



மனோன்மணியம் சுந்தரனார் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

**MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY**

**SYLLABUS FOR DIPLOMA IN SCREENPLAY WRITING & DIRECTION  
PROGRAM OFFERED THROUGH DIRECTORATE OF VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION (COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND VOCATIONAL SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT CENTRES) FROM 2019 - 2020**



கல்விசார் நிலைக்குழுக் கூட்டம்

**MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
THE 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2020**

**DIPLOMA IN SCREENPLAY WRITING & DIRECTION**

திரைக்கதை எழுத்து மற்றும் இயக்கம் பட்டயம்

**SCHEME OF EXAMINATION**

Subject Code	Title of the Courses	Credit	Hours	Passing Minimum
<b>Semester I</b>				
C19SD11/E19SD01	History of Cinema	6	90	40/100
C19SD12/E19SD02	Film Appreciation and Elements of Cinema	6	90	40/100
C19SD13/E19SD03	Elements of Screenplay Writing	6	90	40/100
C19CE10/E19CE10	Communicative English	6	90	40/100
C19SDP1/E19SDP1	Practical I- Screenplay Writing	4	120	40/100
<b>Semester II</b>				
C19SD21/E19SD04	Elements of Direction	6	90	40/100
C19SDP2/E19SDP2	Practical II-Direction	6	120	40/100
C19LS23/E19LS05	Life Skill	6	90	40/100
C19SDP3/E19SDP3	Practical III-Writing a screenplay for the project film	4	120	40/100
C19SDPW/E19SDPW	Project Work-Major Project and Viva –Voce/Short Film Making	10	150	40/100

**Eligibility for admission:** Pass in 10<sup>th</sup> std. examination conducted by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu Board of Secondary Education, Government of Tamil Nadu or any other equivalent examination.

**Examination:** Passing Minimum for each Course is 40%. Classification will be done on the basis percentage marks of the total marks obtained in all the Courses and as given below:

- 40 % but less than 50 % - Third class
- 50 % but less than 60 % - Second class
- 60 % and above -First class

**Theory Paper**

Internal Marks-25

External Marks-75

## **Syllabus**

### **SEMESTER I**

Course I	-	History of Cinema
Course II	-	Film Appreciation and Elements of Cinema
Course III	-	Elements of Screenplay Writing
Course IV	-	Communicative English
Course V	-	Practical I-Screenplay Writing

### **SEMESTER II**

Course VI	-	Elements of Direction
Course VII	-	Practical II-Direction
Course VIII	-	Life Skill
Course IX	-	Practical III-Writing a screenplay for the project film
Course X	-	Project Work-Major Project and Viva –Voce/Short Film Making

**\*(Semester Pattern for Community College Only)**

### **Program Objectives**

This course is designed

- (a) to inculcate knowledge into the students about films, film-making and film-makers, by exposing them to the History of Cinema ( International, National and Regional) ;
- (b) how to identify good cinema by learning what is film-appreciation, why it is necessary and how to raise the appreciation-level;
- (c) how to develop a story into a screen-play and prepare it for shooting as a film;
- (d) How to make films by efficiently directing the script into a film.

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**SEMESTER I**  
**COURSE I**  
**(C19SD11/E19SD01)HISTORY OF CINEMA**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To make the students to know the evolution of cinema
2. To make the students more knowledgeable about the History of Cinema (International, National & Regional)
3. To make the students well-equipped with more knowledge about History of Cinema.

**UNIT I**

**18 Hrs**

History of Cinema – International, National & Regional – (Introduction) - Origin and Development – Puppetery to Still Photography – Invention of Movie–Camera – Thomas Alva Edison and his invention of ‘Kinetoscope’

**UNIT II**

**18 Hrs**

First–ever Projection of 10 Actualities at Paris on 28.12.1895 by Lumiere Brothers - Georges Melies and his short films – ‘Trip to the moon (1902) – Edwin S.Porter and his “Great Train Robbery (1903) – D.W. Griffith and his 400 ‘one – realers’

**UNIT III**

**18 Hrs**

Early Silent films in other Countries – Germany, France, USSR - Silent Film history of India – Pioneers – “Raja Harischandra “ by D.G.Phalke – “ Keechakavadham “ by Nataraja Mudaliar and other Silent films of India.

**UNIT IV**

**18 Hrs**

‘Touring Cinema’ concept by Swamikannu Vincent – Growth of exhibition Sector - Arrival of Talkies - Research and development – “Jazz singer” (USA) – “Alam Ara” and “Kalidhas” (India) and other early talkies of South India

**UNIT V**

**18 Hrs**

Talkies in Other Countries – Italian Neo-Realism – French New ‘Wave’ - ‘Citizen Kane’ by Orson Welles – Japanese films of Akira Kurosawa – Satyajit Ray and his films – Marathi/Hindi Films by V.Shantharam – Hindi films by RajKapoor & GuruDutt. Talkies in Tamil - Song and Dialogue-Oriented Films – Films by K.Subramanyam, Sridhar, K.BalaChander, Bharathiraja, J.Mahendran, K.Bhagyaraj and Mani Rathinam - Digital film-making - Current trends in Tamil film Industry.

**REFERENCES**

- “Best of Tamil Cinema” – G.Dhananjayan – Galatta Media Pvt Ltd
- “Pride of Tamil Cinema” – G.Dhananjayan – Blue Ocean Publishers
- “The Oxford History of World Cinema” – By Geoffrey Nowell – Smith – Oxford University Press

**COURSE II**  
**(C19SD12/E19SD02)FILM APPRECIATION AND ELEMENTS OF CINEMA**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To make the students understand what is a film.
2. To make the students more knowledgeable about Film Appreciation.
3. To enable the students to know more about film techniques.

**UNIT I** **18 Hrs**

Introduction to Cinema – What is Cinema – Definitions

**UNIT II** **18 Hrs**

Different Media – Film as a Visual Medium – Popular Art form – Business/Industry

**UNIT III** **18 Hrs**

What is Film Appreciation? Why it is necessary? How to raise our level of film appreciation?

**UNIT IV** **18 Hrs**

Elements of Cinema – 3 Sectors of Film Industry (Production, Distribution and Exhibition) – 3 Fundamental Structures in every Film (Visual, Audio and Editing) – 3 Stages in Film-making (Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production)

**UNIT V** **18 Hrs**

Different ‘Genres’ of films – 2 Major Divisions: Fictional and Non-Fictional – Minor divisions – Analysis.

**REFERENCES**

- “How to Read Films” – By James Monaco – Oxford University Press

**COURSE III**  
**(C19SD13/E19SD03)ELEMENTS OF SCREENPLAY WRITING**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To equip the students with the knowledge of Short Stories/Novels/Film Stories.
2. To make the students more knowledgeable about Screenplay.
3. To enable the students to become efficient screenplay writers.

**UNIT I**

**18 Hrs**

Short Story – Novel – Screenplay: Identification of Various Sources, models for stories – characters and characterization – original story and adaptation.

**UNIT II**

**18 Hrs**

Fundamentals of Screenplay writing – Idea – Theme – Premise – Main plots and Sub plots – Exciting Incidents – Key Incidents – Mid – Point – Conflicts – Different types.

**UNIT III**

**18 Hrs**

‘Genres’ and ‘Sub-Genres’ – Plot driven Screenplay – Character driven Screenplay – Setting of the Screenplay.

**UNIT IV**

**18 Hrs**

Structuring a Screen-Play –‘3 – Act Structures’ in every Screen-Play – CSR (Crisis, Struggle and Resolution) – How climax to the driven

**UNIT V**

**18 Hrs**

How to write a Screenplay: - Brief Synopsis, Detailed Synopsis Scene-Order (OneLine) and Full-Script –Sequences & Scenes-Importance of Dialogues – Methods and Models of Writing Effective Dialogues.

**REFERENCES**

- Syd Field, Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting, 2007Random House Publishing Group,
- “ Elements of Screen-Writing “ – By Irwin R.Blacker
- Steven Maras, Screenwriting: history, theory and practice, Wallflower Press, 2009
- Michael Hauge, HarperCollins, Writing Screenplays That Sell: The Complete, Step-By-Step Guide for Writing and Selling to
- Steven Douglas Katz ,Film Directing Shot by Shot: Visualizing from Concept to Screen

## Course IV

### (C19CE10/E19CE10)Communicative English

#### 1. **Basic Grammar:**

- a. Review of grammar
- b. Remedial study of grammar
- c. Simple sentence
- d. Word passive voice etc.

#### 2. **Bubbling Vocabulary:**

- a. Synonyms
- b. Antonyms
- c. One – work Institution

#### 3. **Reading and Understanding English**

- a. Comprehension passage
- b. Précis – writing
- c. Developing a story from hints.

#### 4. **Writing English**

- a. Writing Business letters.
- b. Paragraph writing
- c. Essay writing
- d. Dialogue writing

#### 5. **Speaking English**

- a. Expressions used under different circumstances
- b. Phonetics

#### **Reference**

1. V.H.Baskaran – “English Made Easy”
2. V.H.Baskaran – “English Composition Made Easy”  
(Shakespeare Institute of English Studies, Chennai)
3. N.Krishnaswamy – “Teaching English Grammar”  
(T.R.Publication, Chennai)
4. “Life Skill” – P.Ravi, S.Prabakar and T.Tamzil Chelvam,  
M.S.University, Tirunelveli.

## COURSE V

### Practical I

#### (C19SDP1/E19SDP1)SCREENPLAY WRITING

#### **Exercises**

- Reading 50 Short Stories in Tamil/English and Writing Assignment Records about all those short stories
- Witnessing a minimum of 50 feature classic films and writing Assignment Records

## **SEMESTER II**

### **COURSE VI**

#### **(C19SD21/E19SD04)ELEMENTS OF DIRECTION**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To equip the students with the knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of a Film Director
2. To enable the students to become knowledgeable Directors of Films.
3. To enable the students to become well informed about Pre-Production / Production / Post-Production stages of Film making.

#### **UNIT I**

**18 Hrs**

Film, a Director's Medium – "Director as the Captain of the Ship" – Roles and Responsibilities of Film Director

#### **UNIT II**

**18 Hrs**

Director's Role in Pre-Production Stage – Creation and Structuring a Screen-play –

Finalizing Cast and Crew – Scouting and Fixing appropriate locations for Shooting –

Budgeting and Scheduling – Director's relationship with producer, cast & crew

#### **UNIT III**

**18 Hrs**

Director's Role in Production Stage – Day-to-day Shooting work – Extracting work from Cast and Crew – Crisis-Management and Economic –Management – Directorial Practice – Relationship with the Cinematographer, Art Director and Other technicians.

#### **UNIT IV**

**18 Hrs**

Directors' Role in 'Post-Production' Stage – Editing, Dubbing of Dialogues, Rerecording of Music, Special Sound – Effects, Final mixing, Graphics and Visual Effects – Digital Intermediary – Final Out-Put – Relationship with Editor, Music Director & Others.

#### **UNIT V**

**18 Hrs**

Basic Knowledge of Cinematography and Editing – Camera functionalities and Lighting – Linear and Non-Linear Editing - Editing tools – Marketing, Designing the Publicity material – Censoring the Film – Release and Post Release promotions.

#### **REFERENCES**

- "Directing : Film Techniques and Aesthetics" – By Michael Rabiger & Mick Hurbis Cherrier
- "Fundamentals of Film Direction " – By David K.Irving
- "Film Directing – Shot By Shot " – By Steven D.Katz

### **COURSE VII**

#### **PRACTICAL II**

#### **(C19SDP2/E19SDP2)DIRECTION**

#### **Exercises**

1. Witnessing about 50 International Short Films suggested, writing and submission of the Assignment Records.
2. Scene Practice – Practicing the 'miniature version' of a movie – Hands on practice in Editing, Dubbing, Re-recording, mixing, Track-posting and taking the final output. Making 2 mini films of about 5 minutes each.



**COURSE VIII**  
**(C19LS23/E19LS05)Life Skill**

**I Life Coping or adjustment**

- (a) External and internal influence in one's life
- (b) Process of coping or adjustment
- (c) Coping with physical change and sexuality
- (d) Coping with stress, shyness, fear, anger far live and criticism.

**II Attitude**

- (a) Attitude
- (b) Self acceptance, self – esteem and self actualization
- (c) Positive thinking

**III Problem Solving**

- (a) Goal Setting
- (b) Decision Making
- (c) Time Management and stress Management.

**IV Computers**

- (a) Introduction to Computers
- (b) M.S.Office
- (c) Power Point

**V Internet**

- (a) Introduction to internet
- (b) E – mail
- (c) Browsing

**References**

- 1) Life Skill Programme course I & II by Dr. Xavier Alphona MCRDCE Publications. R.K.Mutt Road, Chennai – 28
- 2) ஆளுமை பண்பு வளர்த்தல் மற்றும் தகவல் தொடர்பு by M.Selvaraj Community College,Palayamkottai
- 3) “Life Skill” –P.Ravi, S.Prabahar & T.Tamil Chelvam, M.S. University, Tirunelveli

**COURSE IX**  
**PRACTICAL III**

**(C19SDP3/E19SDP3)WRITING A SCREENPLAY FOR THE PROJECT FILM**

**RECORD WORK:**

Students should write a screenplay with dialogues for a Short film on any concept of their own.

**COURSE X**  
**(C19SDPW/E19SDPW) PROJECT WORK**

**MAJOR PROJECT AND VIVA - VOCE / SHORT FILM MAKING**

**PROJECT DETAILS**

Short Film (Tamil/English) on any concept (maximum 10 minutes)  
(The Students have to submit the exercise in the digital form for Practical exam, which will be evaluated by the Examiner)

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