



# DGTL12013 *Writing for the Screen*

## Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 17/05/2024 11:50 am

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.

## 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 - 2021

- Brisbane
- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Mackay
- Online
- Rockhampton
- Sydney

### 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](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from CQU Renew

##### Feedback

The CQU Renew project has defined new guidelines for the design of unit websites.

##### Recommendation

The unit website will be revised to comply with the requirements of the CQU Renew project.

## 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



### 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	•	•	•

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
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%	•		•	•			•	•		
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/>

The supplementary texts can also 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)
- Script Formatting Software: freeware or subscription, to be advised in class.

## Referencing Style

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

## Teaching Contacts

**Brendan Murphy** Unit Coordinator  
[b.murphy@cqu.edu.au](mailto:b.murphy@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1: From Script to Screen - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
From Script to Screen	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Assessment 1 Briefing

### Week 2: The Storyworld - 15 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Storyworld	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	

### Week 3: Narrative Structure in Feature Films and Short Films - 22 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Narrative Structure in Feature Films and Short Films	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	<b>Reader's Report</b> Due: Week 3 Friday (26 Mar 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

### Week 4: Formatting a Screenplay - 29 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Formatting a Screenplay	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Assessment Item 2 briefing

### Week 5: Developing Characters for the Screen - 05 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Developing Characters for the Screen	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	

### Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No Classes		

### Week 6: The Reading Room - 19 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Reading Room	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Table reads for Assessment Item 2 begin

### Week 7: Script Reviewing - 26 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Table reads for Assessment Item 2 continue
Script Reviewing	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	<b>Screenplay: First Draft, Draft Mood Board and Table Read</b> Due: Week 7 Friday (30 Apr 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

### Week 8: Script Notes and Iteration - 03 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Script Notes and Iteration	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Assessment Item 3 briefing
<b>Week 9: Script Supplementary Documents - 10 May 2021</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Script Supplementary Documents	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Table reads for assessment item 3 begin
<b>Week 10: The Second Draft: Writers on Writing - 17 May 2021</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Second Draft: Writers on writing	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Table reads for Assessment Item 3 continue
<b>Week 11: How to Pitch your Screenplay - 24 May 2021</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
How to Pitch your Screenplay	Readings and activities provided on Unit Moodle Site	Two minute pitch Table reads for Assessment Item 3 continue
<b>Week 12: Professional Screenwriting Practice - 31 May 2021</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Professional Screenwriting Practice		Table reads for Assessment Item 3 continue  <b>Screenplay: Final draft, Press Kit and Table Read</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (4 June 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Reader's Report

#### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

#### Task Description

For this assessment you are required to write a report critically discussing narrative structure and characterisation in two screenplays. Detailed requirements and links to the films for critique will be provided on the Unit Moodle Site. Prior to submission you will be required to participate in an in-class seminar where students will discuss their drafts assessment for discussion.

#### Assessment Due Date

Week 3 Friday (26 Mar 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

Submit PDF file via Unit Moodle Site

#### Return Date to Students

Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 2 weeks of Submission

#### Weighting

30%

#### Assessment Criteria

Please refer to the Assessment Brief on the Unit Moodle site for full details of the Assessment Criteria.

#### Referencing Style

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

#### Submission

Online

#### Submission Instructions

Submit PDF file via Unit Moodle Site

### 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 Screenplay: First Draft, Draft Mood Board and Table Read

### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

### Task Description

This assignment has three components:

- The first draft of a screenplay that would run for three to seven minutes if produced
- A draft Mood Board of five to ten referenced screen stills conveying the intended look and mood of the production
- Participation in a class table read where feedback is sought from and offered to peers.

Full requirements for the first draft, mood board and table read will be provided on the Unit Moodle Site.

### Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (30 Apr 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

Submit PDF file via Unit Moodle Site

### Return Date to Students

Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 2 weeks of Submission

### Weighting

30%

### Assessment Criteria

Please refer to the Assessment Brief on the Unit Moodle site for full details of the Assessment Criteria.

### Referencing Style

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

### Submission

Online

### Submission Instructions

Submit PDF file via Unit Moodle Site

### 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 Screenplay: Final draft, Press Kit and Table Read

### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

### Task Description

For this assessment item you are required to:

- Produce the final draft of a screenplay that would run for three to seven minutes in duration if produced
- Produce a press kit for the screenplay



- Participate in a class table read where feedback is sought from and offered to peers.

Full requirements for the final draft, press kit and table read will be provided on the Unit Moodle Site.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Friday (4 June 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

Submit PDF file via Unit Moodle Site

**Return Date to Students**

Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 2 weeks of Submission

**Weighting**

40%

**Assessment Criteria**

Please refer to the Assessment Brief on the Unit Moodle site for full details of the Assessment Criteria.

**Referencing Style**

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

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit PDF file via Unit Moodle Site

**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