario for a proposed work of chosen length; and to have compiled an extensive notebook on process.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The University anticipates that you should be able to devote at least 20 hours per week to a one 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 Friday 9 March.**

Assignment 2 A scenario for any performance medium, own chosen length. 25%. **DUE Thursday 5 April.**

Assignment 3 A course-long notebook on process. 20%. **DUE Friday 1 June.**

Assignment 4 A crafted and drafted script (LIVE 20-30 minutes; FILM 10-15 minutes)), for any performance medium. 35%. **DUE Friday 8 June.**

Further details on these assignments, including relation of assessment to objectives, will be available early in the course.

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.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this 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

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.

THEA / FILM 405 Course Programme

Week 1	6 March	Self. Asking and answering the questions.	<u>Assignment 1 DUE 9 March</u>
Week 2	13 March	Foregrounding.	
Week 3	20 March	Space, Time, Action.	
Week 4	27 March	Story, Montage.	
Week 5	3 April	Dance/Song.	<u>Assignment 2 DUE 5 April</u>
Mid Trimester Break: Friday 6 April - Sunday 22 April 2012			
Week 6	24 April	Predicament .	
Week 7	1 May	Invocation, Conviviality, Complicity.	
Week 8	8 May	Athletes.	
Week 9	15 May	Seen and Heard.	
Week 10	22 May	Myth/History.	
Week 11	29 May	Transformations.	<u>Assignment 3 DUE 1 June</u>
Week 12	5 June	Demonstrations.	<u>Assignment 4 DUE 8 June</u>