Course Number: Comm 4390.002
Course Title: Topics in Communication
Time/Location: Tuesday 4:20 p.m. – 6:50 p.m., BH-128

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:

Subscription to Hulu Plus (www.hulu.com)

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

The following is suggested, but not required:


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

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Advanced techniques in lighting, cinematography, and recording.

PREREQUISITES:
COMM 3313: Introduction to Video Production

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Demonstrate advanced skills in cinematography, lighting, and audio production techniques at the scene level through the execution of a series of diverse media exercises.
Illustrate advanced methods of visual storytelling and dramatic structure at the scene level through the production process.

Demonstrate advanced skills in producing, media project management, and critical analysis through team driven production projects and screenings.

Formulate a comprehensive 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 incompletes will be given for this course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
For those interested in working in the film industry, being present (and on time) is paramount to your reputation and career. The nature of this course caters to several micro-productions that only occur during class-time and require your complete dedication. As such, there are no opportunities to reschedule or make-up a missed production. Attendance is mandatory, although everyone gets one free unexcused absence. You do not need to notify the instructor if you miss class, but it is up to you to coordinate the details of the absence with your crew. 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 (i.e., family tragedy, medical emergency, etc.).

*Those with perfect attendance will receive bonus points applied to their final grade.

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.tamu.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:
20% Pop Quizzes
80% Micro Productions

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 10

Review of syllabus, Blackboard, introductions, discussion of media landscape (i.e., jobs, function of this class, etc.), group assignments, industry employment, and equipment overview

- Assignment: Get Texts
- Assignment: Subscribe to Hulu Plus
- Assignment: Read pages 1-33 (Cinematography: Theory and Practice)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for Micro Production (MP) #1 – due next week

September 17

- Due: MP #1 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #1
- Assignment: Read pages 37-66 (Cinematography: Theory and Practice)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #2 – due next week

September 24

- Due: MP #2 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #2
- Assignment: Read pages 67-102 (Cinematography: Theory and Practice)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #3 – due next week

October 1

- Due: MP #3 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #3
- Assignment: Read pages 103-126 (Cinematography: Theory and Practice)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #4 – due next week

October 8

- Due: MP #4 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #4
- Assignment: Read pages 129-164 (Cinematography: Theory and Practice)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
October 15

Critical screenings and critiques (MP #1-4)

- Assignment: Read pages 165-180 (*Cinematography: Theory and Practice*)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises

October 22

Critical screenings (TBD) and critiques

- Assignment: Read pages 181-226 (*Cinematography: Theory and Practice*)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #5 – due next week

October 29

- Due: MP #5 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #5
- Assignment: Read pages 227-268 (*Cinematography: Theory and Practice*)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #6 – due next week

November 5

- Due: MP #6 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #6
- Assignment: Read pages 269-305 (*Cinematography: Theory and Practice*)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #7 – due next week

November 12

- Due: MP #7 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #7
- Assignment: Read pages 307-340 (*Cinematography: Theory and Practice*)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #8 – due next week

November 19

- Due: MP #8 Pre-production materials
- Due: Execute MP #8
- Assignment: Read Chapters 1-15 (*The DSLR Cinematography Guide*)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
November 26

Critical screenings and critiques (MP #5-8)
- Assignment: Read Chapters 16-30 (The DSLR Cinematography Guide)
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #9 – due next week

December 3

- **Due:** MP #9 Pre-production materials
- **Due:** Execute MP #9
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #10 – due next week

December 10

- **Due:** MP #10 Pre-production materials
- **Due:** Execute MP #10
- Assignment: Blackboard Exercises
- Assignment: Receive prompt for MP #11 – due next week (during final exams)
- Assignment: Receive crew evaluation forms – due next week (during final exams)

December 17

Course recap, critical screenings (TBD), and critiques

- **Due:** MP #11 Pre-production materials
- **Due:** Execute MP #11
- **Due:** Crew evaluations