FMST 246-20 EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKING
MON, TUES, WED, THURS 10:45AM–12:45PM
PROFESSOR: MELISSA BRUNO / MB1660@GEORGETOWN.EDU
OFFICE: NEW SOUTH, ROOM 156
OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY 1-3PM & BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of experimental film aesthetics, techniques, and practices. Through screenings of seminal films, discussions and hands-on production, students will create projects that utilize the formal qualities of the medium and invent new and unusual methods of expression. No previous film experience necessary.

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.

TEXTS:

1. Readings will be posted on Blackboard throughout the summer session.

REQUIRED PURCHASE:

External hard drive preferably formatted for Mac computers, USB 3.0 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. 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. Post-production editing can be done in the Nap Lab (Walsh Building) or Gelardin Media Center.

We will be using the following video & audio equipment:
-Canon 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 3 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. 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)

Project 2 Collage Film: Curate and edit a combination of found and original footage. (3 minutes or less length)

Project 3 Experimental Short Film: You will write, film and edit a short film (any experimental form). (5 minutes or less length)

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

July 11	◆ Introductions, camera demo
	◆ Screening: *La Jetée* (1962) dir. Chris Marker 28min
	◆ Assignment: Project #1 (Photo Film), due 7/20

July 12	◆ Present Project #1 ideas
	◆ Shot Composition Lecture
	◆ Work in groups & take photos exploring different camera angles, exposures.

| July 13 | ◆ FCP X demo |

| July 14 | ◆ Sound Recording exercise #1 |
| | ◆ Reading: Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 353-361 |

WEEK 2

| July 18 | ◆ Lighting Workshop |

| July 19 | ◆ Edit in class |

July 20	◆ **Project #1 Photo Film critique**
	◆ Collage Film & Examples
	◆ Assignment: Project #2 Collage Film, due 7/26

| July 21 | ◆ Ripping Footage / Editing |
| | ◆ Assignment: Project #3 Short Film, due 8/11 |

WEEK 3

July 25	◆ Sync-sound recording Demo
	◆ Reading: (Ch. 10) Filmmaker's Handbook (esp. pg. 420, 439-461)
	◆ Edit in class Project #2

July 26
- **Project #2 Collage Film**
- Present ideas for Project #3

July 27
- Screen Experimental Docs

July 28
- Workshop Project #3
- Performance Art Films

WEEK 4

Aug 1
- Making Gifs

Aug 2
- Film During class

Aug 3
- Post-Production Lecture (sound, color correction)

Aug 4
- Full during class

WEEK 5

Aug 8
- Edit in class

Aug 9
- Rough Cut Presentation

Aug 10
- Edit in class

Aug 11
- **Project #3 Short Experimental Film**