



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Film and Literature

4KS106 Att skriva filmmanus, 15 högskolepoäng
Writing for Film, 15 credits

Main field of study

Creative Writing

Subject Group

Creative Writing

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2014-12-08

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2015

Prerequisites

General entry requirements and English A and Swedish B/Swedish B2, and a Bachelor's Degree or 1–90 credits in Creative Writing or Film Studies, including an independent project of at least 15 credits.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- in speech or writing account for the basics of film narration,
- in speech or writing account for the structure of film scripts and alternative ways of writing scripts,
- in speech or writing account for the stages involved in writing a film script, from 'treatment' to the complete script,
- problematise the question of film scripts 'as literature' on the basis of film and literary theory,
- in speech or writing account for various strategies used in adaptations of novels or short stories into films,
- write a short film script for a screen version of a novel, short story, play or cartoon,
- formulate a self-critical and analytical understanding of their own writing of film scripts,
- in speech or writing account for and critically discuss artistic research and development work within the area,
- independently review knowledge within the artistic research area and integrate this in their own writing of film scripts and artistic development work.

Content

The course discusses the basics of film narration and the literary composition of films from theoretical perspectives and through the students' own writing. It focuses on screen adaptations of literary originals. The course includes an introduction to the theory and history of film scripts, as well as practical work. The students closely read some examples of adaptations of literary works into films. The course also focuses on short-film adaptations and discusses short films which are adaptations of short stories.

The theoretical parts of the course are combined with practical work, in that the student writes either a script for a short film, or a first draft of a script for a long feature film on the basis of a literary original.

The course is distance-based, with one introductory one-day workshop and one one-day workshop by the end of the course on campus in Växjö.

All assignments in the course are compulsory.

Type of Instruction

The teaching is distance-based and delivered in the form of written material, assignments and discussions on the online learning platform and through online meetings. The students also critically and constructively comment on each other's texts, and self-critically reflect on their own texts. The students are also offered individual supervision in the various parts of the course, focusing on the student's own writing.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the objectives must be achieved. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction the student must demonstrate qualified analytical skills, independence in their own writing of scripts, and a well-developed language, both in terms of theoretical language and film/artistic language.

The course is examined through analytical written assignments, exercises in writing scripts, and contributions to discussions on the learning platform about their own and other students' writing of scripts.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted and compiled into a report, which is made available to students and filed and stored according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Theoretical literature

Dancyger, Ken & Jeff Rush. 2006. *Alternative Scriptwriting: Successfully Breaking the Rules*, Focal Press (in selection, ca 100 pages). ISBN 9780240808499

Lindqvist, Fredrik. 2009. *Att skriva filmmanus*, Adastra media (in selection, ca 150 pages). ISBN 9789197831505

Maras, Steven. 2009. *Screenwriting: History, Theory and Practice*. Wallflower Press (in selection, ca 50 pages). ISBN 9781905674817

Price, Steven. 2010. *The Screenplay: Authorship, Theory and Criticism*. Palgrave Macmillian (in selection, ca 50 pages). ISBN 978-0230223622

McKee, Robert. 1997. *Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting*, Reagan Books (466 p). ISBN 978-0060391683

Field, Syd. 2005. *Screenplay: The Foundation of Screenwriting*, Delta (320 p). ISBN 978-0385339032

Sundstedt, Kjell, *Att skriva för film*, Ordfront 2005, valfri upplaga, 270 p.
Ca. 100 pages distributed on the online learning platform when the course starts.

Additional Study Material

(recommended for students who have not taken any courses in film studies):

Bordwell, David & Kristin Thompson. *Film Art*. Any edition (500 p).

Bordwell, David & Kristin Thompson. *Film History. An Introduction*. Any edition (750 p).

Film scripts and films

Several film scripts are read in part or in their entirety during the course. Most of these can be downloaded for free from one of the film script databases which are listed on the online learning platform when the course starts. Other scripts or parts of scripts are distributed on the learning platform by the teacher during the course. Swedish and English scripts are read in their original languages, while scripts in other languages are read in their English translations.

About five films are watched in their entirety. The titles of these films are announced on the learning platform about three weeks before the course starts. The choice of films is affected by what films are available on the Swedish market. Other film material is shown as integrated parts of the written assignments distributed on the learning platform.