

## Vesalius College

### Course description

**Course title:** Scriptwriting and Audiovisual Production/Writing for the Screen: History, Theories and Narration.

**Course code:** CMM 205E

**Teacher responsible:** Claude Bernard, Ph.D. Associate Professor

**Course description:**

This course will focus on writing and production techniques for the electronic media. Students will learn to produce storyboards as well as a script for film. A series of practical assignments will allow students to familiarize themselves with some of the technical aspects needed to translate ideas on paper into a credible audiovisual production. By the end of the course students will have a chance to complete a professional movie script and will have become familiar with some of the basic expectations and actions to be undertaken in order to sell their property to agents and decision-makers. Students will become familiar with film theories and a broad range of genres and schools (from neo-realism to Dogma) and become cognizant of basic film and visual techniques

In order to complete the exercises students should at the very least have (access to) a photo or regular camera.

**Course objectives:**

The main objective of the course will be to allow students to develop their writing skills in a creative fashion. By learning some of the basic techniques involved in writing and/or adapting for the radio, television and the cinema students will learn the language used to not only write in a professional manner but also to sell some of their story ideas through the art of pitching. They will be taught how the medium chosen dictates its own format, content, structure and pace. They will also gain an appreciation of how literary or written material can be “translated” into the medium of film. Students will be asked to keep abreast of current news and articles so as to select a possible topical story line for their final exam project. On the day of the exam, students will have to present their story to potential financiers and professionals. The course is very practical in nature but allows for in-depth theoretical analysis. Students are expected to read specialized film magazines such as Sight and Sound

**Grade weighting scheme:**

Assignments and Papers :	30 percent
Quizzes:	10 percent
Midterm:	20 percent
Final exam/ script:	35 percent

**Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:**

Recommended books:

*Poetics* by Aristotle

*The Writer's Journal* by Christopher Vogel

*Macbeth* by Shakespeare