ARTS 181-10 INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING
MON, TUES, WED, THURS 10:45AM–12:45PM
PROFESSOR: MELISSA BRUNO / MB1660@GEORGETOWN.EDU
OFFICE: NEW SOUTH, ROOM 156
OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY 2-4PM & BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores introductory film production techniques and strategies. Students will learn video and audio recording, scriptwriting and non-linear editing using Final Cut Pro X software. Visual storytelling concepts and creative post-production editing will be emphasized. In-class exercises and short film projects will allow students to become comfortable working in various film production roles. Additionally, critiques and screenings of student and professional film work will provide students with an understanding of narrative and documentary film genres.

Taking a production course is a time-intensive commitment. You will be required to spend many hours outside of class time reading, reviewing materials and working on projects. Please make note of other professional and personal obligations and plan accordingly. Late work will greatly affect your grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The Filmmaker's Handbook, 2013 Ed. Steven Ascher & Edward Pincus. Please read that day's assignment BEFORE our class session so you are fully prepared.

2. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

REQUIRED PURCHASE:

External hard drive preferably formatted for Mac computers, Firewire 800 to store your film footage and projects. Aim for 500gb size or higher and be sure to have this before you start editing first project.

Recommended drives:
-*Lacie Rugged*
-*G Tech, G Drive*

EQUIPMENT AND EDITING:

Cameras and Location Equipment: You are allowed to check out equipment through Gelardin Media Center in Lauinger Library and the Film Cage located in FMST. Make reservations for equipment ahead of time, otherwise you risk the possibility of not having equipment on the day of your film shoot. Also, make sure to test equipment before signing it out, in case it is not functioning properly. Postproduction editing of projects can be done in the Nap Lab (Walsh Building) or Gelardin Media Center.

We will be using the following video & audio equipment:
-Canon T3i, T4i, T5i (DSLR)
-Zoom & prime lenses
-Canon XA-10 (video camera)
-H4N Zoom Recorder (audio recorder)
-Sennheizer Shotgun Microphone & AT897 Shotgun Microphone
-Sony Wireless Lavs
-Boom Pole
-XLR cable
-Basic Tripod

PROJECTS:

Course requirements include 2 group projects and 2 independent projects. Emphasis is placed on your ability to visually tell a story. All projects for this course must be shot by the student(s) in the class. You

may not use footage shot before this class began or footage shot by someone other than you or your group partners. The projects will be evaluated on both technical and creative levels.

Project 1 Photo Film: This assignment will be done individually, with the requirement being your ability to successfully tell a story using still photos & audio. (2 minutes or less length)

(25 points out of 100)

Project 2 Long Take Sequence: Work in groups and film a long take sequence. Make sure to plan out and rehearse before filming. The sequence can be static, moving camera or a combination - NO EDITS. (3 minutes or less length)

(25 points out of 100)

Project 3 Fiction Scene: Each student will write a fiction scene involving no more than two characters, set in ONE location. Think of this as one scene in a longer film. (2-3 pages in length) Must pass in proposed shot list and final script with directing notes.

(20 points out of 100)

Project 4 Short Film (either narrative or documentary): Work in groups of 2, write, shoot and edit a short film to be presented in class during final exam period. (5 minutes or less length)

(30 points out of 100)

ATTENDANCE:

More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. If you miss six (6) classes, you will fail the class. If a serious medical or personal situation occurs affecting attendance, please discuss it with me.

ADDITIONAL HELP WITH THE COURSE:

If at any time you are having problems with the assignments or with your understanding of materials covered, please do make an appointment with me. I will be more than happy to clarify information and help you succeed!

COMPUTER LAB CONDUCT:

No eating or drinking is allowed while using the computers in the computer labs. Use of computers and cell phones during lectures and screenings other than to take notes is prohibited.

SUMMER 2015 COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

June 1
- Introductions, camera demo
- Screening: *La Jetée* (1962) dir. Chris Marker 28min
- Assignment: Start working on Project #1 (photo film), due 6/8. Be prepared to discuss your ideas next class.
- Reading: Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 321-346

June 2
- Present Project #1 ideas, Shot Composition Lecture
- Work in groups & take photos exploring different camera angles
- Import footage demo in FCP X; renaming files

June 3
- FCP X demo

June 4
- Sound Recording demo, work in groups and record sounds
- Work on Project #1 in class
- Reading: Filmmaker's Handbook Ch. 10 (esp. pg. 420, 439-461)

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WEEK 2

June 8
- ◆ Script writing, production planning lecture
- ◆ Screening: Long take examples
- ◆ Edit in class
- ◆ Reading: Story Ch. 3 & Ch. 18 (on Blackboard), Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 353-361

June 9
- ◆ **Project #1 Photo Film critique**
- ◆ Long Take lecture
- ◆ Assignment: Project #2 Long Take Sequence due 6/15
- ◆ Reading: Weston "Script Analysis" (on Blackboard)

June 10
- ◆ Lighting Demo
- ◆ Screening: Scene examples
- ◆ Assignment: Project #3 Short scene script due for workshop 6/16

June 11
- ◆ Directing Actors lecture
- ◆ Reading: Weston "Script Analysis" (on Blackboard)

WEEK 3

June 15
- ◆ **Project #2 Long Take critique**
- ◆ Documentary Film lecture

June 16
- ◆ Workshop scene scripts
- ◆ Assignment: Project #4 Short scene script due for workshop 6/22

June 17
- ◆ Work in groups and practice using lav mics
- ◆ Work in groups and practice film interviews

June 18
- ◆ Students present ideas for Project #4
- ◆ Post-Production Lecture (sound, color correction)
- ◆ Reading: Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 346-353

WEEK 4

June 22
- ◆ Pass In **Project #3 Short Scene Script**
- ◆ Workshop scripts/ outlines for Project #4
- ◆ Reading: Filmmaker's Handbook Ch. 16 "Sound Editing"

June 23
- ◆ Sync Sound demo, Work in groups and practice sync sound recording

June 24
- ◆ Group Shoot Day

June 25   ◆   Edit in class

WEEK 5

June 29   ◆   Rough cut presentation

June 30   ◆   Edit in class

July 1   ◆   Project #5 Short Film critique