

**FMST 181-20 INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING**  
MON, TUES, WED, THURS 10:45AM–12:45PM PROFESSOR:  
MELISSA BRUNO / MB1660@GEORGETOWN.EDU OFFICE: NEW  
SOUTH, ROOM 156  
OFFICE HOURS: 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 Adobe Premiere 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.
2. Additional readings will be posted on Canvas 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 1TB size or larger 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 T5i, 60D, 80D (DSLR)
- Zoom & prime lenses
- 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. 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. (2-3 minutes in length)  
(30 points out of 100)

**Project 2 Long Take Sequence:** 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)  
(30 points out of 100)

**Project 3 Short Film:** You may work individually or in a group where you will write, film and edit a short film. (5 minutes or less length)  
(40 points out of 100)

**ATTENDANCE:**

More than two (2) unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. If you miss three (3) 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 2019 COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**

July 8                      Introductions, camera demo  
Screening: *La Jetée* (1962) dir. Chris Marker 28min  
Assignment: Project #1 (Photo Film), due 7/17  
Reading: (Ch. 9) Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 321-346

July 9                      Present Project #1 ideas  
Shot Composition Lecture  
Work in groups & take photos exploring different camera angles,  
exposures. July 10                      Premiere demo

July 11                      Sound Recording exercise #1  
Reading: Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 353-361

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**WEEK 2**

July 15                      Lighting Workshop

July 16                      Edit in class

July 17                      **Project #1 Photo Film critique**

## Long Take Lecture & Examples

Assignment: Project #2 Long Take Sequence, due 7/23  
Reading: Story Ch. 3 & Ch. 18 (on Canvas)

July 18 Long Take filming exercise  
Assignment: Project #3 Short Film, due 8/8

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**WEEK 3**

July 22 Screenwriting, Scene Construction  
Reading: (Ch. 10) Filmmaker's Handbook (esp. pg. 420, 439-461)  
Edit in class Project #2

July 23 **Project #2 Long Take critique**  
Present ideas for Project #3

July 24 Sync Sound demo

July 25 Workshop Project #3  
Reading: (Ch. 9) Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 346-353

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**WEEK 4**

July 29 Workshop Project #3

July 30 Practice using lav mics and filming interviews

July 31 Post-Production Lecture (sound, color correction)  
Reading: (Ch. 15) Filmmaker's Handbook "Sound Editing"

Aug 1 Group Shoot Day

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**WEEK 5**

Aug 5 Rough cut presentation

Aug 6 Edit in class

Aug 7 Edit in class

Aug 8 **Project #3 Short Film critique**