MEDIA 3316-001: Intermediate Production: Narrative

Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Fall 2017
Time/Location: Monday | 4:20pm – 6:50pm | 3 Credit Hours | Room 235 | Bay Hall

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Course Description
This course will explore advanced techniques in lighting, cinematography and recording of media production. This course will prepare you to move on to MEDIA4310: Advanced Production: Documentary and/or MEDIA4312: Advanced Production: Narrative This course will be hard! Media production is a complicated endeavor, and will require a mix of academic and artistic work on the part of each student. The course work will build off of the foundation set in Production I, and further your skills in many aspects of film/tv production. You will be required to spend a significant amount of time working outside of our normal class meeting time to succeed in this course. If you are not committed to putting in this level of work, I would advise you not to take this course. Where as MEDIA3313: Production I focused on non-fiction filmmaking, this semester we will explore the world of narrative fiction filmmaking.

Instead of just capturing the world around us, how can we create a new reality using the tools of cinema? In the world of filmmaking, you are only limited by your own creativity. So, dream big, and we will work, as a creative team, to figure out ways to achieve it! This class, like most film productions, will require a substantial amount of collaboration. Collaboration can be beautiful, but it can also be messy. Check your attitudes at the door. So long as we share the same common goal of producing high quality films, we will succeed.

Learning Objectives
Students participating fully in this class will...
- solidify and deepen their knowledge of film/video gear and equipment.
- engage in the pre-production/production/post-production processes of fiction filmmaking.
- produce 5 short films that can be added to their portfolios.
- practice working collaboratively to achieve greater success on film productions. Course

Materials -- Each student is required to purchase the following class materials:
- A digital camera (a DSLR, point-and-shoot, or even a cellphone camera)
- A 256gb (or larger) external hard drive (Thunderbolt interface strongly advised). While not required, the following materials are recommended to aid students in completing work for this class:
• A Netflix and/or Hulu Plus membership.
• A subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud software.

Course Requirements
Attendance/Punctuality Class starts promptly at the indicated time. Coming to class late, even by just a few minutes, will negatively impact your final grade. Unexcused absences are unacceptable, and will result in an automatic reduction in your final grade by 5%. In the event that you have a health or family emergency that will require you to miss class, you must notify me as early as possible, and you may be required to do additional work to makeup for missed class time. Missing class for any other reason does not count as an excused absence. If you have 3 or more absences this semester, you will fail this course.

Active Class Participation
Your full and undivided attention is required during class meeting times. You are expected to contribute in all phases of the class: lectures, demos, in-class shoots, critique sessions, etc. Active class participation can take many forms, but basic characteristics include: initiative, involvement, collaborativeness, intellectual growth and impact on the class by the student. Participation in online/email discussions will also factor into this grade. We will chat about your individual progress during one-on-one meetings throughout the semester, but I encourage you to check in with me at any time if you have questions about your participation level.

Production Assignments
This semester, you will be required to complete five production assignments. Each assignment is designed to put the theories, concepts and skills you learn in class in to practice. Projects will be assessed on both technical and creative merits.

Production Assignment #1: Experimental Self-Portrait This project invites you to practice experimental film production techniques. I want you to make an unconventional film that introduces yourself to me and the rest of the class. There is no template for what you will do here, just make something that you've never made before. Project must be 1 minute or shorter, and will be due in Class #3. Successful projects will have a clearly visible or articulated experimentation with film form.

Production Assignment #2: Silent Film This project will exercise your fluency in visual storytelling. Working in small groups, you will take a simple, silent, original script and film it, adhering to common film language conventions. Choose your script carefully: Filmmaking is often about identifying the resources you have, and working within your limitations, so plan for something that you can film and edit in a short amount of time for this project. Final, edited cuts of this project are due in Class #5.

Production Assignment #3: Music Video For this project, you will produce a music video! You may use any music from any source of your choosing. The big challenge: you must shoot the entire music video, or at least appear to shoot it, in one, continuous take. No cuts should disrupt
the spatial and temporal continuity. You must use the entire song (no fading out in the middle). I
strongly suggest choosing a song of a manageable length (under 4 minutes). No additional
sounds, outside of the song may be incorporated. This project will be filmed OUTSIDE of class
time between class meetings #8 and #10. We will work together as a group to determine
equipment needs, and availability for that week. Final projects are due in Class #10.

Production Assignment #4: Practice Scene Studies This project serves as preparation for
Production Assignment #5. I will give the class two short scripts, and for two consecutive weeks,
you will work as a team to shoot them. We will divvy up crew roles and responsibilities for each
shoot. Each student will be responsible for editing together versions of BOTH scenes that are
shot. Both cuts are due in Class #13.

Production Assignment #5: Final Production The class will work as one team to write, produce
and shoot a single short film. The concept and scope of the project will be determined by the
collective interests of the students, though I reserve the right to shape the final project in order
to best serve class needs. Principle photography for this project will take place the weekend of
Friday, November 20th - Sunday, November 22nd. Students must make themselves
available these dates for the shoot. No exceptions. Each student will be responsible for
creating their own cut of the film. We will debate the strongest elements of each student's edited
version, and compile them all to create a final, completed film.

Grading -- Your final grade for this class will be determined as follows:

Attendance & Punctuality 25%
Active Class Participation 20%
Production Assignment #1: Experimental Self-Portrait 10%
Production Assignment #2: Silent Film 10%
Production Assignment #3: Music Video 10%
Production Assignment #4: Practice Scene Shoots 10%
Production Assignment #5: Final Production 15%

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures available at
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal
_procedure.pdf. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please
visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For
assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Course Calendar

Class #1 Introductions / Review Syllabus / Experimental Film / Canon 60D Tech HW: Production Work on Assignment #1 Reading: Chapter 1 - Introduction to Digital and Film Systems Wednesday,

Class #2 Reading Review & Quiz / Fictional Narrative Filmmaking / Visual Storytelling Language HW: Production Work on Assignment #1 Reading: Chapter 5 - The Video Image

Class #3 Reading Review & Quiz / Review Production Assignment #1 / Scripting / Storyboarding HW: Write scripts/visual plan for Production Assignment #2 Reading: Chapter 9 - Shooting the Movie

Class #4 Reading Review & Quiz / Production Assignment #2 - Silent Films HW: Edit Production Assignment #2 Reading: Chapter 17 - Producing and Distributing the Movie Wednesday,

Class #5 Reading Review & Quiz / Review Production Assignment #2 / Producing 101 / Movie Magic Software HW: Create mock budgets and schedules Reading: Chapter 8 - Color and Filters

Class #6 Reading Review & Quiz / Advanced Camera & Lighting Techniques / Music Videos HW: Write scripts, storyboard and shot list for Production Assignment #3

Class #7 Review & Critique Scripts, and shooting plans for Production Assignment #3 HW: Revise shooting plans and schedule for Production Assignment #3

Class #8 Check out Gear for Music Videos HW: Shoot Music Videos, Prepare Final Project pitches Reading: Chapter 13 - Picture and Dialogue Editing

Class #9 Reading Review & Quiz / Pitches for Final Projects / Short Film Analysis HW: Edit Music Videos Reading: Chapter 15 - Sound Editing and Mixing

Class #10 Reading Review & Quiz / Review Music Videos / Short Film Analysis HW: Pre-Production Production Assignment #4

Class #11 Practice Scene Shoot #1 (w/o dialogue) HW: Pre-Production Production Assignment #4

Class #12 Practice Scene Shoot #2 (w/ dialogue) HW: Edit Practice Production Assignment #4 / Pre-Production for Final Production
Class #13 Review Practice Scene Shoots / Prep for Final Production Shoot HW: Editing for Final Projects, Class Shoot!

Class #14 View Rough Cut of Final Production / Distribution Strategies HW: Editing for Final Projects

Final Project Critique

Additional Notes
- Bring a notebook and pen to every class!
- It is essential that you are familiar with the Adobe Premiere editing software to complete course assignments. It is the responsibility of each student to get up-to-speed on the software. Please connect with me immediately if you feel that you need extra guidance in this.
- I’m planning to use Facebook as the platform to organize the classes online component. If you all would prefer to use Blackboard for this, I am open to switching. We will discuss in class the first class meeting. Be sure to ‘like’ the Media Production at TAMU-CC Facebook page!
- Feel free to call/email/message me any time. I’ve given you options by which to contact me, and I expect you to use them as needed.
- My classroom technology policy is always evolving… I will use my cell phone throughout the semester to check the time and keep us on schedule. You are allowed to do the same. Anything more involved that that (writing text messages or emails, browsing the internet) constitutes an inappropriate use of technology, and will not be tolerated. First violation, you will get a warning. Second violation, you will be dismissed from that class meeting.
- You must create original work for all assignments this semester. If you wish to combine production work for this class with an assignment from another class, you must notify me so that appropriate expectations can be set by all parties. These are academic integrity issues, and if violated, will be reported to the Department Chair for review.
- Attendance to our Final Exam meeting time is mandatory. Make all travel plans after the exam time.
- Work produced in this class will be eligible for selection into the TAMUCC Media Production Track Student Showcase in the spring semester. Selective inclusion in the showcase provides students with networking opportunities and serves as a portfolio-building event.
- The 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. Keep your eyes peeled for the date, and make every effort to attend. You won’t regret it!
- Bring this syllabus to class each week. It is subject to change due to contingencies.

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. Statement of Civility -- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

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.

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 failing grade for the semester. Classroom 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.