

<b>MODULE TITLE AND CODE:</b>	<b>Screenwriters At Work (FSS037 / FS4046)</b>
<b>MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	Justin MacGregor
<b>TEACHING STAFF:</b>	Justin MacGregor
<b>CONTACT HOURS:</b>	22 lecture/seminar hours
<b>SEMESTER:</b>	Hilary Term
<b>ECTS value:</b>	5 / 10

### **Rationale and aims:**

The aim is to further prepare you for opportunities in the film industry in script development or screenwriting when your studies are complete. To do so, you will analyse an existing television programme and write what is called a “spec script” and script report of an existing television or online programme that demonstrates your ability to write or work for such programmes. You will also learn the art of pitching yourself and your work by undertaking a simulated industry pitch. The module will involve utilizing various storytelling techniques including, but not limited to, The Hero’s Journey, the three-act structure, the five-act structure, and the nine-act structure. You will then utilize one of these approaches in your writing and while participating in a writer’s room scenario.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

This module will enable students to:

- Analyse the structure, characters and world created of an existing television or online programme.
- Write a Script Report on an existing television or online programme.
- Write a Spec Script for an existing television or online programme.
- Pitch an idea of an existing television or online programme, or for an original television or online programme.
- Write a professional synopsis and one page for an original television or online programme.
- Participate in a writer’s room scenario.

### **Indicative Resources:**

Blake Snyder, *Save the Cat!: The Last Book on Screenwriting You'll Ever Need*, Studio City: Michael Wiese Productions, 2005; David Howard, Edward Mabley, *The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writer’s Guide To The Craft and Elements of a Screenplay*, London: St. Martin’s Griffin, 1995; John Yorke, *Into the Woods: How Stories Work and Why We Tell Them*, London: Penguin, 2014.

### **Methods of Teaching and Student Learning:**

Classes will be a combination of lecture/seminar, written exercises and analysis. Some guest lecturers will also be invited.

### **Assessment:**

Participation and Pitch	30%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft of a Spec Script	70%

### **Evaluations:**

Course and Teaching Surveys will be circulated to students at the end of the module.  
Feedback will be used to reflect on course development.