



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOMBASA

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Communication Studies

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR:
BACHELOR OF BROADCAST JOURNALISM
HBJ 4304: BROADCAST PLAYWRITING
END-OF-SEMESTER EXAMINATION

SERIES: APRIL 2025

TIME:6 WEEKS

DATE: MAY 2025

Instructions to Candidates

ATTEMPT ALL TASKS

PROJECT

TV Drama Series Project

In this end-of-semester project, you will design a series bible and write a complete pilot episode for your own unique television or web series of 20 episodes, be it drama or comedy or something in between drama and comedy. This project is designed specifically to help you complete a personally meaningful real-world project, with your lecturer and a community of learners with similar goals providing guidance and suggestions along the way.

PHASE ONE

Preparation (20Marks)

You will conceive, debate and research a screenplay idea, develop it and submit a document bearing the key elements:

The Premise	(1-3 sentences) The Premise (sometimes called the Concept) is a simple statement of the main character/s, and their dilemma.
-------------	--

The Synopsis	(3 paragraphs) The synopsis is about 3 paragraphs long and reflects the beginning, middle and end of the story.
The Outline	(1-3 pages) One or Three pages, describing the setup, development and resolution, and sketching the details of the characters.
Character Notes	(1-3 pages for each major character) Outlines the different characters and their Backstories.
`Pitch' Document	(10 pages) Contains all of the above documents.
Scene Breakdown	(2-3 pages) A `beat sheet' or list of points, outlining the key event/s of each scene.
The Treatment	(15 pages) Fifteen pages, a short story virtually, which is simply an expanded version of the Outline, but with more character detail, and various dramatic `moments' and key scenes fleshed out in more detail. Usually, each scene is a paragraph. Contains no direct dialogue, and is written in the third-person present tense.
Sample dialog	(1 page for each major character) `Test scenes' or monologues, So that each of your characters speaks in their own distinctive voice.

Submit by Friday 28th March 2025 10.00am

PHASE TWO (20 MARKS)

- i) You will create a brief outline of your pilot episode,
- ii) Revise your outline following peer review
- iii) Create a bible for the 40 (FOURTY) series: that is, you will develop your original idea for a series into a document that defines the concept, the major characters and brief descriptions of the episodes for season one.

PHASE THREE (20MARKS)

Write Act One of your pilot episode

In Phase 2 you will complete the 1st act of your episode (or the 1st instalment of your Web Series) . You will:

- i) Create a brief outline of your pilot episode.
- ii) Revise your episode outline following peer review,
- iii) Create a detailed outline of your first act,
- iv) Revise your Act One outline following peer review,
- v) Write your first act in screenplay format,
- vi) Revise your Act One script after peer review.

PHASE FOUR (20Marks)

Write Act Two

At this stage, you will complete the second act of your episode (or the 2nd instalment of your Web Series). You will:

- i) Write a detailed outline of the second act,
- ii) Revise your outline following peer review,
- iii) Write the second act in screenplay format,
- iv) Revise your second act following peer review.

PHASE FIVE (20Marks)

Act Three

Finally, you will complete the 3rd act of your episode (or the third instalment of your Web Series). You will:

- i) Write a detailed outline of Act Three,
- ii) Revise your outline following peer review,
- iii) Write Act Three in screenplay format,
- iv) Revise your act following peer review