

DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

Name of the subject in Hungarian:	Motion Picture History and Motion Picture Theories
Name of the subject in English:	Motion Picture History and Motion Picture Theories
Credit value of the subject:	4
The code of the subject in the electronic study system:	BN-MPHITH-04-GY
Classification of the subject:	Obligatory
Language of instruction (in case of non-Hungarian courses):	English
Institute or department responsible for the subject:	-
Course type and number of contact hours:	Practical, class per week: 2, class per semester: 0
Mode of study: (Full-time / Part-time):	Full-time training
The semester in which the subject is open for registration:	2022/2023 1st semester
Prerequisite(s):	-

THE PURPOSE OF THE SUBJECT, LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The aim of this course is to study the essential historical, theoretical and practical aspects of storytelling, dramaturgy, dramatic composition, and screenwriting. We will be studying the theoretical framework laid down by Aristotle and developed by many philosophers and filmmakers ever since. We will analyze short films and work on original ideas, developing them from a basic story outline into a short script utilizing the basic rules and techniques of screenwriting and storytelling methods of fiction films and documentaries- also in practice .

SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT

In this course we will examine and discuss the basic concepts of story and plot, character and characterization, drive and conflict, premise and controlling idea, structure and act, dialogue and action. We will discuss how the plot is structured through the concepts of progression and change, turning points and climax, exposition and resolution, scenes and sequences, dialogue and action, the story arc and the characters' journey. The students will learn the basics of dramaturgy, the underlying traditions for storytelling and filmmaking, including the basic methods of photography and documentary film making.

STUDENT'S TASKS AND PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

The students will be writing scenes and story outlines through the semester, and discuss these in groups with the professor. The students will learn how to utilize the traditions and rules discussed in their own work. There will be a short test on basic terms, definitions and concepts.

EVALUATION OF THE SUBJECT:

In class the students will be watching and discussing short films from a storytelling and dramaturgical point of view, at home the students will be developing short scenes and story outlines to be workshopped in groups in class. The breakdown of the grading is: Participation in class 40%, development of scenes 40%, in-class test 20%.

OBLIGATORY READING LIST:

- McKee, Robert: *Story : a forgatókönyv anyaga, szerkezete, stílusa és alapelvei*. Filmtett Egyesület, 2011
- Sontag, Susan: *On photography*. Penguin, 2008
- Niels Pagh Andersen : *STORYTELLING AND EDITING IN DOCUMENTARY FILM*, 2022, <https://orderinchaosbook.com/>

- Robert McKee: *Story. Substance, structure, style and the principles of screenwriting.* , (Any recent edition.)

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Field, Syd: *Forgatókönyv : a forgatókönyvírás alapjai : kalauz lépésről lépésre, az ötlettől a kész könyvig.* Cor Leonis Films, [2011]
- Trottier, David: *The screenwriter's bible : a complete guide to writing, formatting, and selling your script.* Silman-James Press, 2014