



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

**HEA237/337**  
**Writing Script**  
**Semester 1, 2007**  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

<b>Convenor:</b>	Dr Danielle Wood Room: Social Sciences building, room 578 Phone: 6226 2366 Email: <a href="mailto:Danielle.Wood@utas.edu.au">Danielle.Wood@utas.edu.au</a>
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Mondays 1-2pm and 3-3.30pm
<b>Unit Description:</b>	This unit introduces students to the basic principles of dramatic scriptwriting for screen, stage and radio. Emphasis will be placed on the refinement of scripts through the production of multiple drafts and the presentation of scripts in professionally-accepted formats. Students will be required to develop a script over the course of the semester and will have the opportunity to test and improve their work as part of an in-class workshoping process.
<b>Required Texts:</b>	Unit Reader <i>Egri The Art of Dramatic Writing</i>
<b>Recommended Texts:</b>	<i>Cowgill Writing Short Films: Structure &amp; Content for Screenwriters</i> <i>The Tale of Ruby Rose</i> DVD (available at Co-op Bookshop by special arrangement with filmmaker Roger Scholes)
<b>When Taught:</b>	<u>Lecture</u> Wednesday 2.10pm – 4.00pm SB.Arts203.LT  <u>Workshops</u> Workshops are offered at a variety of times. Students will be asked to sign up for a workshoping group at the first lecture. Workshops begin in week 2 of semester.
<b>Assessment:</b>	5000 words internal assessment comprising coursework skills assignment (20%), original script (50%), accompanying statement (30%). <b>In order to be eligible for final assessment in this unit, you must complete all written assignments and participate fully in workshop activities, including presenting both a pitch for, and a draft of, your original script.</b>

## LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
Wed 28 Feb	Introduction	Danielle Wood
Wed 7 Mar	The Principles of Dramatic Writing	Danielle Wood
Wed 14 Mar	Writing for the Stage	Belinda Bradley Franz Docherty
Wed 21 Mar	Writing the Short Play	Anica Boulanger-Mashberg
Wed 28 Mar	Writing for Radio	Belinda Bradley Franz Docherty
Wed 4 Apr	Script Conventions	TBC
Wed 18 Apr	Writing for the Screen	Ranald Allan
Wed 25 Apr	<b>NO LECTURE – PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>	
Wed 2 May	Writing the Short Film	Yvette Blackwood
Wed 9 May	Reading <i>The Tale of Ruby Rose</i>	Danielle Wood
Wed 16 May	Screening: <i>The Tale of Ruby Rose</i>	
Wed 23 May	Writing <i>The Tale of Ruby Rose</i>	Roger Scholes
Wed 30 May	Unit Summary	Danielle Wood
	<p><b>IMPORTANT WORKSHOP DATES:</b></p> <p><b>PITCHING YOUR ORIGINAL SCRIPT IDEA: Weeks Five and Six (26 Mar and 2 Apr)</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOPPING YOUR ORIGINAL SCRIPT: Weeks Seven to Thirteen (16 Apr – 28 May)</b></p>	

# ASSIGNMENTS

## COURSEWORK SKILLS ASSIGNMENT (20%)

DUE DATE: Friday, April 20

Adapt a scene from a work of published fiction and produce a short script for either STAGE or RADIO. The completed script should not be more than four (4) A4 pages in length. Include in your submission a cover sheet stating which medium your script is intended for, and a photocopy of the relevant pages from your source text. Assessment will be based on source material selection, execution of the principles of dramatic writing, understanding of the conventions of the chosen medium, and consistency of formatting.

## ORIGINAL SCRIPT (50%) AND ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT (30%)

### Original Script

Produce an original script of ten minutes' duration for STAGE, RADIO or SCREEN. Assessment will be based on originality and flair, execution of the principles of dramatic writing, understanding of the conventions of the chosen medium, and consistency of formatting.

### Accompanying Statement

Produce a 1500-word statement explaining how you have applied the principles of dramatic writing in your original script. Assessment will be based on understanding of principles of dramatic writing, depth and coherence of analysis, use of secondary sources and clarity of writing.

DUE DATE: Friday, June 8

**NOTE: In order to be eligible for final assessment in this unit, you must complete all written assignments and participate fully in workshop activities, including presenting both a pitch for, and a draft of, your original script.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at [www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism) or in the Student Information Handbook.

Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

### Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

### Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

### University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

**"Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>.

**The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.**

### Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to [http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla\\_citation\\_syst.doc](http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc), MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

### Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

### Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.

### IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>  
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>  
Help Desk (email [HelpDesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:HelpDesk@utas.edu.au) or 6226 1818, within University 1818)