

FMST 181-20 INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING
MON, TUES, WED, THURS
PROFESSOR: MELISSA BRUNO / MB1660@GEORGETOWN.EDU
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 Premiere software. Visual storytelling concepts and creative post-production editing will be emphasized. 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 summer session.

SUGGESTED 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:

- Final Draft (free 18 week trial, screenwriting software) <https://www.finaldraft.com/offers/edu-trial-offer/>
- Celtx (online, free screenwriting software, limit 3 scripts per account) celtx.com
- Premiere (video editing software, Mac/ PC computers)
- Audacity (free audio software)
- Garage Band (free audio software, Mac computers)
- freesound.org (free sound effects, must create account)
- Soundstripe.com (royalty free music)

PROJECTS:

Course requirements include 4 projects. Emphasis is placed on your ability to visually tell a story. All projects for this course must be created by the student in the class. 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. Length: 3-5 minutes.

Project 2 Trailer: You will edit a film trailer for a fictional film and may use found footage, original footage or a combination of the two. Length: 1.5-2.5 minutes

Project 3 Scene Study: Write a script for a scene that takes place in a feature film. Your scripts should have two characters and be set in one location. Length: 4-5 pages.

Project 4 Photo Film: Create a film using still photos & audio. The audio can be a combination of narration, dialogue, sound effects and music. Length: 3-6 minutes.

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!

SUMMER 2021 COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

July 12

Introductions

Assignment: Project #1 (Audio Story)

Reading: (Ch. 11) [Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 353-361](#)

July 13

Listen: [Student audio story projects](#)

Homework: Email me your audio project ideas

July 14

Start recording audio stories

Reading: (Ch. 15) [Filmmaker's Handbook "Sound Editing"](#)

July 15

Watch: [Premiere Pro tutorial](#)

WEEK 2

July 19

Edit during class
Homework: Email me your rough cuts for feedback

July 20

Edit during class

July 21

Project #1 Presentations

Assignment: Project #2 (Trailer)

July 22

Watch: [Trailers & Student Trailers](#)

WEEK 3

July 26

Edit during class
Homework: Email me your rough cuts

July 27

Edit during class

July 28

Project #2 Presentations

Assignment: Project #3 (Scene Study)

Reading: [Story Ch. 3](#) & [Ch. 18](#)

July 29

Watch: [Screenwriting](#) & [Final Draft video](#)

Watch: [Scene Examples](#)

WEEK 4

Aug 2

Homework: Email me your script drafts
Assignment: Project #4 (Photo Film)

Aug 3

Watch: [Shot Composition video](#) & [Production video](#)

Reading: [\(Ch. 9\) Filmmaker's Handbook pg. 346-353](#)

Watch: [La Jetée by Chris Marker](#)

Aug 4

Project #3 Scene Study due

Watch: [Student photo films](#)

Aug 5

Watch: [Editing video](#)

WEEK 5

Aug 9

Edit during class

Aug 10

Edit during class

Homework: Email me your rough cuts

Aug 11

Edit during class

Aug 12

Project #4 Presentations