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.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

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 Gelardin Media Center.

We will be using the following video & audio equipment:
- Canon 80D (DSLR), c100 (camcorder)
- 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 4 projects. 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 Audio Story: This assignment will be done individually and you will be assessed on your ability to tell a story using only dialogue, sound effects and music. (3-5 minutes in length)  
(20 points out of 100)

Project 2 Long Take Sequence: In groups, 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. (2-3 minutes in length)  
(20 points out of 100)

Project 3 Scene Study with Shot List: In groups, write a short, fiction scene study 3-4 pages in length. You will also assemble a shot list of the necessary shots to film the scene.  
(20 points out of 100)

Project 4 Scene Recreation: In groups, you will select a scene from a film and recreate it shot for shot. (3-6 minutes in length)  
(40 points out of 100)

ATTENDANCE:

More than one (1) unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. If you miss two (2) classes, you will fail the class. If a serious medical or personal situation occurs affecting attendance, please discuss it with me.

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 2020 COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

July 6  • Introductions

July 7  • Screening: podcasts
          • Assignment: Project #1 Audio Story, due 7/15

July 8  • Sound Recording demo and practice
          • Reading: (Ch. 15) Filmmaker’s Handbook “Sound Editing”

July 9  • Premiere demo

WEEK 2

July 13 • Edit in class

July 14 • Shot composition & Production Lecture  
          • Edit in class

July 15 • **Project #1 Audio Story critique**
          • Long Take Lecture & Examples
          • Assignment: Project #2 Long Take Sequence, due 7/21

July 16 • Camera demo & filming exercise

WEEK 3

July 20 • Screenwriting lecture
- Reading: (Ch. 10) Filmmaker's Handbook (esp. pg. 420, 439-461)
- Assignment: Project #3 Scene Study, due 7/27

July 21
- **Project #2 Long Take critique**
- Assignment: Project #4 Short Film, due 8/6

July 22
- Sync Sound demo

July 23
- Post-Production Lecture (sound, color correction)
- Reading: (Ch. 9) Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 346-353

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**WEEK 4**

July 27
- **Project #3 Scene Study due**

July 28
- Lighting workshop (group 1)

July 29
- Lighting workshop (group 2)

July 30
- Group Shoot Day

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**WEEK 5**

Aug 3
- Rough cut presentation

Aug 4
- Edit in class

Aug 5
- Edit in class

Aug 6
- **Project #4 Short Film critique**