Course Number: Comm-4310_001
Course Title: Advanced Digital Filmmaking
Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Fall 2011
Time/Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. BH 222

Instructor: Edward R. Tyndall
Office: 327 Bay Hall
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Email: Edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu Phone: 361-825-2296

TEXT:

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
None

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
Video production for advanced students.

PRE/COREQUISITES:
Comm 3313 and 3315 or instructor permission

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the cycles of production by successfully producing and distributing a short documentary film.
- Analyze practical approaches to shooting and directing documentary film content through field production and classroom exercises.
- Illustrate a mastery of post-production workflows through the editing, sound design and color correction of a short documentary film.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE:
No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (w/documentation). No incompletes will be given for this course.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:
Students are expected to know and abide by the TAMU-CC Academic Honor Code. For all projects and exams each student must sign the following statement: “I have abided by the TAMU-CC Academic Honor Policy on this assignment or examination.”

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Strict attendance is required. There are no “excused” absences other than medical emergencies for which a physician’s care is required and that can be documented in
writing or validated by the University Health Center. Such documentation or validation must be at the student’s initiative. All documentation must be submitted within one week (seven days) after you return to class.

After the second (2nd) absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (3.33 points on a 100-point scale) for each absence. After the fifth (5th) unexcused absence, the student will be given a failing grade in the course. Tardiness or early departure from the class will be considered an absence unless the instructor has been informed and has approved, in writing, of mitigating circumstances.

**DROPPING A CLASS:**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING:**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.
GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

GRADING:
10% Pitch
30% Proposal
15% Rough Assembly
15% Fine Cut
30% Final Cut

GRADING SCALE:
100 – 90 = A
89.99 – 80 = B
79.99 – 70 = C
69.99 – 60 = D
59.99 – 0 = F

TOPICAL OUTLINE:
August 25th --- Review of Syllabus, Film Viewing and Discussion (Short Docs)
Assignment 1 --- Begin work on pitches. (14 days until pitches!!!!!)

August 30th --- Film Viewing and Discussion (Short Docs)
Reading Due --- Chapters 1-4 in Rabiger Text

September 1st --- Lecture/Documentary

September 6th --- Lecture/Documentary
Reading Due --- Chapters 5-6 Rabiger Text
September 8th --- Pitches Group 1
Due --- Pitches

September 13th --- Pitches Group 2
Reading Due --- Chapters 7-8 Rabiger Text
Assignment 1 --- Begin scheduling your shoot as soon as you are notified by e-mail which pitch your group will be turning into a film (Group 1 shoots September 29th - October 4th, Group 2 shoots October 6th – 11th, 16 days until first shoot!!!!!!)
Assignment 2 --- Begin work on proposals (16 days until proposals due!!!!)

September 15th --- Go Over Camera and Audio

September 20th --- Film Viewing and Discussion (Short Docs)
Reading Due --- Chapters 17-18 Rabiger Text

September 22nd --- Film Viewing and Discussion (Short Docs)
Deadline --- Shoot Scheduled/ Talent Locked In

September 27th --- Go Over Interview Lighting Setup
Reading Due --- Chapters 19-20 Rabiger Text

September 29th --- Group 1 Equipment Checkout
Due --- Proposals Due

October 4th --- Group 1 Equipment Turn In
Reading Due --- Chapters 13-14 Rabiger Text

October 6th --- Group 2 Equipment Checkout

October 11th --- Group 2 Equipment Turn In
Reading Due --- Chapters 15-16 Rabiger Text

October 13th --- Log and Capture/ Organize Browsers
Critical Task --- Bring Footage to Lab

October 18th --- Finish Log and Capture/ Organize Browsers
Due --- Bring Footage to Lab

October 20th --- Work on Rough Assembly

October 25th --- Work on Rough Assembly

October 27th --- Work on Rough Assembly
Due --- Rough Assembly on DVD by end of class
November 1st --- Assemble Fine Cut

November 3rd --- Assemble Fine Cut

November 8th --- Screen Fine Cut Group 1
Due --- DVD of Fine Cut

November 10th --- Screen Fine Cut Group 2

November 15th --- Edit for Picture Lock

November 17th --- Edit for Picture Lock

November 22nd --- Color Correction
Due --- Picture locked QuickTime file of film on DVD
Critical Task --- Handoff picture locked version of film as QuickTime file to composer

November 24th --- No Class/ Thanksgiving

November 29th --- Sound Design

December 1st --- Score
Due --- Music Cues from composer or other sources secured prior to class

December 6th --- Final Mix

Final Exam --- Screening of Finished Films

SUGGESTED FILM SCREENING LIST:
Nanook of the North, 1922, Robert Flaherty
Triumph of the Will, 1934, Leni Riefenstahl
Night and Fog, 1955, Alain Resnais
Fata Morgana, 1971, by Werner Herzog
Grey Gardens, 1975, Albert Maysles
Harlan County, USA, 1976, by Barbara Kopple
Gates of Heaven, 1978, Errol Morris
Ken Burns America: Brooklyn Bridge, 1981, Ken Burns
Vernon Florida, 1981, Errol Morris
Sherman’s March, 1986, Ross McElwee
The Thin Blue Line, 1988, Errol Morris
Roger and Me, 1989, Michael Moore
For All Mankind, 1989, Al Reinert
Baraka, 1992, by Ron Fricke
Brother’s Keeper, 1992, Joe Berlinger
Lessons of Darkness, 1995, Werner Herzog
Fast Cheap and Out of Control, 1997, Errol Morris
Dark Days, 2000, Mark Singer
Fist Person, The Complete TV Series, 2000, Errol Morris
Children Underground, 2001, by Edet Belzberg
Capturing the Friedmans, 2003, Andrew Jarecki
The Fog of War, 2003, by Errol Morris
The White Diamond, 2004, Werner Herzog
Born Into Brothels, 2004, Ross Kauffman
Super Size Me, 2004, Morgan Spurlock
Grizzly Man, 2005, Werner Herzog
The Devil and Daniel Johnston, 2005, Jeff Feuerzieg
Murderball, 2005, Henry Alex Rubin
God Grew Tired of Us, 2006, Christopher Dillon Quinn
The Bridge, 2006, Eric Steel
This American Life Season 1, 2007, G.J. Echternkamp
Helvetica, 2007, Gary Hustwit
What Would Jesus Buy?, 2007, Ron VanAklemade
Man on a Wire, 2008, James Marsh
This American Life Season 2, 2008, G.J. Echternkamp
Kamp Katrina, 2009, David Redmon

RELEVANT WEBSITES:
The Documentary Channel
IFP
http://www.ifp.org/
IMDB
http://www.imdb.com/
Withoutabox
https://www.withoutabox.com
The D- Word
http://www.d-word.com/
The International Documentary Association
http://www.documentary.org/