

JYOTI NIVAS COLLEGE AUTONOMOUS
DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND PERFORMING ARTS
FOURTH SEMESTER
SCREENPLAY WRITING(THEORY)

NO. OF CREDITS- 3

NO. OF HOURS- 45

Learning Objectives:

1. To understand the foundational principles of cinematic storytelling, including story development, classic screenplay structures, and character archetypes.
2. To develop proficiency in writing effective screenplay elements such as characterization, dialogue, and various narrative techniques, while also mastering industry-standard formatting

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to critically analyze and deconstruct existing screenplays based on their structural components (e.g., Three-Act Structure, Hero's Journey) and elemental composition (e.g., character arcs, dialogue types, subtext).
2. Students will be able to conceive, research, and develop original story ideas into a cohesive synopsis and a structured screenplay, demonstrating an understanding of beginning, middle, and end narrative progression.
3. Students will be able to format a professional screenplay according to Hollywood industry standards, incorporating appropriate cues and adapting their writing for different media platforms like film, television, and documentary.

Unit 1: Stories

[Bloom's Level: Understanding,Applying]

Stories: elements of a story, shape/types of stories; Developing a story idea -conceiving, research, ideation, logline, synopsis.

Unit 2: Narrative/plot Structures

[Bloom's Level: Understanding,Analysing]

Three Act Structure, Five Act structure, Hero's Journey, Story Circle

Unit 3: Screenplay Writing

[Bloom's Level: Understanding,Applying]

Narrative/plot techniques: suspense-surprise, reward-punishment, foreshadowing, flashback, repetition/reinforcement. Characterization: Building characters- protagonist and antagonist, sub characters. Dialogues meaning, types and functions; Parallel narratives- tandem narratives, multiple protagonists narrative, flashback narrative, consecutive story narrative; writing screenplay- beginning, middle, and end.

Unit 4: Screenplay Formatting Techniques

[Bloom's Level: Understanding,Applying,Creating]

Style Guide – Cues- camera, editing, audio, effect cues; Hollywood Script Layout– spacing, alignment, pagination; Writing for fiction and documentary.

References

- 1 Aronson, L. (2010). The 21st-Century Screenplay: A comprehensive guide to writing Tomorrow's films. Silman-James Press.
- 2 Arijon, D. (2015). Grammar of the film language. Silman-James Press.

- 3 Batty, C. (Ed.). (2014). Screenwriters and screenwriting: putting practice into context. Springer.
- 4 Bowden, D. (2018). Writing for film: The basics of screenwriting. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
- 5 Field, S. (2005). Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting. Delta Trade Paperbacks.
- 6 Snyder, B. (2005). Save the cat!: The last book on screenwriting you'll ever need. M. Wiese Productions.
- 7 Trotter, D. (2019). The Screenwriter's Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing. Formatting, and Selling Your Script.

SCREENPLAY WRITING (PRACTICAL)

PROGRAM NAME	VISUAL COMMUNICATION	SEMESTER	FOURTH
COURSE TITLE	SCREENPLAY WRITING(PRACTICAL)	COURSE CREDIT	2
CONTACT HOURS	60	DURATION OF ESE	
INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	10	SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT	40

List of Exercises to be done:

1. Film structure analysis and conceptualizing story idea
2. Create a logline for the story idea, character list and description
3. Create a backstory for the central character
4. Identify the plot points of the story and describe it
5. Screenwriting Write scenes for:
 - a. Opening
 - b. The Middle
 - c. The End
6. Dialogue writing and writing subtext
7. Screenplay formatting and writing synopsis

Minor Project:

The student should write a screenplay (Hollywood Format) for a ten fifteen -minute short movie.