



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS
Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 351 Masterclass
Trimester 1 2013
4 March – 3 July 2013

Staff

Workshop coordinator	Dave Armstrong
Room	c/- Room 402, 16 Waiteata Road
Hours on campus	Thursdays: 3-6pm
Work phone	04.463.6854
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Trimester dates

Teaching dates:	4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break:	22–28 April 2013
Final folio due:	17 June 2013
Study week:	10–14 June 2013
Examination/Assessment Period:	14 June to 3 July 2013

Class times and course delivery

The course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place 3 pm – 6 pm on Thursdays in Room 101, 24 Kelburn Parade, Kelburn Campus. Any additional information will be given to students at these workshops or conveyed by email.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

Course Prescription

A workshop course in writing television drama - including sketch comedy, sitcom, soap and series drama.

Teaching /learning summary

This course involves the practical writing and study of television. In the first half of the course, you will study the process of creating a television script, and you will also analyse different genres. Students will be given weekly analysis and writing exercises, some of which will be discussed and workshopped in class. In the second half of the course, students will present and workshop parts of their final folio. Students will be encouraged to take on constructive criticism from the workshop coordinator and their fellow students as they rewrite for the final folio.

Course Requirements

Because this is an advanced class, the primary focus is on your work. During the first half of the course, you'll be expected to complete short analysis and scriptwriting exercises. You will also be expected to constructively comment, with respect and intelligence, on the work of your peers and participate in workshop discussion. You'll also need to view or read in advance any television programmes or scripts that the tutor decides may be discussed in future weeks.

The writing requirements will involve weekly exercises and the final folio, which will include a commercial half-hour of a television script and a short (up to ten pages) series 'bible' that explains the concept and the main characters in the series which has been created. The script requirement equates to an entire episode of a sitcom, soap or half-hour drama, or half an episode of an hour-long drama. Students who choose to write a series drama have the option of submitting an entire (commercial hour) script as well as the series bible.

In addition to the recommended reading, other readings and viewings may be assigned, some of which may be made available by online link. Some scripts, readings, notes and exercises may be handed out by the tutor on the day of the class.

Final Folio

The final folio will consist of a commercial half-hour of television in the genre you choose, and a short (up to 10 pages) series 'bible'. You will be submitting two typewritten or printed hard copies to the IIML by **Monday 17 June 2013**.

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course will/should be able to:

1. Analyse how television is written and structured.
2. Create engaging narratives and characters in order to write a compelling television script in the standard format.
3. Understand and employ the basics tenets of television scriptwriting including story structure, character, plot and subplot, dialogue, humour, and subtext.

Individual Meetings

In addition to the workshops, you will meet with the tutor at least once during the trimester to discuss your folio content. This will be at a time that is mutually convenient.

Workload

It's difficult to assess the workload for this course. It is expected that you'll work on your writing every day. Full-time undergraduates should expect to spend about 200 hours across this course (this figure includes workshop hours). Some of this time will involve watching and analysing television programmes and reading television scripts.

Course Materials

There is no set text for this course. However, students are encouraged to read *Story (Substance, structure, style, and the principles of screenwriting)* by Robert McKee (Methuen), *Adventures in the Screen Trade* by William Goldman (Warner) and *Screenplay (the foundations of screenwriting)* by Syd Field (Dell). Other course materials will be provided by the tutor.

Note Photocopying will be an additional expense for you. When your script for the final folio is being workshopped by the class, you will need to bring enough copies of each of your scripts, and hand them out the week before you'll be workshopped. In some cases students may prefer to simply be emailed scripts which they can read on laptops etc.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Participation in class during the trimester will be taken into consideration; a thoughtful response to your classmates' work is of paramount importance.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your final folio must be submitted by **Monday 17 June 2013** to the IIML. Two examiners (the workshop coordinator and one external examiner) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy will be returned to you with your reports and one copy will be kept by the IIML in their archive.

CREW 351 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade H (Ungraded Pass).

Mandatory Course Requirements

In CREW 351 you must attend all workshops (subject to extenuating circumstances), complete all the prescribed exercises, and contribute to workshop discussion. If you do not meet these requirements your folio will not be assessed and you will automatically fail the course.

Your final folio of a commercial half-hour script and a character/storyline bible in your selected television genre is due Monday June 17 with a second copy for the external examiner.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all twelve meetings in CREW 351, as it is unsatisfactory to run a workshop process with missing members. A single absence due to extenuating circumstances would usually be excused; further absences would make it unlikely that you would pass the course.

Punctuality

The workshops begin promptly. Students need to be seated in the workshop room a couple of minutes before the start.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class. That person should advise VUWSA using the form provided, the Course Coordinator, and the class.

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>

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 (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.

Workshop Timetable

Weekly script analysis and scriptwriting exercises will be set. From Week 8 (Thursday 9 May) onwards the class will workshop final folios. You will be asked to choose a date to workshop your folio during the first few weeks of the course. You must hand out copies of your television script for workshopping **one week** before your final folio workshop.

Thursday 7 March	Syllabus and schedule, introductions
Thursday 14 March	Story: concept and analysis Workshop and discussion of analysis exercises
Thursday 21 March	Character and story bible Workshop and discussion of story bible exercise
	Story beats and outlines
Easter Break (28 Mar – 3 Apr)	
Thursday 4 April	Workshop and discussion of story beats and outlines exercises
Thursday 11 April	Treatments and scene breakdowns Workshop and discussion of treatment scene breakdown exercises
Thursday 18 Apr	Dialogue and subtext Workshop and performance/reading of dialogue and subtext exercises
	Genre: sitcom and soap

Mid Trimester break (22-28 Apr)	
Thursday 2 May	Workshop and performance/reading of sitcom and soap exercises Summary
Thursday 9 May	Final folio workshop students 1 and 2
Thursday 16 May	Final folio workshop students 3 and 4
Thursday 23 May	Final folio workshop students 5 and 6
Thursday 30 May	Final folio workshop students 7 and 8
Thursday 6 June	Final folio workshop students 9 and 10
Monday June 17	Folio hand-in: bring two copies of your folio.
