



COURSE OUTLINE

CMN200 Writing for Screen

Course Coordinator: Aurora Scheelings (ascheelings@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast
USC Moreton Bay

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE 1

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course introduces you to the foundational aspects of writing stories for the screen, with an emphasis on the fundamentals of cinematic storytelling and dramatic form. You will explore the basic elements of story development for filmmaking, from the premise of an idea, to character, conflict, dramatic structure and dialogue. You will also explore key filmic considerations such as form, genre, adaptation, shot and sound design, point of view and setting. Students are encouraged to develop work that can go into production in later Screen courses.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Lecture – 1 hour online lecture content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop – On campus tutorial/workshop for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	2hrs	Week 2	12 times
ONLINE 1			
Online – 3 hours online content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

writing for the screen

character and story

cinematic considerations

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Critically analyse and reflect upon creative practices in relation to selected visual, literary and dramatic texts	Knowledgeable
2 Develop original ideas and apply the narrative elements of characterisation, plot, conflict, dramatic structure and setting when creating or adapting dramatic texts for the screen.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Demonstrate film industry codes, conventions, and formats in creating written screen work in alignment with industry standards.	Empowered
4 Critically evaluate, edit and perform your own and others' work.	Engaged

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

In Week 3 of this course a draft copy of your first assessment item will be peer reviewed in the tutorial.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Artefact - Creative	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	35%	1500 words	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission
All	3	Written Piece	Individual	45%	2500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Journal and Tutorial Participation

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to keep a creative journal throughout the course.		
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative		
FORMAT:	This is an individual assessment task. Your creative journal will contain material that you find personally interesting and helpful in creating potential story ideas. Further, the journal will support your tutorial participation by including the weekly in-class creative writing activities. The creative journal can either be in the format of a hand-written "scrapbook," or a word-processed text document. If hand-written, individual pages will need to be scanned and submitted as a PDF document. (Examples of both styles are available on Blackboard.)		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Completion of journal which must contain in-class writing activities and collected material related to the course content.	
	2	Critical written analysis and reflection on creative practice in relation to selected visual, literary and dramatic texts	
	3	Demonstrated engagement with content, concepts and ideas presented in weekly set readings through class discussion of set readings	
	4	Effective use of critical analysis of your own and others' work to complete the weekly in class writing exercise	
	5	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes.	1 2 3 4

All - Assessment Task 2: Dramatic Scene

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to demonstrate knowledge of fundamental course elements such as dramatic conflict, tension, characterisation, dialogue and formatting through the construction of a dramatic scene for film.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	This is an individual assessment. This assignment will be in the form of a short, one scene screenplay, formatted to industry standards, and demonstrating how conflict can be dramatised in a scene with two to three characters. Submitted as a PDF document

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Appropriate content and style for intended audience.
	2	Structured as a dramatic scene which demonstrates knowledge of fundamental dramatic elements of conflict, characterisation and dialogue.
	3	Demonstrates a developing original contribution to knowledge in an innovative and resonant way
	4	Professionalism of presentation and correct screenplay formatting.
	5	Demonstrates ethical use of intellectual property.

All - Assessment Task 3: Short Story Adaptation

GOAL:	This task requires you to adapt a short story (that will be supplied) into a screenplay format in alignment with industry standards, and to workshop and then edit the script for final submission.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	The short story adaptation will be structured as a screenplay that aligns with current industry practices and must be accompanied by a title and logline. Short stories will be provided and available to read on Blackboard Week 5. Submitted as a PDF document	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Accurate translation of story to screenplay.
	2	Effective use of dramatic elements such as characterisation, conflict, structure, and dialogue.
	3	Effective use of visuals and sounds to tell the story.
	4	Effective use of point of view and setting to tell the story.
	5	Demonstrates a developing original contribution to knowledge by responding to the exemplars in an innovative, artistic and resonant way.
	6	Professionalism of presentation and correct screenplay formatting.
	7	Adherence to ethical considerations.

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

The "table readings" of your scripts are an important industry-based element of the course. It is essential that you attend all tutorials and participate in the "table readings" of your written work in order to achieve an understanding of industry practices and successfully complete the course.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au