Module Descriptor

Title	The Short Film (Fiction)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	FILM08004	**SCQF Level**	8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Shaun Hughes		

Summary of Module

This Module provides an introduction to the making of short fiction films. It serves to introduce students both to filmmaking practice in general – its language, techniques and professional working methods – and to the short film as a specific form in its own right.

The approach of the module is practical. Students will take part in the production of a short film project that they conceive, develop and execute in small groups. The production process will be supported by lectures, seminars and/or workshops that outline key aspects of filmmaking practice and provide students with an opportunity to experiment before launching into their main project.

The focus of the module is on the creative challenge of making interesting and effective short films, not on technical or craft skills. Basic technical familiarity with camera, sound and editing equipment (both hardware and software) is assumed.

Key content includes:

Structure and form in the short film

Mise-en-scène: storytelling with the camera Working with actors

Different approaches to developing characters and scripts (including devising and improvisation)

This module introduces filmmaking and screenwriting students to short film practice, and leads on to Digital Filmmaking A and B (Level 9).

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☒ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Originate, plan and create (or contribute to the creation of) a short fiction film for cinema to professional standards.
L2	Apply a range of research to both the development of a project idea and the process of its creation.
L3	Apply an understanding of the social, contemporary, historical and economic context they are working in to their projects.
L4	Demonstrate creativity in solving problems.
L5	Reflect critically on their own and others creative practice with recourse to expert advice.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 8** Demonstrate and/or work with: An understanding of the different roles involved in creative fiction film production, and the ways in which they collaborate. An appreciation of the wide range of creative methods used by film directors and screenwriters to develop characters, situations and stories. A discerning understanding of some of the ways in which short fiction films differ from feature films, both aesthetically and economically.

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a range of professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with short fiction film production. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are advanced or complex in relation to fiction film production. In carrying out routine lines of enquiry, development or investigation into professional level problems and issues. To adapt routine practices of fiction film production within accepted standards.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues that are within the common understandings of fiction film production. Use a range of approaches to formulate and critically evaluate evidence-based solutions/responses to defined and/or routine problems and issues associated with short fiction film production.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills associated with short fiction film production, for example: Convey complex information about short fiction film production to a range of audiences and for a range of purposes. Use a range of standard software programmes associated with short film production and post-production.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in short film production. Exercise managerial responsibility for the work of others and for a range of resources. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions when carrying out and evaluating tasks. Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice. Manage, under guidance, ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching

In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	9
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	18
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	9
Personal Development Plan	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	40
Independent Study	112
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Cooper, Pat and Dancyger, Ken. (1994) Writing the Short Film. Burlington; Focal Press.
Cousins, Mark (2012) DVD The Story of Film: An Odyssey

Johnson, Claudia H. (2015) Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect. 4th Edition; Focal Press

Rabiger, Michael & Hurbis-Cherrier, Mick. (2013) Directing, Film Techniques and Aesthetics. 5th Edition; Focal Press.

McKendrick, Alexander (2005). On Filmmaking: An Introduction to the Craft of the Director. New York: Faber and Faber.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Students are expected to attend all workshops, lectures and tutorials unless they are specifically informed that these are optional. They are also expected to deliver drafts of creative work to tutors (as formative assignments) when requested to do so.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Arts Media**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Arts & Media
Moderator	Gill Jamieson
External Examiner	A Nevill
Accreditation Details	Screen Skills
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2.07

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
- Portfolio of Written, Audio, & Visual Materials relating to the development of a short creative Fiction film project (where each student has a specific role within a group) 100%
Assessment 2
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Portfolio of practical work	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	100	36

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	36 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who