

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

Playwriting and screenwriting 774 (DFK 774)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	45.00
Programmes	BAHons (Drama) Drama and Film Studies
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Double Medium
Academic organisation	Drama
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

This four-part module focuses on the construction of a visual narrative. Autobiographical writing: This part of the module develops creative writing skills through exploring and recording personal narratives. The student also investigates principles of literary theory.

Stage plays: The module introduces notions of structure, narrative, plot, dialogue and character development. The student is familiarised with various format and conventions of the stage play, as well as the languages of drama and performance. The student will produce at least one stage play script.

Television writing: Students become familiar with the three-act structure, story, narrative, content, plot and genre (such as soap operas and situational comedy). Students are required to write a sample screenplay of a pre-existing television programme ("show script") as well as an original television script.

Film writing: The module introduces students to the language and theory of film. Students will watch films, read screenplays and write their own short film screenplay. The module also includes the formalities of screenwriting, such as script formatting and pitching.

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