

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TITLE | Scriptwriting for Beginners: Writing for Radio, Theatre, Film and TV |
| TUTOR | Thomas Alcott |

Dear Student,

Thank you for enrolling on this Lifelong Learning course. This letter gives you some further information. If you have any questions, please contact either:

**The LLL Office**: [learning@aber.ac.uk](mailto:learning@aber.ac.uk)

**The Tutor:** Thomas Alcott [tha16@aber.ac.uk](mailto:tha16@aber.ac.uk)

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emm32@aber.ac.uk)

We hope you enjoy the course.

Best Wishes,

**The Lifelong Learning Team**

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**GETTING STARTED**

**Aberystwyth University Student Account**

Before you can begin your course, you need to activate your **Aberystwyth University Student Account**. After you pay and enrol, you will be sent your **unique student number** by the Lifelong Learning Administrator. This will enable you to obtain your student username and set a password for your student account.

Having an account gives you many additional benefits such as access to the university library and online journals, an email address, and discounts for university services.

Please watch this [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=8599b9f0-bb74-4e17-8a61-abb800c9c1b1&v=1) as it will give you all the instructions you will need to set up your student account.

Once you have completed this process login to your [Aberystwyth University email account here](https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&redirect_uri=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office.com%2fowa%2f&resource=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&response_mode=form_post&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid&msafed=0&client-request-id=1a50f117-68e4-464d-b9c3-80fd788cb7e5&protectedtoken=true&claims=%7b%22id_token%22%3a%7b%22xms_cc%22%3a%7b%22values%22%3a%5b%22CP1%22%5d%7d%7d%7d&domain_hint=aber.ac.uk&nonce=637354312838097988.a0319ebd-6272-4475-a59a-e0b8afa5fbe1&state=Dcs7DoMwEEVRO1kJTTobf5lxgbKWNzBIUUCRkBK2HxfndtcaY-7drbOhx9CUKdeSY-LMoVFj9gg5NpXVTYmSK4WqQ21wGoSxoW6i0fZ3GD8Xxuep2I8ZoqfH4r_vx2-dL5UDr_0P)

**Online Learning Environment: Blackboard**

Once you have an active username and password you can login to our **online learning environment** called **Blackboard** by going to<https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk>. This is where you can access the learning materials for your course, interact online with your tutor and other students and submit your assignments. Here is a [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d3b1a6e3-a555-4da3-be65-ac31007c1927) on how to access Blackboard and navigate the various pages and tools.

**Microsoft Teams**

Your course may include one or more live online learning webinars or seminars. If so, these will be held using the online platform **Microsoft Teams**. Like Blackboard, you can access Teams online by going to <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and logging in with your Aberystwyth University student username and password. Although not essential, we would recommend you download the Microsoft Teams software onto your desktop. Once you have logged in, you can do this from the Microsoft Teams homepage. Click on the circle in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select **Download the Desktop App.**

If an online meeting has been scheduled by your tutor you will receive an email to your **University Email Account** that will contain a link, which you can click on to join the meeting. Alternatively, if you go to your **Calendar** in Microsoft Teams, which is on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see a **Join button** appear by the meeting just before it begins, which you can click on.

If you haven’t used Microsoft Teams before I would recommend watching this one minute [**video (link)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pauAUOl8v4) so you know what to expect.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Do you have an idea for a film, television, radio or theatre script but don’t know how to begin? Have you written a script but need to redraft or reinvigorate it? Would you like to write better dialogue, more exciting plots, or bring your characters to life?   
  
This is a beginners course that provides students with a practical and theoretical guide to scriptwriting. You will learn how to develop characters, story and plot, as well as how to structure your script and write dialogue.   
  
In this course we will focus on writing the beginning of your script, covering the basics of scriptwriting to help you be able to write a full-length script. There will also be a Scriptwriting 2 course if you wanted to build and develop your scriptwriting skills.   
  
You will then complete further activities online and submit your final assessment. Your tutor will provide online support for the duration of the course. The course will provide a safe, supportive space to share work.   
  
This module can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also an optional module for the Certificate of Higher Education in Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the differing creative demands of various script mediums including radio, theatre, TV and film.
2. Adhere to various requirements and utilise techniques and themes to create the beginning of a script, which is part of an overall structure.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of character and character development.
4. Evaluate your script draft and identify areas for redrafting and editing.

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

The module is delivered through Blackboard, with the eight units delivered via Panopto presentations. Activities and tasks will be embedded into each unit so students can practise the techniques they have learned and develop their skills.   
Alongside the learning materials on Blackboard, the tutor will be on hand via email to answer any queries and provide guidance throughout the course.

1. Developing an idea exploring concept, themes and other fundamentals to determine if the idea has the potential to be a script, exploring possible formats and whether an idea is right for television, film, theatre or radio. Students complete their script online .   
  
2 – 3 Developing story through character development with practical exercises including exploring protagonists and antagonists, active and dormant goals and objectives, naturalistic and non-naturalistic characterisation, and the importance of research for characterisation.   
  
4 Creating dialogue through characterisation and different types of dialogue for styles, genre and format. Attend in-person teaching day.  
  
5 – 7 An overview of structures in theatre, film, television and radio and various techniques for developing structure to provide a basic framework for a story.   
  
8 - An exploration of the fundamentals of beginnings of scripts which will include examples from current scripts to explore beginning a script.

**ASSESSMENTS**

1. Script outline 250 words (20%)
2. Submit the first section of a script; 2500 words (80%)

**Submission Policy**: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/virtual-student-centre/schemes_programmes/latesubmission/>

Find our full programme listings here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses/>

Are you interested in completing a Certificate in Higher Education? If you are, speak to your tutor or contact the co-ordinator: [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emm32@aber.ac.uk)