

BADF05C

SCRIPT TO SCREEN (ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT)

Level: 4

Credit Value: 30

Pre-Requisites: NONE

Module Description

The module is designed to evaluate students' individual creative and technical skills, demonstrated through the devising and production of an extended film (8 - 10 minutes in duration). This module will allow students to utilise the digital film production skills learned and developed in modules BADF03C and BADF04C, in addition to introductory screenwriting methods including narrative structure, genre, audience, characterisation and dialogue. A fundamental aspect of this module is research and students will be required to provide research material which supports their thematic, creative and technical ideas. This research will be evident in pitching, screenwriting, pre-production and evaluation. Research skills will be taught, in addition to further practical production skills necessary to the respective film productions and the individual production roles. This module will culminate in the production of a completed short film, devised, planned and produced in groups (4 students per group), with each member of the group taking responsibility for a specific production role. Individual research and evaluation will be produced in online portfolios and blogs.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Proficiently and creatively use digital video and audio equipment and facilities for moving image recording and editing.
2. Proficiently and creatively develop specific production skills to take on specific responsibilities as a member of a production team.
3. Develop and utilise research methods to explore and justify creative ideas and production decisions.
4. Further develop their understanding and creative use of film language through research and application, to convey narrative information and evoke emotional response in their own productions.
5. Follow appropriate procedures to complete productions to a semi-professional standard.

Indicative Content

- Practical instruction in the completion of pre-production documentation necessary to organise a film shoot to a specific time scale and budget.
- Practical instruction in the operation of digital filming and sound recording equipment and resources, including health and safety aspects, in relation to the individual requirements of the specific film productions and respective production roles.
- Practical instruction in post-production techniques using digital film and sound editing resources in relation to the individual requirements of the specific film productions and respective production roles.
- Self-directed and advised research of film sequences from early cinema to modern day examples to study the development of film language and visual narrative techniques in relation to the individual requirements of the specific film productions and respective production roles; evidenced in online portfolios.
- Application of film language and visual narrative techniques to the devising of original scripts.
- Group work undertaken to emulate and reflect industry practice.
- Individual production roles undertaken to emulate and reflect industry practice.
- Self-evaluation of own production role.via online blogs.
- Evaluation of finished product.

Learning & Teaching Strategies

This module will be delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials. Students will receive practical instruction in the operation of digital filming and sound recording equipment and the operation of digital editing facilities, specific to the requirements of their individual group and production roles. Weekly seminars will be student led to discuss and convey creative and practical production decisions, production progress and group meetings. Individual research and the progression of online research portfolios and evaluative production blogs will be discussed in tutorials. Use of film language and narrative techniques will be discussed via seminars and workshops. Students will also demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of film language through their own presentations of film/TV sequence analyses via online research portfolios. Group tutorials will be used to discuss and reflect on the development and progress of productions. Final tutorials will be devoted to evaluative critiques of finished productions.

Assessment

Hand-in	Aggregate (Yes/No)	Semester Due
Online Research Portfolio (40% of module) LO2, LO3, LO4	Yes	Sem 2, Mid
Online Production Blog (20% of module) LO2	Yes	Sem 2, End
Completed digital film production (8 - 10 minutes duration), pre-production portfolio and evaluation (800 words) (40% of module)	Yes	Sem 2, End

Specific Learning Resources

- Multi-camera TV Studio with lighting rig and green screen facility
- Digital camera and lighting kits
- Digital Sound recording kits
- Editing suite with Adobe Premier Pro CS6 software
- Lecture Theatre or Classroom with Multimedia Facilities including Blu-Ray and Surround Sound (5.1 or similar)
- Large screen for projection (e.g. Lecture Theatre)
- CD/DVD resources (shown in lectures and/or available on loan from University of Essex and Colchester Institute Libraries)
- Reference books and journals (available on loan from University of Essex and Colchester Institute Libraries)

Reference List

Highly Recommended

- Andersson, B., Geyen, J.L. (2012) *The DSLR Filmmaker's Handbook : Real-world Production Techniques*. Indianapolis, John Wiley
- Cook, P. (2007) *The Cinema Book 3rd Edition*, London, British Film Institute
- Grove, E. (2009) *Beginning Filmmaking: 100 Easy Steps from Script to Screen*. London, Methuen
- Holland, P. (1997) *The Television Handbook*, UK, Routledge
- Lyver, D. (2001) *Basics of the video production dairy*, Abingdon, Focal Press
- Musburger, R. B. (2010) *Single-camera video production (5th edition)*, Abingdon, Focal Press
- Mittell, J. and McGowan, T. (2017) *Narrative Theory and Adaptation (Film Theory in Practice)*. London, Bloomsbury

Recommended

- Bamford, N. (2012) *Directing Television: a professional survival guide*, London, Bloomsbury
- Gates, R. (1999) *Production management for film and video (3rd edition)*, Abingdon, Focal Press
- Harvey, B. (2008) *How to Make Your Own Video or Short Film: all you need to know to make your ideas shine*. Begbroke, How To Books
- Hughes, M. (2012) *Digital Filmmaking for Beginners: a practical guide to video production*. London, McGraw-Hill.
- Juniper, A., Newton, D. (2011) *101 top tips for DSLR video*, Brighton, Ilex
- McKee, R. (1999) *Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting*. London, Methuen
- Murphy, R. (2009) *The British Cinema Book 3rd Edition*, London, Palgrave Macmillan
- Schellhardt, L. (2008) *Screenwriting for Dummies 2nd Edition*. New Jersey, Wiley Publishing.

Background Reading

- Bushby, A. (1994) *A-Z of film, television and video terms*, Abingdon, Routledge
- Mackendrick, A. and Cronin, P. (2006) *On Film-making*. London, Faber and Faber
- Eisenstein, S. (1986) *The Film Sense*. London, Faber and Faber
- Swain, D.V & Swain, J. R. (1999) *Film Scriptwriting: A Practical Manual*. Oxford, Focal Press.

Websites

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/>

<http://www.mediacollege.com/video/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/>

<http://www.screenwriting.info/>

<http://sightandsounddigital.bfi.org.uk/> (subscription required)