Continuous Improvement

**Course Number:** Comm-4312_001  
**Course Title:** Advanced Production: Narrative  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Semester:** Spring 2016  
**Time/Location:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. BH 235

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**Instructor:** Edward R. Tyndall  
**Office:** 223B Bay Hall  
**Office Hours:** Tues and Thurs 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. and Wed 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
**Email:** edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu  
**Phone:** 361-825-2296

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**TEXT:**  

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**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**  
If approached properly, this course will be one of the most demanding and time-consuming courses you take during your time at TAMU-CC. Be prepared for this.

Work in the Editing Lab OUTSIDE of scheduled class time is required to be successful in this course.

You MUST be able to attend the ONE scheduled weekend shoot to be successful in this course.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**  
One SanDisk 16GB SD Class 10 Ultra Card (per shooting group)  
Funds to submit to one film festival (approximately $35)  
Funds to print a 24x36 poster (approximately $35)  
1 TB (or greater) external hard drive with thunderbolt port and cable (recommended, not required)

**CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:**  
Advanced techniques in the creation of narrative media content with a focus on scripting, production, and distribution of a short narrative film.
PRE/COREQUISITES:
Comm 3313, 3315 and 3316

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the cycles of production by successfully writing, producing and distributing a short narrative film.
- Analyze practical approaches to shooting and directing narrative 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 narrative 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 INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of F.

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.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
GRADING:
5% Script Pitch
15% Script Draft
5% Green Lit Script Final Draft
20% Individual Production Book
10% Group Production Book
10% Shoot Participation
10% Small Group Criticism
25% Final Cut & Deliverables

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

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

January 21 --- Review of Syllabus
Assignment --- Begin Work on Pitches
Assignment --- Screen FIVE Short Films on Reserve in Library
Assignment --- Get Textbooks
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 1-2 Running the Show

January 26 --- In Class Short Film Screenings/ Discussion

January 28 --- In Class Short Film Screenings/ Discussion
Assignment --- Finish Pitches

February 2 --- Pitches Group 1
Due --- Pitches
Reading Due --- Chapters 1-2 Running the Show
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 3-4 Running the Show

February 4 --- Pitches Group 2
Assignment --- Finish First Drafts Script

February 9 --- First Draft Workshop
Due --- First Draft Script
February 11 --- First Draft Workshop
Reading Due --- Chapters 3-4 Running the Show
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 1-14 Film Directing Fundamentals

February 16 -- First Draft Workshop

February 18 --- First Draft Workshop

February 23 --- Small Group Workshop Green Lit Scripts
Critical Task --- Green Lit Scripts Announced
Critical Task --- Production Teams Formed

February 25 --- Small Group Workshop Green Lit Scripts
Reading Due --- Read Chapters 1-14 Film Directing Fundamentals
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 15-19 Film Directing Fundamentals
Assignment --- Finish Final Drafts Green Lit Scripts

March 1 --- Work Individual Production Books
Due --- Final Drafts Green Lit Scripts

March 3 --- Work Individual Production Books
Assignment --- Finish Individual Production Books

March 8 --- Small Group Pre-production
Due --- Individual Production Books
Assignment --- Start Group Production Books, Location Scouts, Casting
Reading Due --- Chapters 15-19 Film Directing Fundamentals

March 10 --- Small Group Pre-production

March 15 --- No Class; Spring Break!

March 17 --- No Class; Spring Break!

March 22 --- Small Group Pre-Production

March 24 --- Small Group Pre-Production
Critical Task – Locations Secure, Casting Complete
Assignment --- Finish Group Production Books, Conduct Tech Scouts

March 29 --- Small Group Pre-Production
Critical Task – Rehearsals

March 31 --- Small Group Pre-Production
Critical Task – Rehearsals
April 5 --- Small Group Pre-Production
Due --- Group Production Books
Critical Task – Tech Scouts Complete

April 7 --- Gear Draw/Shoot

April 12--- Gear Return

April 14 --- Begin Editing

April 19 --- Continue Editing
Assignment --- Edit for Picture Lock
Assignment --- Complete Small Group Criticism #1 Notes

April 21 --- Start Sound Design
Critical Task – Picture Lock Complete
Assignment --- Finish Sound Design
Due --- Notes Small Group Criticism #1

April 26 --- Start Score/ Final Mix
Critical Task – Sound Design Complete
Assignment --- Complete Small Group Criticism #2 Notes

April 28 --- Continue Score/ Final Mix
Assignment --- Finish Score/Final Mix
Due --- Notes Small Group Criticism #2

May 3 --- Start Color Correction
Critical Task – Score/Final Mix Complete
Assignment --- Finish Final Cut!!!!!
Assignment --- Complete Deliverables (Poster, Proof of Facebook Page, Submission to one or more film festivals [films to be sent after final screening])

Final Exam --- Screening of Finished Films
Due --- H.264 of finished film for each cut plus deliverables (1 Poster per group, 1 Proof of Facebook Page per group, Submission to 5 or more film festivals per group)

The professor will select the edit for each group that will go on to festival submission and student showcase screening.
Things To Get Involved In!

Like the Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/tamucc.mediacreation/

South Texas Cinémathèque Screening Series
South Texas Cinémathèque, a collaborative screening series run by The Department of Communication and Media and the Art Museum of South Texas, is designed to broaden Media students’ exposure to independent film by bringing internationally recognized filmmakers to Corpus Christi, Texas for discussions, screenings and lectures. South Texas Cinémathèque’s past guests are recipients of some of the most prestigious awards given in independent film. The series gives students rare opportunities to interact with internationally recognized film artists while broadening their understanding of the filmmaking process.

Student Showcase
Each year the Production Track Student Showcase offers students an opportunity to screen their coursework to live audiences in a theatrical environment. Selective inclusion in the showcase provides students with networking opportunities and serves as a portfolio-building event.

Media Professional Program
The Media Professional Program gives Production Track Students diverse learning opportunities while working with active industry professionals on faculty led film projects. Students train with production experts in intensive shooting environments while serving in key crew positions such as Assistant Camera Operator, Production Sound Mixer, Script Supervisor, Assistant Director, Production Assistant and more.

Production Club Workshops
The Production Club affords Advanced Students an opportunity to meet regularly under the supervision of Media Production Faculty to practice advanced production techniques as a supplement to in-class learning.

Production Club Screenings
Informal screenings hosted regular throughout the semester to expose Media Production Students to innovative cinema and to help foster a culture of creativity, collaboration and inquiry within the Media Production program.

Relevant Websites

Indiewire
http://www.indiewire.com
IMDB
http://www.imdb.com

IFP
http://www.ifp.org

Filmmaker Magazine
http://filmmakermagazine.com

Withoutabox
https://www.withoutabox.com

Film Freeway
https://filmfreeway.com

Vimeo
https://vimeo.com