

VCA Film & TV

New area text blocks...

Bachelor of Film and Television

759-170 Screenwriting 1

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 4 hours per week for 8 weeks plus 5 hours of tutorials (*Year long*).

Description: An examination of the inherent advantages and limitations of writing for the screen. Classes incorporate lectures, group discussions and film screenings. Students undertake short screenwriting exercise for presentation at the group discussion sessions. Students also undertake the writing of scripts for exercises. Scriptwriting progress is monitored at tutorials.

Assessment: 4 x screenwriting exercises (ranging from 50 to 400 words)(50%); final draft script for a video production 3 to 8 minutes (50%)

759-171 Assigned Projects 1

Credit points: 68.75

Contact: Minimum 14.5 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: Semester 1 - Lectures, demonstrations and tutorials in video production techniques lead to short practical exercises. Working in crews and rotating roles each student has an opportunity to undertake directing, production managing, sound recording, camera operating, lighting, art directing, continuity, editing and sound post production. Students also undertake short specialist studies in such as Animation, Visual Effects or Documentary. Semester 2 - Classes, tutorials and workshops in screen writing, production management, screen aesthetics and the development of a short script. Also introduction to 16mm film production, including camera operation, sound recording, audio post production, editing and laboratory services. Students also write and direct a 16mm film exercise and crew on other student exercises.

Assessment: Continuous and based on submission of exercises and crewing undertaken; video and 16mm production: 4 x production exercises (1-4mins each) (50%); crewing on a minimum of 5 student productions (30%); class participation* and class exercises (equivalent 2,500 words) (20%) (*Participation assessed on criteria of attendance, punctuality, ability to discuss, give/receive feedback and teamwork skills.)

759-172 Screen Studies 1

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 4 hours per week all year (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: An introduction to the development of narrative, its codes, conventions and structures, from the silent era to contemporary cinema. Films are screened each week covering a diverse range of cinematic approaches and styles.

Assessment: One essay up to 1,500 words and/or seminar presentation of not more than 30 minutes (80%); class participation* (20%). (*Participation assessed on criteria of attendance, punctuality, ability to discuss, give/receive feedback and teamwork skills.)

759-176 Actor Direction 1

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 18 hours per semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: Lectures and workshops providing an introduction to the principles and practices of the direction of actors, plus an overview of the schools of acting thought in the 20th and 21st centuries. Students are given the opportunity to work with actors in a supervised workshop environment.

Assessment: Practical direction exercise (edited video of 2 to 5 minutes) (70%); Crewing and collaboration on actor direction exercises (30%).

759-271 Assigned Projects 2

Credit points: 68.75

Contact: 24 hours per week (*Year long*).

Description: Semester 1: Each student directs and edits a short video production and crews on other VCA student productions. Students also undertake a short specialist study in such areas as Animation, Visual Effects or Documentary. Semester 2: Lectures, tutorials, industry attachment and workshops, further skills in screen writing, actor direction, screen aesthetics and 16mm film technology, including directing a 16mm film exercise and crewing on other VCA student productions. Semester 2 also facilitates the development and initiates pre-production of a short script.

Assessment: Continuous and based on submission of exercises and crewing undertaken: video production 3 to 8 minutes (40%); 16mm film production exercise (2 minutes) (10%); crewing on a minimum of 3 productions (30%);

Class participation* (20%). (*Participation assessed on criteria of attendance, punctuality, ability to discuss, give/receive feedback and teamwork skills.)

759-276 Actor Direction 2

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 18 hours per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: Lectures and workshops which develop skills and principles learned in Actor Direction 1. Students are given the opportunity to work with actors in a supervised workshop environment.

Assessment: Practical direction exercise (edited product of 2 to 5mins) (70%); crewing and collaboration on other actor director exercises (30%)

759-270 Screenwriting 2

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 4 hours per week, plus tutorials (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject continues, through tutorials, to build on the concepts learned during first year. The basic principles of dramatic structure are covered by dealing with the theme, the story, plot, conflict, character design, etc. The aim is for each student to have written an innovative script by week ten, which will be the blueprint for the major film component of Assigned Projects 2.

Assessment: Weekly class exercises (40%); Major production script (60%)

759-272 Screen Studies 2

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 3-4 hours per week (*Year long*).

Description: A continuation of work begun in Screen Studies 1. The subject gives students some familiarity with film-makers who have challenged the assumptions of conventional narrative, producing interesting new approaches: introduces students to the underlying determining influences of a range of subtexts including those based on myth, gender, psychoanalysis and ideologies.

Assessment: Essay up to 1,500 words and/or seminar presentation of not more than 30 minutes (80%); Class attendance (20%).

759-371 Assigned Projects 3

Credit points: 68.75

Contact: 24 hours per semester (*Year long*).

Description: Semester 1: Focuses on producing, directing and editing a major production (16mm film or video) and crewing on other VCA student productions. Through lectures, tutorials and workshops it also builds on existing knowledge in screen studies and actor direction.

Semester 2: Continues a focus on film and video production as described in Semester 1. Students will also take part in an industry orientation program.

Assessment: Continuous and based on submission of major production, class exercises and crewing undertaken: major production (5 to 15 minutes) (50%); crewing on a minimum of 2 productions (30%); participation and class exercises (20%). (Participation assessed by Year Lecturer on criteria of attendance, punctuality, ability to discuss, give/receive feedback and teamwork skills.)

759-372 Screen Studies 3

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 91 hours per semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: Introduces students to the history of aspects of production such as performance. It covers the silent period to contemporary Hollywood, Asian and independent cinema. Topics on performance, as an example, include: the performing body - expression, gesture, movement, voice; performance styles - vaudeville, the development of Hollywood naturalism, method acting, etc.; discussion of the star system. Specific attention is given to the problems of performance for short film-makers.

Assessment: One seminar paper (10%); Visual test (30%); Written exam (60%).

759-377 Assigned Projects 3C

Credit points: 81.25

Contact: 14-24 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: Designed for students who have elected to specialise, in third year, in roles such as cinematography, sound, production management or editing. A contract of training activities is developed between the year coordinator, student and Head of School for each student enrolling in this subject and includes assessment related to the activities to be undertaken. Students also crew for other students in areas outside their area of specialisation.

Assessment: Continuous and is set by a contract of training activities which would normally include crewing two roles in area of specialization as well as other crewing roles and an industry attachment report (100%).

759-378 Actor Direction 3**Credit points:** 6.25**Contact:** 20 hours per semester (*Semester 1*).**Description:** On completing this subject students should have an advanced knowledge of working with actors for screen. Classes consist primarily of workshops and master classes, where students have the opportunity to work with actors on an individual level.**Assessment:** Casting, rehearsal plan and a practical exercise (2 to 5 minutes)(70%); Crewing and collaboration on other Actor Direction exercises (30%).+

their supervisor, the student will develop a hypothesis, then research and submit a paper interrogating this hypothesis.

759-376 Screenwriting 3**Credit points:** 6.25**Contact:** 32 hours per semester (*Semester 2*).**Description:** This subject leads the student from content development for short form screen product to a professional focus on screenwriting for longer form, genre and television. Through a series of lectures and assignments, students will be given the opportunity to engage with screenwriting for a variety of genre and form.**Assessment:** 2 to 4 Screenwriting exercises (400-1,000 words each) (100%).

Bachelor of Film and Television (Honours)

759-401 Honours (Screen Production)**Credit points:** 75**Contact:** Students are expected to commit to 2 hours per week in formal contact plus 38 hours of private study (a combination of on and off campus study) (*Year long*).**Description:** The Honours (Screen Production) builds on knowledge, experience and skills developed in the Bachelor of Film and Television. Each student is required to research, write, direct and edit a short major screen production. It is expected that all creative and production work is to be undertaken in a spirit of professionalism, carried out to a high standard of excellence and employing current industry practices. Students will also be required to crew on other VCA productions. Students must also undertake an industry placement and will be required to keep a placement diary and submit it with a placement report on completion of the placement.**Assessment:** Major Production (5 to 20 minutes) (to be assessed by two industry professionals and one academic staff member not the student supervisor) (70%); crewing on a minimum of 2 productions (20%); industry placement, report and diary (1,000 words) (10%)

759-402 Honours (Craft Specialisation)**Credit points:** 75**Contact:** Students are expected to commit to 2 hours per week in formal contact plus 38 hours of private study (a combination of on and off campus study) (*Year long*).**Description:** In this subject the student will negotiate a personal course of study (with their supervisor and Head of School) in which they may specialise in one area of film craft such as cinematography, production management or editing. Students choosing this option will normally be required to undertake an industry placement under a nominated mentor, crew on VCA productions and keep and present a creative diary. Activities may also include the research and presentation of papers or seminars and an exchange to another film school (at an appropriate level). On conclusion of this subject each student will be expected to be able to function creatively and technically in their designated crew role to a demonstrable high industry standard.**Assessment:** Assessment items will normally include a minimum of one significant professional placement, crewing on two roles in area of specialization, a creative journal, and a self directed research paper. Exact weighting to be negotiated on an individual level with supervisor and Head of School, depending upon the contract of activities suited to the craft which is selected for specialization (100%).

759-403 Minor Research Thesis**Credit points:** 25**Contact:** Students are expected to commit to 2 hours per week in formal contact plus 38 hours of private study (a combination of on and off campus study) (*Year long*).**Description:** Each student will nominate an area of enquiry pertaining to screen technology, theory, culture, history or practice. In consultation with their supervisor, the student will develop a hypothesis, then research and submit a paper interrogating this hypothesis.**Assessment:** Each student will nominate an area of enquiry pertaining to screen technology, theory, culture, history or practice. In consultation with