



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Film and Literature

4KS118 Att skriva manus II – tv-serier, 15 högskolepoäng

4KS118 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 2022-12-14

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

### **Prerequisites**

A Bachelor's degree or 90 credits of creative writing or film studies, including an independent project of at least 15 credits, or the equivalent, plus 4KS117 Writing for film, 30 credits, or equivalent training in script writing for film, television, or both.

## Objectives

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

- analyse and critically problematise the dramaturgical structure of tv series
- present and critically analyse knowledge in the field of artistic research, and relate this to their own writing
- critically reflect on their own and others' artistic approach and give qualified feedback on other students' writing.

## Content

This course provides theoretical knowledge about, and practical skills in, screen writing for tv series. The theoretical part of the course discusses on the one hand the dramaturgy of tv series and, on the other hand, the historical development and present status of the tv series format. The theoretical part is followed by the main part of the course: the student's own creative writing. Each student is expected to write a synopsis of a season, along with a 30-minute pilot episode, based on either classic or alternative

dramaturgy, or a combination of the two. The tv series script may be based on either the student's own ideas, or on a literary original.

### Type of Instruction

The course is delivered through distance learning, in the form of lectures, text response, supervision, and discussions, using an online learning platform.

### Examination

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

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must have achieved the course objectives.

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.

Resit 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.

### Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 4KS108, Writing Television Series, 15 credits

### 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 pages) ISBN 9780-98362668.

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

Yorke, John (2015). *Into the Woods: A Five-Act Journey Into Story*, Harry N. Abrams (336 pages) 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 pages) ISBN 978-0415674812.

Butler G., Jeremy (2011). *Television: Critical Methods and Applications*, Routledge (512 pages). 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 pages). ISBN 978-91-87439-07-0.

Sundstedt, Kjell (2005). *Att skriva för film*, Ordfront förlag (272 pages) ISBN-13:9789173246118.

Tv series and tv series scripts:

A few scripts for tv series are read in part or in their entirety. These 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. A few tv series are watched in part or in their entirety. Titles will be posted on the learning platform about three weeks before the course starts.