# Workshop on Scriptwriting

## Prof. Francesco Massimo Maria Buscemi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is for participants to acquire knowledge and in-depth understanding of the technique of scriptwriting and to provide some relative theoretical background. During the main part of the course, based on the writing produced by students in groups, students will read a number of existing texts.

At the end of the course students will be able to write a scriptwriting from the initial idea to the final product.

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* produce a script, from the initial idea to the finished product;
* recognise the strengths and weaknesses of a script they have read;
* identify the various scriptwriting genres and techniques;
* describe what they have learned in a clear manner and understand similarities and differences between the scriptwriting traditions of various countries.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* evaluate a script based on the technical principles currently favoured by Italian and foreign production companies;
* evaluate content and meaning of a script and understand its underlying aspects;
* compare previous and current scriptwriting trends in Italy with their foreign equivalents;
* plan a script for an external team to produce.

*Independence of judgement*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* choose a specific point of view through the dynamics underlying the writing of a script.

*Communication skills*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* submit scriptwriting projects clearly and concisely;
* summarise points of view on different styles of writing scripts.
* Work as a team within study groups.

*Learning capacity*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* understand how words and images are combined;
* summarise the deeper meanings of the language of images;
* identify the most effective approach for them to learning to write scripts in particular, and learning to write creatively in general.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Students will be divided into groups of three or four, with each group working on their own project to come up with a plot. The lecturer will allocate stories or novels to adapt to any groups that fail to formulate their own plot.

Next, students will work on the step outline, i.e. a brief outline of every scene in the story. In this way, students will examine the possible sequences for each story and choose the best.

After careful analysis of the step outlines, students will move on to the treatment, i.e. a narrative text telling the story through a series of images and actions.

From the treatment, students will finally move on to writing the screenplay itself, with completed dialogues and detailed descriptions, respecting the appropriate graphic and stylistic standards.

During the course, students will read and analyse examples of film scripts to see how the theoretical aspects they have been taught are applied in practice.

***READING LIST***

There are no texts to prepare for the exam, as long as students attend at least 60% of the lectures.

Otherwise, texts will be allocated on an individual basis.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is based on practical exercises. Students will be divided into groups and each group will work on a project.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will focus on texts produced by the students during the workshop and will have two possible results: “pass”/”fail”.

Students will be assessed on their ability to write as a group and the skills acquired during the workshop and demonstrated in the texts produced.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. Students are nevertheless expected to demonstrate an interest in and intellectual curiosity about creative writing in general and screenplays in particular, and are advised to watch films, television series and programmes and reflect on the narrative structures they use.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.