



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

**School of the Arts and Media**

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**



**ARTS2066**

**Writing for the Screen**

**Session 1, 2017**

# Course Outline

## Staff Contact Details

### Conveners

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr. Mette Jakobsen	m.jakobsen@unsw.edu.au	Tuesdays 2-4	Room 231L Robert Webster	92856016

## School Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: [sam@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sam@unsw.edu.au)

Website: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au>

## Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the SAM attendance protocols, see the SAM policies and guidelines webpage: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

## Essential Information

All SAM students must make a valid attempt at all assessments in order to pass the course.

For essential student information relating to: attendance requirements; requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of

illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential matters, see the SAM Policies and Guidelines webpage: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Film Studies*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisation: *Creative Writing*

This course introduces you to the study and practice of storytelling for screen media. It will provide you with a framework through which to recognise and critically analyse key elements of the screenwriting process. Through practical exercises, you will be able to develop fundamental skills in the art of writing for the screen. You will study a variety of screenwriting forms including short films, feature films and writing for television.

### At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Identify and implement the fundamental elements and techniques of screenwriting.
2. Engage critically and reflectively with critical and conceptual scholarship on screenwriting.
3. Compose, draft and revise a piece of screen writing.
4. Link creative production with theoretical and critical knowledge.
5. Collaborate in a collegial process of peer review

### Teaching Strategies

This course introduces students to the fundamental skills and techniques in screenwriting by taking an approach that combines theory and practice. In the first instance the course will be taught in a traditional mode with a 1 hour lecture and 2 hour seminar (or equivalent in intensive mode). In this mode, the course will be supported by significant online material that will prepare students for active learning in the face-to-face teaching environment. In future iterations the course may be taught in a blended mode depending on staff expertise in this area. This will include online pre-learning material including screencasts, reading material and film viewing. An important part of the required pre-learning for the course in either mode will consist of reading and analysing a variety of critical and conceptual literature about screenwriting, as well as reading screenplay texts and viewing the corresponding films. Students will reflect on these and draw lessons from them during the 2-hour seminars.

Through exemplars, students will be provided with a model and point of departure for their own work. The majority of the 2-hour seminars will be devoted to practical writing, workshops and peer-to-peer learning activities. Through a structured range of activities, students will practice the skills to craft their own screenplays. In each seminar focus will be placed on a specific aspect of the screenplay, such as pitch, synopsis, plot, character, dialogue etc.

As an introductory course, the teaching methods are focused on showing students how and helping them to develop a level of competence, rather than developing high-level experience or mastery. At the same time, students will learn how to access knowledge and resources, as well as the value of incorporating peer feedback into the learning cycle, which will enable them to continue to deepen their learning beyond the course.

# Assessment

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Length	Due Date	Submission
Script, synopsis and logline	45%	null	Monday, 12 June 2017, 5:00 PM	null
Peer script assessment	30%	null	Thursday, 27 April 2017, 5:00 PM	null
Story exercise	25%	null	23 March 5pm	null

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Script, synopsis and logline

**Details:** 10-12 page script 11-point font 1.5 spacing in correct script-writing format. 500 word synopsis and logline. This is the final assessment task. Students receive written feedback, grading rubric and numerical grade via the Learning Management System.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin, students do not see Turnitin similarity reports

#### Learning outcomes:

- Engage critically and reflectively with critical and conceptual scholarship on screenwriting.
- Compose, draft and revise a piece of screen writing.
- Link creative production with theoretical and critical knowledge.

### Assessment 2: Peer script assessment

**Details:** 600 words. Students are assessed on their script assessment, rather than on their draft screenplays. While this task provides an excellent opportunity for students to provide peer feedback, they do not assess other student's work for credit. Students receive written feedback, grading rubric and numerical grade via Learning Management System.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

#### Learning outcomes:

- Identify and implement the fundamental elements and techniques of screenwriting.
- Collaborate in a collegial process of peer review
- Link creative production with theoretical and critical knowledge.

### Assessment 3: Story exercise

**Details:** 2-3 pages 11-point font 1.5 spacing (1000-1200 words) Students receive written feedback, grading rubric and numerical grade via the Learning Management System.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin, students do not see Turnitin similarity reports

**Learning outcomes:**

- Identify and implement the fundamental elements and techniques of screenwriting.
- Compose, draft and revise a piece of screen writing.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

## Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au). Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally in SAM there will no longer be any hard-copy submission; assessments must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible it will be stated on your course's moodle site with alternative submission details.

## Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

## Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- \* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- \* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- \* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

\* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including 'When to Apply', 'How to Apply' and 'Supporting Documentation' please refer to the Special Consideration website:  
<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>



## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices;

Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management

Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

# Course Schedule

## Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 27 February - 5 March		<p><b>STORY TELLING</b></p> <p>What constitutes a story? Is it simply just a sequence of events or is there more to it? This week we will look at Aristotelian Storytelling, the Hero's Journey and how to up with story ideas.</p>
Week 2: 6 - 12 March		<p><b>DIALOGUE</b></p> <p>What does it take to write a successful dialogue for a screenplay? This lecture explores the spoken text, character, status and subtext.</p>
Week 3: 13 - 19 March		<p><b>DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>Writing for the screen is writing in images. Descriptions give us important clues to the characters and the world of the story and should be written with great economy. This lecture investigates how to write descriptions in a way that makes the reader see the world and the characters clearly.</p>
Week 4: 20 - 26 March		<p><b>CHARACTER, GENRE AND PLOT STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Does your screenplay make you want to keep reading? Is your story engaging? Is there enough conflict and dramatic tension to propel it forward? This week we will analyse different approaches to screenplay structure and how to develop a character.</p>
Week 5: 27 March - 2 April		<p><b>CHARACTER, GENRE AND PLOT STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)</b></p>
Week 6: 3 - 9 April		<p><b>MULTI-PLATFORM STORYTELLING</b></p>

Date	Type	Content
		The next two week we will explore multi-platform storytelling and social storytelling as data. We will look at how to create story beats, immersive storytelling and techniques engaging with character, story and worlds.
Week 7: 10 - 16 April		MULTI-PLATFORM STORYTELLING (CONTINUED)
Week 8: 24 - 30 April		<p>WRITING FOR TV</p> <p>The demand for episodic works has exploded in recent years. Writing for TV demands for a plot structure different to that of a short film or a feature. This week we will look how to work with structure when writing for TV.</p>
Week 9: 1 - 7 May		<p>ALTERNATIVE STORY STRUCTURE</p> <p>This week will introduce you to post-modern writing strategies. We will look at remix, mash-up cultures as well how to create consecutive, multiple protagonist storylines.</p>
Week 10: 8 - 14 May		<p>LOGLINE, SYNOPSIS, AND TREATMENT</p> <p>Loglines, synopses and treatments are notoriously difficult to write. But not only are they essential in the process of selling a screenplay, they can also aid the writing process. We will explore how to write them and how to use them constructively.</p>
Week 11: 15 - 21 May		<p>INDUSTRY FUTURES</p> <p>This week we will look at how to make your content pay, what key organisations to join and how to create a production business.</p>
Week 12: 22 - 28 May		<p>PITCH, FESTIVALS, COMPETITIONS AND AGENTS</p> <p>Do you want to sell your</p>

Date	Type	Content
		screenplay or enter it into a competition? This lecture gives a comprehensive overview of industry opportunities.

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Not available

### **Recommended Resources**

Not available

## **Course Evaluation and Development**

[Briefly outline how student feedback (both formal and informal) on the course will be gathered, how it will be analysed and how it will be acted upon to improve the student learning experience. For example, you might discuss what was identified in past feedback and how this course was changed to address the issue.]

## **Image Credit**