DGTL12013 *Writing for the Screen*
Term 1 - 2020

All details in this unit profile for DGTL12013 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

Corrections

Unit Profile Correction added on 28-04-20

CQUniversity's response to covid-19 caused all assessment deadlines for DGTL12013 to be delayed by a week. Therefore changing the assessment dates for Assessment#2 and #3 for Term 1 2020 would increase clarity around these changes for students.

- NEW Assessment#2 deadline: 9PM Friday 15 May (original due date: 8 May 2020)
- NEW Assessment#3 deadline: 9PM Friday 12 June (original due date: 5 June 2020)

General Information

Overview
This unit of study builds on the foundation provided by MMST11009 Digital Video and Audio to teach visual storytelling concepts. You will learn how to create a screenplay for a live-action narrative short film through the application of visual storytelling principles. You will develop industry standard documents and visual aids related to the pre-production of a narrative short film. You will learn how to constructively critique screen stories through an exploration of screen culture and history.

Details
Career Level: *Undergraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 2*
Credit Points: *6*
Student Contribution Band: *10*
Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites
Prerequisite: MMST11009 Digital Video and Audio
Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2020

- Brisbane
- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Mackay
- Noosa
- Online
- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements
All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website
[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 30%
2. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 30%
3. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 40%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the University's Grades and Results Policy for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.
You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Create a screenplay for a live-action narrative short film through the application of visual storytelling principles
2. Create industry-standard pre-production documents and visual aids
3. Constructively critique a range of screen stories within the context of screen culture and history.

Not applicable

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

| — | N/A Level | ○ | Introductory Level | ● | Intermediate Level | ● | Graduate Level | ○ | Professional Level | ○ | Advanced Level |

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Written Assessment - 30%			●
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	●		●
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	●	●	

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Communication	●		●
2 - Problem Solving		●	
3 - Critical Thinking	●	●	●
4 - Information Literacy	●	●	●
5 - Team Work			
6 - Information Technology Competence		●	
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	●		●
8 - Ethical practice	●		
9 - Social Innovation			
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures			

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 30%	●		●	●			●			
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	●		●	●			●	●		

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks
DGTL12013

Prescribed

Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect
Edition: 2nd (2012)
Authors: Johnson, Claudia H.
Focal Press
Burlington , MA , USA
ISBN: 9781136051296
Binding: eBook
DGTL12013

Supplementary

LIVING WITH A CREATIVE MIND
Edition: 1 (2011)
Authors: Crabtree, Jeff ; Crabtree, Julie
Zebra Collective
Sydney , NSW , Australia
ISBN: 9780987104601
Binding: Paperback
DGTL12013

Supplementary

Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You about Being Creative
Edition: 1 (2012)
Authors: Kleon, Austin
WORKMAN PUBLISHING
New York , NY , USA
ISBN: 9780761169253
Binding: Paperback
DGTL12013

Supplementary

The Heroine's Journey
Edition: 1 (1990)
Authors: Murdock, Maureen
Shambhala
Boston , MA , USA
ISBN: 0877734852
Binding: Paperback
DGTL12013

Supplementary

VIDEO PRODUCTION 101: DELIVERING THE MESSAGE
Edition: 1 (2014)
Authors: Manriquez, Antonio; McCluskey, Tom
Pearson Higher Ed
USA
ISBN: 978-0-13-382553-4
Binding: eBook
DGTL12013

Supplementary

Writing for the Screen
Edition: 1 (2017)
Authors: Weinstein, Anna
Routledge
New York , NY , USA
ISBN: 9781317370536
Binding: eBook
DGTL12013

Supplementary

Writing the Short Film
Edition: 3 (2017)
Authors: Cooper, Patricia; Dancyger, Ken
Focal Press
Burlington , MA , USA
ISBN: 9781136048579
Binding: eBook

Additional Textbook Information
The prescribed textbook for this unit (ie.Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect) is accessed online for free through the CQUni library: https://learning.oreilly.com/library/view/crafting-short-screenplays/9780240806419/
However, if you prefer to purchase your own copy, you can see the CQUni Bookshop here: http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au (search on the Unit code).
The supplementary texts can all be accessed for free through the CQUni library. Please see unit profile for URLs to each textbook.

View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Microsoft Office 2010 (including Word and Excel)
- Trelby (Freely available at https://www.trelby.org/)
- Causality (Freely available at https://www.hollywoodcamerawork.com/causality.html)
- Page 2 Stage (Freely available at http://page2stage.sourceforge.net/)
- DramaQueen (Freely available at https://dramaqueen.info/dramaqueen-free-lifetime-en/?lang=en)
- Celtx desktop version (Freely available for 2 weeks from https://www.celtx.com or as an enrolled student in this unit using AnyDesk)
- Fade In (Freely available at https://www.fadeinpro.com for both mac and PC)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: Harvard (author-date)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Merri Randell Unit Coordinator
m.randell@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 09 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

	Watch movie for tutorial discussion: 'The Matrix' (The Wachowski Sisters, 1999) Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapter: 1	All students: watch weekly video lectures, required movies and complete readings prior to class or Zoom sessions.
Introduction to the Unit / Assessment #1 Briefing - Narrative Structure and Character		Please note that you may be required to source weekly movies and attendance of workshops for assessment are mandatory. Online students: In this Zoom session: • We will workshop 'The Matrix' to illustrate how to use the Assessment Template

Week 2 - 16 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Visual Storytelling	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-5	

Week 3 - 23 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #1: Feedforward Workshop	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-5	Attend mandatory workshop for assessment. Online students: Feedforward Zoom session **Assessment#1: Narrative Structure and Character** Due: Week 3 Friday (27 Mar 2020) 9:00 pm AEST

Week 4 - 30 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #2 Briefing - First Draft	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-5	Census Deadline: Tuesday 31/3/20

Week 5 - 06 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Narrative Structure	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-5	Online students: Feedforward Zoom session Public Holiday Friday / Make-up class

Vacation Week - 13 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No classes this week.		

Week 6 - 20 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Character Development	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-9	

Week 7 - 27 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #2: Interpreting Feedforward/Notes	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-9	Online students: Feedforward Zoom session - Table Reads

Week 8 - 04 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #2: Feedforward Week - Workshops / Table Reads	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-9	Attend mandatory workshop for assessment. Online students: Feedforward Zoom session - Table Reads Public Holiday Monday / Make-up class **Assessment#2: First Draft** Due: Week 8 Friday (8 May 2020) 9:00 pm AEST

Week 9 - 11 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #3 Briefing - Second Draft	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-18	

Week 10 - 18 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Pitch Kits	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-18	

Week 11 - 25 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #3: Feedforward Week - Workshops / Table Reads	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-18	Online students: Feedforward Zoom sessions - Table Reads

Week 12 - 01 Jun 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Assessment #3: Feedforward Week - Workshops / Table Reads	Johnson, C. (2012) *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect,* Burlington, MA: Focal Press Chapters: 1-18	Attend mandatory workshop for assessment. Online students: Feedforward Zoom sessions - Table Reads **Assessment#3: Second Draft** Due: Week 12 Friday (5 June 2020) 9:00 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 08 Jun 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Exam Week - 15 Jun 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment#1: Narrative Structure and Character

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
Two Readers Reports and Workshop
Your first assessment task involves gaining an understanding of narrative structure and character and you will be

required to conduct analysis using the DGTL12013 Readers Report Template of a feature film and a short film from the lists provided and then discuss the findings of this analysis in a workshop during week 3. This task is the first step to achieving the ultimate goal for this unit which is for you to create a screenplay for a live-action narrative short film with a clearly recognisable genre and message which is between 3-7 minutes in duration. Please read the full briefs for Assessment #1, #2 and #3 before beginning this task, attend all workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a breakdown of requirements.

Assessment Due Date
Week 3 Friday (27 Mar 2020) 9:00 pm AEST
Your Assessment #1 submission will include attendance of a mandatory workshop during week 3 and two Readers Reports using the DGTL12013 Readers Report Template. Your two reports must be submitted to Moodle as PDFs using the file naming conventions outlined in the Full Assessment#1 Brief. Please read the the Full Assessment#1 Brief and Unit materials on the Unit Moodle site for assessment and submission information. Attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements.

Return Date to Students
Week 5 Friday (10 Apr 2020)
Do not wait for written feedback before starting Assessment#2.

Weighting
30%

Assessment Criteria
Readers Report: Feature (50%):

- Quality of analysis drawing on a minimum of three credible references
- Adherence to the task and completeness of template
- Clarity of writing: structure and professionalism

Readers Report: Short (40%):

- Quality of analysis drawing on a minimum of three credible references
- Adherence to the task and completeness of template
- Clarity of writing: structure and professionalism

Mandatory Workshop: Week 3 (10%):

- Adherence to the required workshop guidelines and discussion topics, and quality of contribution.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Your Assessment #1 submission will include attendance of a mandatory workshop during week 3 and two Readers Reports using the DGTL12013 Readers Report Template. Your two reports must be submitted to Moodle as PDFs using the file naming conventions outlined in the Full Assessment#1 Brief. Please read the the Full Assessment#1 Brief and Unit materials on the Unit Moodle site for assessment and submission information. Attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Constructively critique a range of screen stories within the context of screen culture and history.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence

2 Assessment#2: First Draft

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
Task: First Draft, Moodboard and Workshop

Your second assessment task involves implementing your understanding of narrative structure, story, plot, genre, theme, character, dialogue, subtext and the ideation and iteration process during the creation of the **First Draft** of your live-action narrative short film screenplay. For this assessment you will create the First Draft of your screenplay which must communicate a clearly recognisable message and genre (list provided), use Aristotle's three-act structure (refer to Unit materials), be 3-7 minutes in duration and formatted to industry standards etc. Please read the full briefs for Assessment #2 and #3 before beginning this task, attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements. NB: It is an assessment requirement that all student First Drafts undergo a Table Read during workshops in week 7 or 8.

Assessment Due Date
Week 8 Friday (8 May 2020) 9:00 pm AEST
Your Assessment #2 submission will include attendance of a mandatory workshop during week 7 or 8, your First Draft and a Moodboard. Your First Draft and Moodboard must be submitted to Moodle as PDFs using the file naming conventions outlined in the Full Assessment#2 Brief. Please read the the Full Assessment#2 Brief and Unit materials on the Unit Moodle site for assessment and submission information. Attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements.

Return Date to Students
Week 10 Friday (22 May 2020)
Do not wait for written feedback before starting Assessment#3.

Weighting
30%

Assessment Criteria
First Draft (80%):

- Quality and clarity of narrative
- Quality and clarity of story elements
- Quality and clarity of plotting
- Quality of adherence to Industry-standard formatting

Moodboard (10%):

- Adherence to the task
- Appropriateness of movie stills to communicate the genre and production design of the First Draft

Mandatory Workshop: Week 7 or 8 (10%):

- Adherence to the required workshop guidelines and discussion topics, and quality of contribution.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Your Assessment #2 submission will include attendance of a mandatory workshop during week 7 or 8, your First Draft and a Moodboard. Your First Draft and Moodboard must be submitted to Moodle as PDFs using the file naming conventions outlined in the Full Assessment#2 Brief. Please read the the Full Assessment#2 Brief and Unit materials on the Unit Moodle site for assessment and submission information. Attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Create a screenplay for a live-action narrative short film through the application of visual storytelling principles
- Constructively critique a range of screen stories within the context of screen culture and history.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

3 Assessment#3: Second Draft

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
Task: Second Draft, Pitch Kit and Workshop
Your third assessment task involves the culmination of everything you have learned in this unit relating to narrative structure, story, plot, genre, theme, character, dialogue, subtext, and the ideation and iteration process during the creation of the Second Draft of your live-action narrative short film screenplay and Industry-standard pre-production documents (ie. Pitch Kit.) Please read the full briefs for Assessment #2 and #3 before beginning this task, attend all workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a breakdown of requirements. NB: It is an assessment requirement that all student Second Drafts undergo a Table Read during workshops in week 11 or 12.

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Friday (5 June 2020) 9:00 pm AEST
Your Assessment #3 submission will include attendance of a mandatory workshop during week 11 or 12, your Second Draft and a Pitch Kit. Your Second Draft and Pitch Kit must be submitted to Moodle as PDFs using the file naming conventions outlined in the Full Assessment#3 Brief. Please read the the Full Assessment#3 Brief and Unit materials on the Unit Moodle site for assessment and submission information. Attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements.

Return Date to Students
Exam Week Friday (19 June 2020)

Weighting
40%

Assessment Criteria
Second Draft (50%):

- Quality of iteration of narrative structure based on filtered feedforward, including clarity of theme, message
- Quality and logic of distinct characters who conform to genre tropes and plotting
- Quality of adherence to Industry-standard formatting

Pitch Kit (40%):

- Quality of analysis drawing on a minimum of three credible references
- Adherence to the task, completeness of template
- Alignment of Pitch Kit to screenplay
- Clarity of writing: structure and professionalism

Mandatory Workshop: Week 11 or 12 (10%):

- Adherence to the required workshop guidelines and discussion topics, and quality of contribution.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Your Assessment #3 submission will include attendance of a mandatory workshop during week 11 or 12, your Second Draft and a Pitch Kit. Your Second Draft and Pitch Kit must be submitted to Moodle as PDFs using the file naming conventions outlined in the Full Assessment#3 Brief. Please read the the Full Assessment#3 Brief and Unit materials on the Unit Moodle site for assessment and submission information. Attend all classes and workshops and refer to the Unit materials for a complete breakdown of requirements.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Create a screenplay for a live-action narrative short film through the application of visual storytelling principles
- Create industry-standard pre-production documents and visual aids

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the **Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure**. This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?
A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?
A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?
For academic advice and guidance, the Academic Learning Centre (ALC) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

Be Honest
If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

Seek Help
If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

Produce Original Work
Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem