



Explore the artist in you.
Learn. Create. Succeed.

STORYTELLING & SCREENWRITING

(Studio/Online Course)

Perfect for aspiring filmmakers, writers, and screenwriters looking to push boundaries and unleash their creativity!

Course Description

This course equips students with essential and advanced skills to craft exceptional stories and compelling screenplays. It enhances creative thinking and imagination in storytelling and screenwriting. Students will learn various techniques for creating captivating situations and scenes that keep audiences engaged. Assignments will involve writing scenes, developing characters, crafting situations and dialogues, exploring subtext, and culminating in an industry-ready short-length screenplay.

Duration

4 months (16 sessions), with one class per week, each lasting over 2 hours.

Location

Studio classes will be held at **iO - The Space** (*The Riviera, St 41, Phase 4, Bahria Town, Islamabad*), while online classes will take place simultaneously on Microsoft Teams. Online students will have the opportunity to freely communicate and interact with those attending the studio sessions.

Aims & Objectives

This course aims to delve into the art of film and television screenplay structure, explore dramatic strategies, master proper script formatting, and creatively engage in every stage of original scriptwriting.

Pre-Requisites

A minimum of 10 years of education is required. No prior experience or knowledge of storytelling or screenwriting is necessary, but applicants must have a passion for learning the art.

Final Outcome

By the end of the course, each student will craft an industry-ready short-length screenplay (20 pages) for a film or documentary, adding significant value to their portfolio. Upon successful completion, students will receive a certificate and a personalized letter of recommendation for the institution or organization they aspire to join.

Materials & Equipment Needed

Take Notes: Have a notepad/notebook and basic stationery ready to capture key points, ideas, and class assignments.

Online Class Essentials: For online learners, a laptop, tablet, or mobile device (laptop preferred) with Microsoft Teams installed and a reliable internet connection to join our virtual classroom.

Codes of Conduct

Each student must maintain a minimum attendance of 75% to qualify for the certificate. Any misbehavior towards the teacher or classmates will result in disqualification from further lectures. Students are expected to adhere to general class etiquette.

Course Outline – Storytelling & Screenwriting

Session	Course Outcome
1	Introduction to Storytelling and Screenwriting Storytelling Basics / Storytelling Principles / Differences between storytelling for Film & Television / Basic Screenwriting Terminology / Setting up Space <i>Activity: Short Film Analysis / Discussions on Favorite Films & their Narratives</i>
2	Elements of a Great Story Plot Structure / Themes / Message / The Importance of Conflict & Resolution Great Story Development Idea / Inspiration / Types of Experiences / Brainstorming <i>Activity: Short Story Outline based on Experiences</i>
3	Character Development & Interaction Building Compelling Multi-dimensional Characters / Backstories / Character Arcs / Protagonist & Antagonist Dynamics / Supporting Characters / The Sidekick <i>Activity: Develop Interesting Character with Backstories</i> Assignment: Character Sheet with Backstory
4	Linear and Non-Linear Narratives Interesting Characters & Interesting Situations Genre / Thinking Out of the Box / Understanding Situations <i>Activity: Writing Interesting Situations with Boring Characters</i>
5	Basic Story Structure Start / Trigger / Midpoint / Conflict / Twist / Resolution / End <i>Activity: Breaking down Story Structure of Favorite Films</i>
6	The Three-Act Structure Key Plot Points / Key Turning Points / Sequencing / Hero's Journey / Story Arc <i>Activity: Identify Story Structure of Famous Films</i> Assignment: 3 Act Structure Timeline of a Selected Film
7	Plotting Act / Plot Points / Climax / Action / Subplots The Screenplay Format / Page to Screen Sound Diegesis <i>Activity: Writing Scene in Screenplay Format</i>
8	Crafting Dialogue The Role of Dialogue / Subtext in Dialogue / Things to Avoid / Techniques to Write Realistic & Engaging Dialogues / Imagining Reality <i>Activity: Realistic Dialogue Writing</i> Assignment: 2-3 minutes Dialogue Writing of a Scene
9	Creating Compelling Scenes Skills for Crafting Engaging Scenes / Setting up the Scene / Pacing & Tension / Visual Storytelling in Scenes / The Surprise Element / Subtext <i>Activity: Writing a Scene with Subtext</i>
10	Story Development & Creating Immersive Story Worlds Establishing Setting & Atmosphere / Rules & Logic of Story World / Integrating World-Building into the Narrative <i>Activity: World Building Exercises</i> Assignment: Original Story

11	<p>Genre & Styles Characteristics of Major Genres / Blending Genres & Subgenres / Finding Unique Style <i>Activity: Writing Same Scene in 3 Different Genres</i></p>
12	<p>Writing for Film vs. Television The Differences / Structure and Pacing / Episodic vs. Serialized Storytelling / Pilots <i>Activity: Comparing Film & TV Scripts</i></p>
13	<p>Adapting Stories for the Screen Process of Adaptation / Adapting Books, Play, & Other Sources / Maintaining the Essence of the Original Work / Creative Liberties in Adaptations <i>Activity: Adapting a Short Story by Manto</i> Assignment: 5-10 Page Screenplay of an Adapted Story</p>
14	<p>Advanced Screenwriting Techniques Flashbacks / Flash-Forwards / Parallel Narratives / Writing & Rewriting / Identifying Problems & Loose Ends / Thinking Creatively / Tackling with Writer's Block <i>Activity: Building Parallel Narrative</i> Assignment: Original Story for Final Project</p>
15	<p>Pitch Your Story / Screenplay Crafting a compelling logline & pitch / Pitching Strategies & Techniques / Handling Pitch Meeting Short Length Screenplay Writing Story Synopsis / Detailed Story / Screenplay <i>Activity: Writing Loglines and Pitches / Final Short-Length Story Discussion</i> Assignment: Final 10-20 Page Short-Length Screenplay</p>
16	<p>Final Short-Length Screenplay Submission with Logline, Story Synopsis, & Pitch Assessment & Feedback</p>