



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Media and Communication Studies

Syllabus

Storytelling in Moving Image Production

Course Code:

MKGA14

Course Title:

Storytelling in Moving Image Production
Storytelling i film och rörlig bildproduktion

Credits:

30

Degree Level:

Undergraduate level

Progressive

First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry
requirements (G1N)

Specialisation:

Major Field of Study:

MKA (Media and Communication Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2020-02-06, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- give an account of storytelling as a concept and describe the role of storytelling in effective moving-image communication,
- give an account of and perform the main stages of a film project including: screenplay, pre-production, shooting, editing, and post-production,
- analyse moving-image content in terms of storytelling, emotional journey, and dramaturgy,
- describe approaches to different documentary styles in a wider aesthetic, political, and rhetorical context, and

- reflect upon the ethics and responsibilities of the filmmaker concerning the subject of a film in relation to the audience.

Content

The aim of the course is to introduce students to storytelling in films and moving images and the main principles of production for commercials, fiction, and documentary film. Through an integrated approach to theory and practice, students work individually and collectively to develop, produce, and reflect upon, the key processes employed throughout.

Module 1: Elements of Storytelling, 7.5 ECTS cr

This module provides an introduction to the role of storytelling in effective communication for commercials and fictional-film productions. Through an exploration of the key elements of storytelling, including narrative, character, and emotion, this module demonstrates the effectiveness of this approach for producing dynamic media-content.

Module 2: Commercial and Short Film Production, 7.5 ECTS cr

This module aims to develop basic knowledge of and skills in the key processes of successful commercial and fictional short-film productions. The different stages in film production are experienced through students taking on different roles, such as director, cinematographer, and producer. By adapting the artistic vision to a production framework, students learn to accommodate pragmatic concerns while sustaining the qualities of cinematic storytelling. Through a hands-on approach, students will navigate the challenges of going from original idea to fully completed project.

Module 3: Theories of Documentary, 7.5 ECTS cr

This module provides an introduction to the documentary and reportage genres of filmmaking. It will examine a range of perspectives on the conceptual foundations of this approach to presenting reality and actuality in moving-image productions. Questions of ethical responsibility, objectivity, and truth claims will be critically investigated and individual statements of intent developed in relation to production practice.

Module 4: Production of Documentary, 7.5 ECTS cr

This module aims to develop basic knowledge of and skills in the key processes of a variety of documentary productions. The different approaches in documentary film and reportage are explored through an individual or group project. Through a hands-on process, students will navigate the challenges of going from original idea to fully completed project.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, individual and group tutorials, group assignments, workshops, and project evaluation.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of an individual written take-home exam which demonstrates the student's critical reflection upon and analysis of lectures and course reading.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of a group film project.

Module 3 is assessed on the basis of an individual written take-home exam which demonstrates the student's critical reflection upon and analysis of the completed film project.

Module 4 is assessed on the basis of a group film project.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. Students have to receive a grade of Distinction (VG) for three of the modules in order to receive a grade of Distinction (VG) for the entire course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.