

FMST 181-20 INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 1:10-3:15PM

Professor: Melissa Bruno / mb1660@georgetown.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores introductory film production techniques and strategies. Students will practice video and audio recording techniques, scriptwriting and using non-linear editing 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 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 academic and personal obligations and plan accordingly. Late work will greatly affect your grade.

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

The Filmmaker's Handbook, 2013 Ed. Steven Ascher & Edward Pincus.

Additional readings may be posted on Canvas throughout the fall session.

SUGGESTED PURCHASE:

External hard drive preferably formatted for your computer 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 SOFTWARE:

You will be using the following equipment for your projects:

- Canon 80D (DSLR), Canon c100
- Zoom & prime lenses
- H4N Zoom Recorder (audio recorder)
- Sennheizer Shotgun Microphone & AT897 Shotgun Microphone
- Sony Wireless Lavs
- Boom Pole
- XLR cable
- Basic Tripod
- Shoulder Mount

Here is a list of applications and sites you can use for your projects:

- Final Draft (Links to an external site.) (free 18 week trial, screenwriting software) <https://www.finaldraft.com/offers/edu-trial-offer/> (Links to an external site.)
- Celtx (Links to an external site.) (online, free screenwriting software, limit 3 scripts per account)
- freesound.org (Links to an external site.) (free sound effects, must create account)
- Sound Effects (Links to an external site.)
- Soundstripe.com (Links to an external site.) (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: Record an audio story using a combination of dialogue, sound effects and music. Select one still image to use to provide visual context for the story's narrative. Length: 3-5 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

Project 2 Long Take Sequence: Film a long take sequence to tell a story- your choice in subject matter. Make sure to plan out and rehearse before filming. You may choose to use any type of audio but there should be no edits to the video footage. Length: 2-3 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

Project 3 Scene Script: 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. (25 points out of 100)

Project 4 Scene Recreation: Work in groups to film and edit a scene from a narrative film. You may also choose to film one of the scenes written for the script project. The script can be modified for filming purposes. Length: 3-5 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

WEEK 1

July 11

Introductions

Screening: Snap Judgement episode: "What Accent"

<https://soundcloud.com/snapjudgment/what-accent>

Snap Judgement episode: "The Bat Boy and the Pine Tar"

<https://soundcloud.com/snapjudgment/the-bat-boy-and-the-pine-tar>

Assignment: Project #1 Audio Story, due 7/19

July 12

Sound Recording Demo and Practice

Listen: Student Audio Projects (Links to an external site.)

Reading: (Ch. 11) Filmmaker's Handbook "Sound Editing"

(Ch. 11) Filmmaker's Handbook "Sound Editing"

July 13
Watch: Premiere Tutorial
Homework: Start Recording Project #1

July 14
Edit During Class
Email: Work in Progress

WEEK 2

July 18
Lecture: Shot Composition
Camera Demo & Filming Exercise

July 19
Project #1 Audio Story presentations
Assignment: Project #2 Long Take Sequence, due 7/27

July 20
Long Take Lecture, Student projects and "Thunder Road" (Links to an external site.)
(short film)

July 21
Work on Long Take Sequence

WEEK 3

July 25
Lecture: Screenwriting
Work on Long Take Sequence
Reading: (Ch. 10) Filmmaker's Handbook (esp. pg. 420, 439-461)
Assignment: Project #3 Scene Study, due 8/2

July 26
Sync Sound Demo

July 27
Project #2 Long Take presentations

July 28
Lecture: Editing
Email: Script Drafts

WEEK 4

Aug 1

Lighting Workshop

Assignment: Project #4 Film Scene Study, due 8/11

Aug 2

Project #3 Scene Study due

Aug 3

Watch: Post-Production Lectures on Color Correction and Sound

Aug 4

Group Shoot Day

WEEK 5

Aug 8

No Class

Aug 9

Screen Work in Progress

Aug 10

Edit During Class

Aug 11

Project #4 Scene Presentations