**Centre for Lifelong Learning**

**Writing for Film** (OS639)

10 credit points

**Rationale**

This class is aimed at those who have already completed *How to Write for Stage and Screen*, but will also be suitable for those with appropriate relevant professional or personal experience in writing for film who wish to improve their skills and develop their understanding of the role of the writer in the contemporary film industry. Participants will have a writing “buddy” to provide focused discussion and written comments on their work. The theoretical framework of this highly participative class will also encourage participants to develop a more reflective approach to their work and a greater understanding of the film industry, including, in particular, funding issues for the independent sector.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the class students will be able to:

* Demonstrate understanding of the specific languages of film with which the writer works
* Employ an appropriate range of skills in writing and presenting screenplays
* Critically evaluate a range of existing screenplays and excerpts from film and/or video
* Adopt a reflective approach to the role of the film writer working in the independent sector

# Class Outline

The following represents an overview of the main areas to be covered. It does not necessarily represent the order in which topics will be addressed, nor does it imply that equal time will be devoted to each topic.

* Narrative forms in film
* The treatment of time in writing for film
* The power of music
* Emotion and tension
* Funding issues

# Mode of Delivery / Methods of Presentation

The class will be participative and the emphasis will be on detailed discussion of excerpts from students’ own work. Participants will be encouraged to share their work with others, analyse extracts from screenplays, films and videos and reflect on these in the light of feedback from the tutor(s) and other classmates. Students will be expected to undertake writing exercises and script work and analysis between classes. “Buddies” will provide informal feedback on these formative exercises.

# Assessment

There are three elements to the assessment:

1. The submission of a 500-word (+ or – 10%) reflective Logbook detailing the student’s contribution to class activities
2. The submission of a 1500-word (+ or – 10%) assignment of creative writing for stage or screen. (70%)
3. The submission of a 800-word (+ or – 10%) assignment of creative writing for stage or screen. (30%)

## Bibliography

Cowgill, L (2005) *Writing Short Films: Structure and Content for Screenwriters*

(New York: Watson: Guptill)

Field, S (2005) *Screenplay: the foundation of screenwriting* (New York: Delta)

Schelhardt, L (2008) *Screenwritng* (Hoboken: Wiley Publishing)

Turner, B (2003) *Writing for Stage and Screen* (London: Pan)

**Recommended Reading**

Batty, C. and Waldebeck, Z. (2008) *Writing for the Screen* (London: Palgrave Macmillan)

Monaco, J (2008) *How to read a film* (New York: Oxford University Press)

Moritz, C. (2008) *Scriptwriting for the Screen* (London: Routledge)

