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.

MEDIA 3316-001: Intermediate Production: Narrative

Credit Hours: 3
Semester: Fall 2018
Time/Location: Monday | 5:00pm – 7:30pm | 3 Credit Hours | Room 235 | Bay Hall
Instructor: Nicholas Manley
Office: 222c Bay Hall
Office Hours: Monday 11am-1pm / Wednesday 11-1pm
Email: nicholas.manley@tamucc.edu
Office Phone: 361.825.2502

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore 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 previous classes, and further your skills in many aspects of film 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.

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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand and apply basic production skills in the creation of digital media content.
- Practice the development of artistic voice in audiovisual storytelling.
- Demonstrate the synthesis of technical skills and artistic voice through the creation of intermediate level media projects.
MATERIALS
Each student is required to purchase the following class materials:

- An external hard drive (Thunderbolt interface strongly advised).

While not required, the following materials are recommended to aid students in completing work for this class:

- Your Own Class 10 SD Card
- 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, attention, collaboration, 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 into 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 between 60 - 90 sec, and will be due in Class #3. Successful projects will have a clearly visible or articulated experimentation with stylistic 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 #5 and #7. We will work together as a group to determine equipment needs, and availability for that week. Final projects are due in Class #8.

Production Assignment #4 - Practice Scene
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 2 short films. 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. **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 10%
- Active Class Participation 20%
- Production Assignment #1: Experimental Self-Portrait 10%
- Production Assignment #2: Silent Film 10%
Production Assignment #3: Music Video 20%
Production Assignment #4: Practice Scene Shoots 10%
Production Assignment #5: Final Production 20%

Course Calendar

Week 1: Intro to course, review syllabus, Camera refresher. Short Screening.
Week 2: Mechanics of shooting a scene. Lighting Workshop
Week 3: Screen Profile Film
Week 4: Prepping Locations and Blocking actors. Gear Checkout
Week 5: Silent Film
Week 6: Music Video Pitches, Screening Music Videos / Discuss Artform / Establish Crews.
Week 7: Class Check-in and Gear Check Out
Week 8: Music Video Screening
Week 9: Pitches for Final Project. Location Scouting for Practice Scene
Week 10: Shoot Practice Scene in Class
Week 11: Screen Practice Scene
Week 13: Editing and feedback on rushes and rough cuts.
Final Exam Period: Screening of Final Projects

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 tenet 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.

Upon 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). Upon the third (3rd) 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 class be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop 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. November 9th, 2018, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
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 Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_ap
peals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK IN MEDIA PRODUCTION COURSES:
The Media Production Program uses a formal in-person criticism model for all feedback and evaluation. This process is born out of the fine arts tradition and allows students to learn by viewing other approaches to projects in addition to their own, hear multiple perspectives during criticism, and participate in the critical analysis of peer work. Each student’s work will be screened in a group setting and feedback will be offered by the Professor and by peers. This formal critique represents the feedback students will receive on projects. Students are free to schedule a time during office hours to view projects again with the professor if they feel further discussion is needed. Final grade evaluation will be determined by the Professor on creative projects using the standard Media Production Rubric.

TECHNOLOGY
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.

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 Cinematheque’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.

**Media Production Screening Series**
Informal screenings hosted regularly 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.

**Media Production Writers’ Room**
A student led and faculty supervised screenwriting workshop designed to produce extracurricular screenplays for short film and to improve visual storytelling skills for narrative film. Each semester the workshop will culminate in a table reading event in collaboration with the Department of Theatre and Dance.

**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.

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**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