



MMJ 497 Special Topic: Film Production Elements, Spring 2019

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COURSE INFORMATION

Text: *Filmmaking*, Jason J. Tomaric, Focal Press

Course Description:

Student Learning Outcomes--Through readings, instruction, practice, and projects, students will:

1. Gain knowledge and skills in contemporary video technology as it relates to filmmaking and operation of cameras, audio, lighting and other film style production equipment;
2. Achieve high level of appreciation for the aesthetics of sound and image production;
3. Achieve a high level of literacy in the "language" of film and video, including shot composition, continuity editing and sound design;
4. Develop or improve skills in digital nonlinear postproduction using Adobe Premiere/Final Cut Pro, Adobe Audition/ Pro Tools and After Effects; and
5. Gain a greater understanding of narrative and non-narrative visual productions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Projects:

#1 – Writing or script acquisition • Each graduate student will create the narrative content of a short film project (9:00 - 15:00) OR each undergraduate student will acquire permission to an already-written script that can be adapted by the student and used for class production purposes. Acquired scripts need modification, so written permission to do so must be secured by the student. This script must allow for simple or easily available set locations. Due as a shooting script 2/6.

#2 – Field Project 1 • Involves work as equal partner crew members for on-location short film, selected from Project 1 script submissions. Principle photography must be completed by 3/6.

#3 – Editing Project 1 -- work as equal partner editors for the on-location short film. Due 3/27.

#4 – Narrative Film Project • Students act as shooters, producers and editors, but will use others as talent. Script due electronically by 4/11. Production due by 10 am 5/8.

Exams: There will be written mid-term and final exams, consisting of short answer questions focusing on film production terminology, and for graduate students, also answering several essay questions related to content covered to that point, based on content from textbook, assigned reading and in-class discussions.

Grade evaluation

Mid term and Final Exam	200 points each
Script work.....	100 points
Film shooting work and evaluation of shooting.....	100 points
Film editing work and evaluation of editing.....	100 points
Peer Reviews/Participation.....	100 points
Final project.....	100 points

Points required for:

"A"— 810+ "B"—720-809 "C"— 630-719 "D"— 540-629

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Faculty / Student Commitment:

- Students should also be in class on time, committed to benefiting from the class time by being prepared, arriving on time, and staying involved the full class time.
- If at any time you are doing your part to do well in this course, but are having difficulty, please arrange a time and speak with me in my office. I cannot discuss your course status, grades or other information about your work or activities in the course just before class, during class time (including breaks), or immediately after class—nor can I discuss or respond to any of these issues via phone or e-mail.
- The keys to success in this class: Commit to learning the material we cover, read the required reading, take good notes in class and while reading, study the material as we go through it, ask questions in class about things you do not understand, and do the assigned work and turn it in on time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Attendance: Class begins at the scheduled starting time. Arriving late or leaving at any time, even if you return, will result in being marked absent. There are no excused or unexcused absences. Excuse reports are not required for this class except when the absence is school-related. If you have an emergency reason to arrive late or leave early you should discuss this with the instructor in advance. Note: Very occasionally, an emergency break might be needed. If this occurs, feel free to leave without penalty, and simply remind me to mark it at the end of that class. If you do not remind me that day, it would remain marked as an absence. You should expect to have no more than one of these per semester **Students who miss more than three weeks of classes may fail automatically or be dropped from the course.**

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

13.99.99.R0.01 Class Attendance – “Students are responsible for learning about and complying with the attendance policy stated in the catalog, Student’s Guidebook, and/or faculty syllabus. Faculty members will provide details on requirements and guidelines for attendance in their classes in their course syllabi.” Students are responsible for reviewing remaining university attendance policy elements.

Academic Honesty: If you turn in work that is plagiarized, or take any action that violates TAMU-Commerce Academic Honesty policies, you will fail the course. All TAMU-Commerce students are responsible for knowing the standards of academic honesty. Please refer to the Student's Guide Handbook for the University Academic Honesty Policy.

Classroom Policies: Students are expected to keep up with assigned reading and be prepared to answer questions in class--be sure you have done all required reading by the date noted on the course outline. Turn off cell phones before entering the classroom. You may not use any electronic device in the classroom without specific permission from the instructor through a signed form completed during office hours. Any electronic device (computer, PDA, cell phone, iPod, etc.) brought to class must be turned off and stored off your desktop during class. **Deadlines:** Work not turned in on time will be late regardless of the reason—it is your responsibility to meet the deadline regardless of technical or other problems. Deadlines are always at the beginning of class in which anything is due. Work submitted incomplete will be marked as not submitted.

Behavior: “Students are expected at all times to recognize constituted authority, to conform to the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property, and to make the best use of their time toward an education.” -- Texas A&M University System Student Rights and Obligations

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) -- Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures, 12.01.99.R0.05
Guidelines for Content and Distribution of Syllabi: Roles and Responsibilities of Faculty

I maintain the right to make changes as needed, in my judgment, from the stated plans contained in the syllabus for this class.

ADA Statement

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu**

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS: Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

COURSE EVALUATION APPEAL: Students with concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). Students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY STATEMENT: Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

1/16 Introduction/Orientation
1/23 Script Ideation/Structure
1/30 Workshopping Scripts
2/06 Scripts Due/Table Read?
2/13 Preproduction
2/20 Set Etiquette/ Safety

2/27 Composition/Lighting/Lenses
3/06 First Field Project Due/Midterm
3/13 Midterm/Editing fundamentals
3/20 Using Adobe Premiere
3/27 Edit Due
4/03 Visual References/Mood Boards
4/10 Sound
4/17 Sound Editing
4/24 Preproduction for Final Projects
5/01 Any Questions?
5/08 Final Project Due