



MMCC1025

Screenwriting

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Catherine Fargher

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces writing for screen media. Students encounter strategies for generating, researching, and developing their own creative ideas. They work on particular aspects of screen storytelling such as character, world, and cinematic metaphor. Students may choose to develop scripts for fiction, non-fiction, animation, interactive narrative, or hybrid forms. This unit combines creative writing projects with critical analysis of selected screenworks and screenplays. Students do not need prior knowledge to do this unit, and is relevant to those interested in screen and sound media, writing, and the creative process.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.

ULO2: generate story ideas and material suited to screen media.

ULO3: apply independent research and script writing skills to a creative project.

ULO4: evaluate screenwriting and creative work in progress.

ULO5: demonstrate the ability to reflect in action.

General Assessment Information

Script Outline

Assessment Type ¹: Plan Indicative Time on Task ²: 37 hours Due: **30/03/25 11:55pm**

Weighting: **35%**

Drawing on material generated through weekly tutorial and iLearn exercises, select two ideas, one fiction, one documentary. Write short outlines for each of them. Details on assessment scope and examples will be discussed in tutorials. Refer to iLearn for further information. On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.
- generate story ideas and material suited to screen media.
- apply independent research and script writing skills to a creative project.
- evaluate screenwriting and creative work in progress.
- demonstrate the ability to reflect in action.

Script, Synopsis & Reflection

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours Due: **25/05/25**

Weighting: **50% Reflections (15%); Scripts (35%)** :

Consolidate your work and learning this semester into a script for a short fictional or documentary screen production. Details on assessment scope and examples will be discussed in tutorials. Refer to iLearn for further information. On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.
- generate story ideas and material suited to screen media.
- apply independent research and script writing skills to a creative project.
- evaluate screenwriting and creative work in progress.
- demonstrate the ability to reflect in action.

Weekly Online Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test Indicative Time on Task ²: 11 hours Due: **Weekly on Mondays at 11:55pm** Weighting: **15%**

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of material covered in the unit through online quizzes. Further information can be found on ilearn. On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.
- evaluate screenwriting and creative work in progress.
- demonstrate the ability to reflect in action.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment

task and is subject to individual variation

Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends).

After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc).

Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/ presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Script Outline	35%	No	Due 30/03/2025 (Week 5) 11.55PM
Weekly Online Quizzes	15%	No	Weekly Quizzes open 9am Mondays to 11:55pm following Monday
Script, Synopsis & Reflection	50%	No	Script and Reflection due 25/05/2025 (wk 13) 11:55pm

Script Outline

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 37 hours

Due: **Due 30/03/2025 (Week 5) 11.55PM**

Weighting: **35%**

Drawing on material generated through weekly tutorial and iLearn exercises, select two ideas, one fiction, one documentary. Write short outlines for each of them. Details on assessment scope and examples will be discussed in tutorials. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.

- generate story ideas and material suited to screen media.
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Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

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Due: **Weekly Quizzes open 9am Mondays to 11:55pm following Monday**

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Students will demonstrate their knowledge of material covered in the unit through online quizzes. Further information can be found on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.
- evaluate screenwriting and creative work in progress.
- demonstrate the ability to reflect in action.

Script, Synopsis & Reflection

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **Script and Reflection due 25/05/2025 (wk 13) 11:55pm**

Weighting: **50%**

Consolidate your work and learning this semester into a script for a short fictional or documentary screen production. Details on assessment scope and examples will be discussed in tutorials. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse a range of screenwriting approaches and methodologies.
- generate story ideas and material suited to screen media.
- apply independent research and script writing skills to a creative project.
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
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Delivery and Resources

Lectures and tutorials start weekly from week 1. Attendance in tutorials is mandatory due to group workshopping in later weeks.

Readings will be available on Leganto reading lists, or within weekly subject areas on ilearn. Leganto is situated on ilearn in the right hand banners.

Lecture recordings (for online students) on the echo platform via ilearn, on the right hand banners.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Generating Ideas
Week 2	Characters
Week 3	Storyworlds
Week 4	Structure/Plot
Week 5	Themes and Creative investigation
Week 6	Genres and Devices 1
Week 7	Genres and Devices 2
Week 8	Dialogue and Scene Writing
Week 9	Script editing and containment (Narrow it down!)
Week 10	Synopsis Writing, Formatting,
Week 11	Recap: Check Points for Creative Tasks
Week 12	Tutorials only

Please refer to the weekly modules on ilearn to see the Unit schedule and topics, as well as required readings.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policycentral.mq.edu.au) (<https://policycentral.mq.edu.au>)

[s.mq.edu.au](https://www.mq.edu.au)). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

In 2024, presentations for the final assessment reflections were done in class, however in this years offering (2025) they will be uploaded at the same time as the scripts in week 13. This will allow for more workshopping of scripts in the final week 10-12 tutorials.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
18/02/2025	Dear Sara or Approver. I noticed that the unit guide had accidentally changed a date to 3035 instead of 2025! So I have updated this. Hope MQ is still here in 3035!! kind regards Catherine

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)