FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 351 MASTERCLASS
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016
Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016
Easter break: 24–30 March 2016
Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016
Last assessment item due: 16 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

This course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place 4-7pm on Thursdays in the workshop room - Room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus.

Names and contact details

Workshop convenor	Dave Armstrong
Room	Room 404, 16 Waiteata Road
Hours on campus	TBA
Work phone	463 6854
Email	dave.armstrong@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Any additional information will be given to students at the workshops or conveyed by email.

Prescription

A workshop course in writing for television, including series drama, web series, sitcom and soap.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

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 basic tenets of television scriptwriting including story structure, character, plot and subplot, dialogue, humour, and subtext.

Teaching format

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 convenor and their fellow students as they rewrite for the final folio.

Punctuality

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

Individual meetings

In addition to the workshops, you must meet individually with the course convenor during the trimester to discuss your folio content. This will be at a time convenient to both.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to pass this course, students must:

- attend all workshops. It is unsatisfactory to run a workshop process with missing members. A single absence due to extenuating circumstances would usually be excused but further absences would make it unlikely that a pass for the course would be awarded.
- complete all the exercises prescribed in class
- contribute to workshop discussion
- hand in the final folio on Thursday 18 June 2015, with a second copy for the external examiner
- meet with the course convenor at least once to discuss work in progress. The time, location and duration of this meeting is by mutual agreement.

If these mandatory requirements are not met, the final folio may not be assessed and you would automatically fail the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

CREW 351 is a 20-point undergraduate course. Full-time undergraduates should expect to spend approximately 15 hours per week, including the workshop hours, which amounts to about 200 hours across this course). Some of this time will involve watching and analysing television programmes and reading television scripts.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course.

The final folio will include a commercial half-hour of a television script (between 25 and 30 pages) and a short (around ten pages) series 'bible' that explains the concept and the main characters in the series which has been created. The script requirement equates to at least 3 episodes of a web series (between 25 and 30 pages); 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 – about 60 pages) script as well as a series bible.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your final folio must be submitted by Thursday 16 June 2016 to the IIML. Two examiners (the workshop convenor 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 P (ungraded pass).

Submission and return of work

Your final folio should be submitted on Thursday 16 June either to the Administration Office at the IIML (Room 402, 16 Waiteata Road), or at the folio hand-in function (location to be advised).

Once the examination process is complete, approximately one month after 16 June, one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with the examiner reports.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

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. In some cases students may prefer to simply be emailed scripts which they can read on laptops, etc.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.*.*

Recommended reading

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).

Software

Most television scripts are written in Final Draft. Students are encouraged to obtain a scriptwriting program like Final Draft. There are free programs that are like Final Draft such as trelby. Though scripts written in word or other formats will be accepted, you are encouraged to write your script in a currently accepted scriptwriting format.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at:

www.ca.dvuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Workshop Timetable

Weekly script analysis and scriptwriting exercises will be set. From Week 7 (Monday 14 April), 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 script for workshopping **one week** before your final folio workshop.

Thursday 3 March	Syllabus and schedule, introductions
	Story: concept, structure and analysis
Thursday 10 March	Workshop and discussion of story, structure and analysis exercises
	Character and story bible
Thursday 17 March	Workshop and discussion of character and story bible exercises
	Story beats and outlines
	Easter Mid Trimester break (24 – 30 March)
Thursday 31 March	Workshop and discussion of story beats and outline exercises
	Treatments and scene breakdowns
Thursday 7 April	Workshop and discussion of treatment and scene breakdown exercises
	Dialogue and subtext
Thursday 14 April	Workshop and performance/reading of dialogue and subtext exercises
	Genre: Series drama
Thursday 21 April	Workshop and performance/reading of series drama exercises
	Genre: web series, sitcom and soap
	Mid trimester break (25 – 30 April)

Thursday 5 May	Final folio workshop students 1 and 2
Thursday 12 May	Final folio workshop students 3 and 4
Thursday 19 May	Final folio workshop students 5 and 6
Thursday 26 May	Final folio workshop students 7 and 8
Thursday 2 June	Final folio workshop students 9 and 10
Thursday 16 June	**Folio hand-in: bring two copies of your folio.**

Course Outline for CREW 351
Trimester One 2016