Course Number: Comm 3313.001
Course Title: Introduction to Video Production
Time/Location: Monday and Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., BH-205

Instructor: Bobby Lewis
Office:  
Office Hours: MW 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Email: bobby.lewis@tamucc.edu

TEXT:

Online subscription to *Videomaker Plus* (https://www.videomaker.com/user/register)

*The DSLR Cinematography Guide* by Ryan Koo (free download at http://nofilmschool.com/dslr/)

Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard throughout the semester. While these may not be listed on the course schedule, you will be responsible for reading and understanding this material before turning in projects and taking exams.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
A considerable amount of time outside of class is required for projects, screenings, and exercises.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
Funds are necessary to print and make copies for major projects.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
This course serves as an introduction to the fundamentals of image and sound acquisition. It is designed to give students basic competency in shot grammar and aesthetics. The course provides a strong theoretical and practical foundation for more complex production skills by exposing students to the basics of camera, lighting, sound and set operations. This course is a foundational counterpart to COMM 3315, Video Editing.

PREREQUISITES:
None

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Demonstrate competence in cinematography, lighting, and audio production techniques through the execution of a series of diverse media exercises.

Refine approaches to visual storytelling and dramatic structure through the production process.
Employ skills in producing, media project management, and critical analysis through team driven production projects and screenings.

Formulate an understanding of the media landscape and industry employment through readings, class discussions, and research.

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 incompetes will be given for this course.

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 (1.66 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:
Merely stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in being dropped from the class. 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.

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% Participation
20% Pop Quizzes
30% Project 1
40% Project 2

In-class participation will be used in determining your final grade. In order to do well on participation, you should come to class prepared to engage with the topics based upon your reading of the material.

Any form of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the course and possible further sanctions at the university level.

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

**There may be content and/or language in selected films that could offend some viewers.

**The course schedule and course content are subject to revision due to weather and other factors.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

September 4

Review of syllabus, Blackboard, introductions, and discussion of media landscape (i.e., jobs, function of this class, etc.)

- Assignment: Get Texts
- Assignment: Subscribe to Videomaker Plus
- Assignment: Read Chapters 1-2 (Shot By Shot: A Practical Guide To Filmmaking)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

September 9

Group assignments, industry employment, and equipment overview

- Assignment: Read Chapters 3-4 (Shot By Shot: A Practical Guide To Filmmaking)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

September 11

Introduction to cinematography and using a camera

- Assignment: Read Chapters 5-6 (Shot By Shot: A Practical Guide To Filmmaking)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

September 16

Telling stories with pictures (i.e., shot composition and depth of field)

- Assignment: Read Chapters 7-8 (Shot By Shot: A Practical Guide To Filmmaking)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

September 18

Static shots and movement within the frame

- Assignment: Read Chapters 9-10 (Shot By Shot: A Practical Guide To Filmmaking)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

September 23

Moving the frame (i.e., sliders, dollies, handheld, etc.) and cinéma-vérité

- Assignment: Read Chapters 11-12 (Shot By Shot: A Practical Guide To Filmmaking)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
September 25

HDSLR cinematography, lenses, and camera functions

- Assignment: Read Chapters 1-5 (*The DSLR Cinematography Guide* )
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

September 30

HDSLR cinematography (cont.), slow motion, DIY, accessories, and web culture

- Assignment: Read Chapters 6-12 (*The DSLR Cinematography Guide* )
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 2

Documentary forms, the interview, and getting coverage

- Assignment: Read Chapters 13-22 (*The DSLR Cinematography Guide* )
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 7

Narrative filmmaking and set operations

- Assignment: Read Chapters 23-30 (*The DSLR Cinematography Guide* )
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 9

Writing for the camera, software options, and film excerpts

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 14

Pre-production planning (i.e., budgeting, scheduling, etc.), location scouting, and software tutorials

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 16

Critical screening – feature film (TBD)

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
October 21

Critical screening (cont.), discussion, and Project 1 introduced

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Begin working on Project 1 (due 11/4 at beginning of class)

October 23

Introduction to audio production, critical listening, and film excerpts

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 28

Post-production sound (i.e., sound design, ADR, mixing, software options), and film excerpts

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 30

Microphone placement and recording audio indoors

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Reminder: Project 1 due next week (11/4) at the beginning of class

November 4

***Project 1 due today***

Microphone placement, recording audio outdoors, and Project 2 lottery

- Assignment: Begin working on Project 2 (due 12/18 during final exams)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

November 6

Directing from behind the microphone and “reality fictions”

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

November 11

Strategies, troubleshooting, and dealing with problematic audio

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
November 13

Introduction to lighting (i.e., safety, equipment, terminology, etc.)

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

*** Project 2 Status Update***

November 18

Working with natural light (indoor and outdoor)

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

November 20

Lighting the interview (indoors)

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

*** Project 2 Status Update***

November 25

Low key lighting and the green screen

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

November 27

Expressionist lighting techniques, shadows, and the surreal

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

*** Project 2 Status Update***

December 2

Lighting for time-lapse and stop-frame photography

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
December 4

In depth pre-production meeting/presentation for Project 2

- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

December 9

Project 2 meeting/presentation (cont.), course recap, and team evaluations

- Reminder: Project 2 due on 12/18 during final exams (1:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)

December 18

***Project 2 due today: 1:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.***