History and Theory of Screenwriting

Module Code: ARMC044H7
Credits/Level: 15/7
Module Type: Academic
Previous Name: N/A

Teaching Pattern:
11 two-hour sessions

Synopsis:
This module gives a theoretical and historical understanding of screenwriting, and will provide an in-depth appraisal of the complexity and historical contingency of forms and practices of screenwriting. It will trace the shifts in professional discourses on script writing and the screenplay and look at case studies of different aspects of screenwriting forms and practices.

The class will be taught through lectures, including guest lectures, screenings of films and extracts, seminars and workshops, group discussion, presentations, and independent writing.

Entrance Requirements:
N/A

Indicative Content:
• Issues in the history and theory of screenwriting - how the term emerged and how we think about the study of the script and practice of screenwriting in film and television

• Gender and screenwriting - the role of women in screenwriting in the past and recent historical studies of women in the international film industry

• Issues in representing culture and ethnicity – examples of the representation of ethnicity in British film and television, and evaluating scripts and approaching writing for a wide range of ethnic characters in film and television

• Commissioning black screenwriters in the UK - historical initiatives to promote training for Afro-Caribbean and Asian screenwriters, and contemporary issues in the diversity policies being promoted in the British film industries

• Adaptation and Genre - adaptation of literary works and theatrical plays for film, television and the screen, and adaptation through the model of genre

• Scripting for digital media and games - developments in screenwriting for online digital media

Coursework/Assessment

Component
Basic Requirements
Weighting
Script Research
1500-2000 words
40%
Essay
2500-3000 words
60%