When Given a Chance, Deliver Excellence and Never Quit.
– Robert Rodriguez

As Part of the Media Arts BA, TAMUCC’s Media Production Emphasis prepares students for production-focused jobs in film, television and new media. Students develop expertise in shooting, editing and visual storytelling using state of the art equipment while working with faculty who are active visual artists in their field.

Course Number: Comm-4312_001
Course Title: Advanced Production: Narrative
Credit Hours: 3
Semester: Spring 2018
Time/Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. BH 235

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

TEXT:

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:
MEDA 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.

STATEMENT ON INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE:
The spirit of inclusivity, diversity and tolerance is central to the ethos of the Media Production emphasis. No student will be denied positions of leadership based on race, gender, sexual orientation or intellectual perspective. Students will be chosen for positions of leadership on media projects based on an observed track record of excellence with consideration given to their expressed areas of interest.

As a fine arts emphasis, freedom of expression is a central tenant of our program. Therefore, no idea constructively advanced within the dictated structure of the classroom will be suppressed. All forms of creative expression, formally advanced, will be subject to the rigorous criticism central to the foundations of the fine arts tradition.

As an emphasis grounded in exploring the human condition, difficult, challenging and controversial subject matter will be explored in the classroom. Our work as artists and critical thinkers challenges us to face such difficult material with the greatest respect for divergent perspectives and to judge the merits of such subject matter through rational and civil discourse. The Media Production emphasis is committed to intellectual freedom and an environment of engagement that allows all students to contribute to this discourse in a constructive environment that fosters our evolution as media artists and critical thinkers.

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 an 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) unexcused absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by 5 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.

Failure to attend class during the screening of your work will result in a zero on that assignment. This includes the final exam.

**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 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:
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. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. 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.

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 16th --- Review of Syllabus
Assignment --- Begin Work on Pitches
Assignment --- Screen FIVE Short Films Online
Assignment --- Get Textbooks
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 1-2 Running the Show

January 18th --- In Class Short Film Screenings/ Discussion/Meet Design Students

January 23rd --- Individual Film Screenings/Work on Pitches (development week)

January 25th --- Individual Film Screenings/Work on Pitches (development week)
Assignment --- Finish Pitches

January 30th --- Pitches Group 1
Due --- Pitches
Reading Due --- Chapters 1-2 Running the Show
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 3-4 Running the Show

February 1st --- Pitches Group 2
Assignment --- Finish First Drafts Script

February 6th --- First Draft Workshop
Due --- First Draft Script

February 8th --- First Draft Workshop
Reading Due --- Chapters 3-4 Running the Show
Reading Assignment --- Read Chapters 1-14 Film Directing Fundamentals

February 13th --- First Draft Workshop

February 15th --- First Draft Workshop

February 20th --- Small Group Workshop Green Lit Scripts/ Design Students
Critical Task --- Green Lit Scripts Announced
Critical Task --- Production Teams Formed
February 22nd --- 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

February 27th --- Work Individual Production Books
Due --- Final Drafts Green Lit Scripts

March 1st --- Work Individual Production Books
Assignment --- Finish Individual Production Books

March 6th --- 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 8th --- Small Group Pre-production

March 13th --- No Class; Spring Break!

March 15th --- No Class; Spring Break!

March 20th --- Small Group Pre-Production

March 22nd --- Small Group Pre-Production
Critical Task – Locations Secure, Casting Complete
Assignment --- Finish Group Production Books, Conduct Tech Scouts

March 27th --- Small Group Pre-Production

March 29th --- Small Group Pre-Production

April 3rd --- Small Group Pre-Production
Critical Task – Rehearsals
Critical Task – Tech Scouts Complete

April 5th --- Gear Draw/Shoot
Due --- Group Production Books

April 10th --- Gear Return/ Begin Editing

April 12th --- Continue Editing

April 17th --- Continue Editing
Assignment --- Complete Small Group Criticism #1 Notes
April 19th --- Start Sound Design
Critical Task – Picture Lock Complete
Assignment --- Finish Sound Design
Due --- Notes Small Group Criticism #1

April 24th --- Start Score/ Final Mix
Critical Task – Sound Design Complete
Assignment --- Complete Small Group Criticism #2 Notes

April 26th --- Continue Score/ Final Mix
Assignment --- Finish Score/Final Mix
Due --- Notes Small Group Criticism #2

May 1st --- 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.mediaproduction/

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.

Annual Portfolio Reviews
Intensive annual portfolio reviews are held each spring as part of a formal mentorship initiative overseen by Media Production Faculty. Spanning several days, these reviews allow students to meet one on one with faculty to discuss creative work, career objectives, matriculation, and involvement in other Media Production program initiatives.
MEDIA PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT AND FILE POLICIES

EQUIPMENT RETURN:
Equipment must be turned in organized to the same standards as when you received it. For every incident of disorganized gear you will lose 5 points (on a 100 point scale) off the assignment for which the gear was drawn.

EXPORT STANDARDS:
All projects turned in must be shot at a 24P frame rate and exported as an H.264 HD 1080P File.

UPLOAD STANDARDS AND FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS
Files should be named as follows:
Use YOUR last name and the project name. Smith_Stills Project or Cantu_Sound Project