



S Y L L A B U S

Screenwriting for Film and TV

Duration: 5 Days (Total: 20 Hours)

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1.0 Course Overview

This immersive training module equips participants with the creative and technical skills needed to write for **film and television**. From concept to screenplay, learners will understand storytelling fundamentals, character design, structure, dialogue, and formatting used by professional screenwriters.

2.0 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand screenplay formatting and industry expectations
- Apply story structure to short films, features, or TV episodes
- Create dynamic characters and authentic dialogue
- Format and write engaging scenes for visual storytelling
- Prepare pitches and develop outlines for film or television projects

3.0 Training Methodology

- Script Breakdowns and Scene Analyses
- Writing Prompts and Dialogue Drills
- Group Feedback and Script Reviews
- Concept-to-Outline Development
- Screenplay Software and Format Practice

4.0 Introduction to Screenwriting and Industry Formats (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Learn the foundation and format of professional screenwriting

Topics Covered:

- What Is Screenwriting? Film vs TV
- Screenplay Formatting Basics (Slugline, Action, Dialogue)
- Using Screenwriting Software (Final Draft, WriterDuet, Celtx)
- Understanding Roles in a Screenplay: Protagonist, Antagonist, Supporting

Activities:

- Lab: Explore formatting in a short film script
- Task: Write your first scene setup (Slugline + Action)
- Group Review: Analyze a page from a real script

5.0 Story Structure and Genre Elements (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Master foundational story beats and genre conventions

Topics Covered:

- The Three-Act Structure
- Plot Points, Midpoints, and Climaxes
- Common Film Genres and Tropes
- TV Structure: Teasers, Cold Opens, Act Breaks

Activities:

- Breakdown: Identify beats in a well-known film
- Worksheet: Outline a new story using a beat sheet
- Group Discussion: What genre do you write in and why?

6.0 Creating Compelling Characters and Dialogue (4 Hours)

Objectives:

- Design emotionally rich, layered characters and engaging dialogue

Topics Covered:

- Character Arcs, Flaws, and Desires
- Protagonist vs Antagonist Dynamics
- Subtext and Voice in Dialogue
- Character Relationships and Conflict

Activities:

- Exercise: Write a character monologue
- Task: Create a dialogue scene with rising tension
- Partner Roleplay: Act out and critique written dialogue

7.0 Scene Writing, Visual Storytelling, and Formatting (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Write visually compelling and well-paced scenes

Topics Covered:

- Writing for the Camera: Show, Don't Tell
- Visual vs Verbal Narration
- Scene Purpose: Movement, Conflict, Revelation
- Transitions and Timing

Activities:

- Lab: Rewrite a short story paragraph into a screenplay scene
- Exercise: Cut exposition and improve visual storytelling
- Peer Review: Visual impact critique on a sample scene

8.0 TV Writing, Episodic Structure, and Bibles (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Understand how TV writing differs and develop serial concepts

Topics Covered:

- Episodic vs Serialized Storytelling
- TV Script Formats (Sitcom, Drama, Mini-Series)
- Character and Series Arcs
- The Show Bible: World, Tone, Arcs, Episode List

Activities:

- Task: Outline a TV pilot concept and create a logline
- Workshop: Build your first one-page series bible
- Group Pitch: Share your show's hook and core idea

9.0 Pitching, Script Feedback, and Industry Pathways (2 Hours)

Objectives:

- Learn how to pitch your idea and improve through feedback

Topics Covered:

- Pitching a Film or Series Logline
- Writing a Synopsis and Treatment
- Receiving and Applying Constructive Criticism
- Film Festivals, Fellowships, and Representation

Activities:

- Challenge: Pitch your script idea in 60 seconds
- Peer Review: Script exchange and critique
- Discussion: How to get your work seen

10.0 Conclusion and Wrap-Up (1 Hour)

Key Takeaways:

- Reflect on progress, goals, and screenwriting journey

Final Activities:

- Showcase: Table read of your opening scene
- Certificate Distribution
- Feedback and Journaling: “The story I must write next...”