

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, CINEMATIC AND CREATIVE ARTS**

**COURSE: SCR 3015: Writing For Television Drama**

**FACULTY: Moses Kevin Wamalwa**

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**Course Introduction:**

Television is that rectangular electronic box claimed to have been invented as a toy before invention of Film and Radio but only came into rampant use in the 1930's, invading our living rooms, replacing fireplaces and has since become a pervasive omni-present phenomena in humanity's lives. From an initial intention to use the medium to project films right into people's living rooms, the 'Box' in Marshall macLuhan's concept of 'the medium is the Message, Stupid' has since appropriated genres of media to fit within its own special relationships with humankind. Apart from pictorial news (with television's amenability to allow 'News Values'), Reality shows and a buffet of all manner of 'Programming', Television drama as a genre of drama has been appropriated to fit within the producing culture specific to Television. As such Writing for Television drama is a course that seeks to answer the questions what is television, its function within the media ecology and what should be the character of drama that best fits the medium. The SCR 3015 - Writing For Television Drama course endeavours to unpack and interrogate the genre and subgenres of Television drama including a practical introduction of writing and understanding each existing and emerging format of the Drama.

**Course Description**

This course purposes to help a student articulate an understanding of what constitutes television Drama including its properties and subgenres within the wider medium of television programming.

**Prerequisite: None**

**Link to University Mission Outcomes**

This course is expected to help students develop skills in higher order thinking, global understanding, and multicultural perspective in the students. It is expected to develop proficiency in literacy, preparation for future careers in Film and Television production, and the ability in the learners to serve the community.

The mission of the Bachelor of Arts in Film Production will be to prepare students for the rigors of the creative industry by developing their intellectual, managerial, creative, analytical and practical skills to successfully function as professionals and team players in the film industry.

### **Course learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course students should be able to;

1. Understand and Answer the question what is Television including its functions
2. Describe and discuss what is constituted in the characteristics of Television drama including its subgenres
3. At a basic level be able to engage in the writing and formatting of Television drama

### **Course Content**

#### **Week 1**

Introduction to the course

Definition of Key concepts; Media, Television, Drama, Scripts, .....

*Readings: Chapter 1 of the Course text*

#### **Week 2**

What is Television, the ideological force

*Readings: Chapter 2 of the Course text*

#### **Week 3**

The functions of Television

*Readings: Chapter 3 of the Course text*

#### **Week 4**

The producing Culture of Television

*Readings: Chapter 4 of the Course text*

### **Week 5**

Television Drama - subgenres

*Readings: Chapter 5 of the Course text*

### **Week 6**

Television Drama - properties

*Readings: Chapter 6 of the Course text*

### **Week 7**

### **MID SEMESTER EXAMS**

### **Week 8**

Writing television drama - Story development

*Readings: Chapter 7 of the Course text*

### **Week 9**

Writing Television Drama - Script formatting

*Readings: Chapter 8 of the Course text*

### **Week 10**

Television Drama - Pitching and Financing

*Readings: Chapter 9 of the Course text*

### **Week 11**

Emerging issues in Television Drama

*Readings: Chapter ..... of the Course text*

### **Week 12**

term paper presentation

*Readings: Chapter 10 of the Course text*

### **Week 13**

Topics recap

*Readings: .....*

## **Week 14**

### **FINAL EXAMS**

#### **Teaching Methodology**

The student will attend lectures and participate in discussions on assigned readings, group work, case studies, class presentation, expert interactions and field trips

Blackboard will be used as a learning management system to support project teams (groups), sharing of information, weekly slides, important dates, assignments, and other information about the course, as well as the facilitation of interaction among students on topics related to the course. Note that for every one (1) hour of contact, you can expect to do 3 hours of reading and preparation work on your own.

Class attendance is mandatory unless in the case of an avoidable issue in which case permission should be duly obtained. Class attendance and assignments will count as part of the final examination total mark for the course. Any student who miss more than 25% of lectures will get an "F" grade.

All assignments and exercises MUST be submitted before the expiry of stipulated time. No make-up assignments or exams will be offered. The evaluation due dates are as follows.....

#### **Course Evaluation**

Class attendance and participation 5%

2 Assignments - Concept and Script- 20%

CAT 10%

Group work and presentation (Term paper) 15%

Mid Semester Exam 20%

End of semester Exam 30%

### **Grading System**

90%-100% Grade A

87%-89% Grade A-

84%-86% Grade B+

80%-83% Grade B

77%-79% Grade B-

74%-76% Grade C+

**70%-73% Grade C**

67%-69% Grade C-

64%-66% Grade D+

62%-63% Grade D

60%-61% Grade D-

0%-59% Grade F

### **Course Text and Other recommended texts**

1. J. Fiske & Hartley, J., *Reading Television*, Routledge (1996)
2. Seiter, E., Borchers, H., Kreutzner, G. and Warth, E.M., *Remote Control : Television*, London(1998)