



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Film and Literature

4KS108 Att skriva tv-serier, 15 högskolepoäng

Writing Television Series, 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 2021-06-21

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2022

Prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree or 90 credits of creative writing or film studies including an independent project of at least 15 credits, or equivalent education in writing, and 4KS107, "Writing for film", 30 credits, or equivalent education in writing in some form.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to

- analyse and critically problematise the dramaturgical structure of tv series
- account for and critically analyse knowledge about artistic research, and relate this knowledge to their own writing.

Content

In this course, students acquire theoretical and practical knowledge about screen writing for tv series. The theoretical part of the course discusses, among other things, the dramaturgy of tv series and the historical development and present status of tv series. The theoretical part is followed by the main part of the course: the student's own creative writing. In the course, each participant is to write a synopsis of a season, as well as a pilot episode of 30 minutes, based on either classic or alternative dramaturgy, or a combination of the two. The tv series script may either start out from an original idea, or be based on a literary original.

Type of Instruction

The course is offered as a distance course via a learning platform and e-meetings. Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures as well as text seminars. The students receive individual supervision in all parts of the course, focusing on their 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 G, the student must have achieved the objectives. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must exhibit clear independence in their own screenwriting, and well developed, theoretical as well as artistic, language.

The course is examined through independently written hand-in assignments, including

- a synopsis of a season of a tv series (5 x 30 minutes), 9 credits
- a pilot episode of the same tv series, 4 credits
- constructive suggestions as to how fellow students may develop their texts, along with reflections on the student's own texts, 2 credits.

Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluations are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Calvisi, Daniel P. (2016). *Story Maps: TV Drama: The Structure of the One-Hour Television Pilot, Act Four Screenplays* (136 p.) ISBN 9780-98362668.

Douglas, Pamela (2018). *Writing the TV Drama Series: How to Succeed as a Professional Writer*, Michael Wiese Productions (310 p.) ISBN:978-1615932931.

Yorke, John (2015). *Into the Woods: A Five-Act Journey Into Story*, Harry N. Abrams (336 p.) ISBN 978-1-4683-1094-8.

100 pages of text provided via the learning platform.

Additional study material:

Benshoff, Harry (2015). *Film and Television Analysis: An Introduction to Methods, Theories, and Approaches*, Routledge (332 p.) ISBN 978-0415674812.

Butler G., Jeremy (2011). *Television: Critical Methods and Applications*, Routledge (512 p.) ISBN 978-0415883283.

Gustafsson, Tommy (2014). *Det var en gång: Historia för barn i svensk television under det långa 1970-talet*, Roos & Tegnér/Universus Academic Press (215 p.) ISBN 978-91-87439-07-0.

Sundstedt, Kjell (2005). *Att skapa film. Ordfront förlag* (272 p.) ISBN

Sundstedt, Kjell (2005). *All skrivna för film, Ord och bild* (272 p.) ISBN-13:9789173246118.

Tv series and tv series scripts:

A few scripts for tv series are read in part or as wholes during the course. They may be downloaded for free from one of the databases that will either be listed on the course learning platform when the course starts, or be posted by the teacher on the course learning platform. Some tv series are to be watched in part or as wholes. Titles of the relevant tv series will be posted on the learning platform about three weeks before the course starts. The selection of tv series will be determined by availability on streaming sites and on the Swedish DVD market.