DV Production (NFLM 3700A) Spring 2010
Instructor: Ina Adele Ray
Class Time: Tues 6:00 pm - 8:40 pm
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Class Synopsis:
With digital cameras and computer editing equipment widely accessible, the possibility of creating engaging, professional-quality moving images is within virtually everyone's reach. This is an exciting and powerful form of expression, but just knowing how to use the tools isn't enough to produce a coherent and articulate digital project. This course can help artists working in any genre create works that are both technically and conceptually sound. We work toward this goal by learning how to use Final Cut Pro and understanding the power of editing in creative expression. The class also introduces students to production skills including using a digital camera, storyboarding, and basic lighting and sound. Students complete several short projects. There are no prerequisites, but familiarity with the Macintosh is assumed. Students have access to New School digital video cameras but must have a firewire drive.

Grading Policy:

25% Attendance & Participation	**25% Video Assignments**
25% Written/Sketched Assignments	**25% Final Group Movie**

Attendance:
3 unexcused absences = "F". **If a student is more than 10 minutes late to a class, this will count as an absence.** In case of personal and medical emergencies, students should contact me as well as the Director of Academic Advising.

Participation:
Make a contribution to class discussions and participating as crew for video assignments.

Homework:
All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will receive zero credit.

Written/Sketched Assignments:
Script writing exercise
6-8 frame storyboard for out of class shoot
Proposed Final Group Movie Script
Self-Portrait production notes/storyboard
All production research notes, storyboards, etc.

Video Assignments:
6-8 shots in-camera edit
Edited Storyboard Assignment
Edited Self-Portrait
Final Movie

Individual Presentations *(you must do your own editing)*

Final Movie:
The final 1-5 minute movie will be presented during the last class. Our final last class will be in the evening screening in a theatre on campus *(location TBA*). Friends and family are welcome.

Mark your calendar for the following deadlines:
Class 2 – Feb. 2nd ****Bring in external hard drive & Script writing exercise is due
Class 3 – Feb. 9th –**6-8 shots in camera edit due**
Class 5 – Feb. 23rd ****Proposed script for final project
Class 6 – March 2nd**Raw footage from storyboard assignment due**
Class 7 – March 9th ** Edited storyboard assignment is due**
Class 10 - April 6th ****Self-portrait lighting assignment due
Class 12 – April 20th ** Assembly Due**
Class 13 – April 27th ****Final movie rough cut due
Class 15 – May 11th ****Final Movie, all class videos, & written/sketched work due

Suggested Text:
Field, Syd **Screenplay**
Cooper, Pat and Dancyger, Ken **Writing the Short Film**
Weynand, Diana **Apple Pro Training Series : Final Cut Pro 6** (Apple Pro Training Series)
Brenneis, Lisa **Final Cut Pro 6 for Mac OS X: Visual QuickPro Guide**
Wohl, Michael **Editing Techniques with Final Cut Pro**
Murch, Walter **In the Blink of an Eye**
Zettl, Herbert **Sight, Sound, and Motion: Applied Media Aesthetics**
Giannetti, Louis **Understanding Movies**
Ascher, Steven, Pincus, Edward, and Keller, Carol **The Filmmakers' Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for the Digital Age**

Suggested Periodicals: *DV Magazine, Videography Magazine, Res Magazine, Cinematography Magazine*

Suggested Websites:
www.script-o-rama.com (Drew's Script-O-Rama – scripts online); http://www.godamongdirectors.com; http://www.res.com www.dvfilmmaker.com/ ; www.dvhandbook.com/; www.imdb/; www.2-pop.com/; http://www.kenstone.net/fcp_homepage/editing.html; http://www.kenstone.net/fcp_homepage/fcp_homepage_index.html#fcp

Equipment Needs and Access:
You will need a 7200 rpm firewire external hard drive. This is the storage device that will hold all your media clips for your digital movie assignments. I suggest buying a G-tech or LaCie hard drive – this brand is industry standard and less likely to crash or wipe out your work. There are good deals at J & R Computer Store in downtown Manhattan. J&R's Phone: 212-238-9000 Directions:
http://www.jr.com/templates/information/directions.tem

Production Equipment: Check out for Credit students is at the Knowledge Union (KU) located: 55 W. 13th Street, 9th Fl. Must be reserved online through your Blackboard account under Student tab>(right column) Academic Technology>Equipment Reservations>Book Equipment for Pick-Up at The Equipment Center

Equipment check out for non-credit students: Go in person to the Film Dept at 66 5th Ave. in Room 400. Office hours and detailed information regarding equipment check out is at:
http://www.karlmendonca.com/filmoffice/index.php

Lab to use:
KU (Knowledge Union) 55 West 13th St (8th Fl.) http://newschool.edu/at/agreements/f_eqc_agreement.html
Lab Hours: http://www.newschool.edu/at/thelabs/hours/index.html
For any regarding the production equipment, computer software and hardware at the labs on campus, go to: http://www.newschool.edu/at/

MiniDV Tape Stock & DVD+R or DVD-R
You will be using 1 hour long miniDV tapes – You will need 1 or 2 tapes for the entire semester. You also need blank DVD-R dvds to burn projects onto DVD which you can get at any office supply store.Tapes can be purchased in bulk at B&H (www.bhphotovideo.com) B&H Photo & Video (around $4.49 each for a 5-pack – go in on it with 2 classmates) 420 Ninth Avenue New York, NY 10001, USA

Course Schedule

(**** *indicates that an assignment is due – will receive a zero if work is late*)

Class 1 – Jan. 26th

Introductions – Course Overview – Equipment needs - Familiarity with Macs
A Brief Film History: Formalism, Classicism, and Realism
5 Essential elements: Whose Story is it? Is the main character sympathetic? Is there cause and effect? Is there conflict and tension? Is there resolution?
Scripting Vocabulary: Scenes, Shots, Sequences, screen direction, etc.
Homework Assignments:
-Read excerpt from "Script Form" Screenplay Fields, Syd
-Write a 5 page script or film premise and treatment
-Purchase external hard drives before next week's class.

Class 2 – Feb. 2nd ****Bring in external hard drive & Script writing exercise is due

Present scripts: Summarize to the class your script and turn in for evaluation
Introduction to Editing and Final Cut Pro software – Checking out equipment online.
Homework Assignment: Check out a DV camera and shoot 6-8 shots (NO MORE) of anything you wish – tell a story or present a theme or idea. You will not be editing this so try to make your editorial decisions in camera. This is called an in-camera edit. Show us what you shot next week!
Begin brainstorming and writing a script for a proposed **final movie project**. Answer the following questions about your final movie: --Does the story have the **5 essential elements** of a screenplay? What kind of movie is it (fiction narrative, non-fiction narrative, experimental)? What kind of **structure** will you adopt if it is experimental? Can you visualize it or break down into a **sequence** of shots? What are your materials (digital video, digital stills, scanned photos, digitized super8, stock images, etc.). What would your final movie sound like? What kind of mood is it? Be prepared to summarize your concept next week so you can flesh it out. **Hand in proposed script Feb 23rd. Be prepared to present it to your classmates next week.**

Class 3 – Feb. 9th –**6-8 shots in camera edit due**

Bring in your miniDV tape to review 6-8 shot in camera edit. Explain your final group movie idea to the class.
Shooting Demo: In Class demo with digital video camera – learn DV camera vocabulary
Production Planning: Location scouting, storyboarding: Wide, Medium, and Close-up Shots; Composition and Continuity.
View: Storyboarded shots from Alfred Hitchcock, "The Birds", in-class and see film sequence.
Homework Assignment:
-Draw a 6-8 frame storyboard of a sequence of actions or an event that you will present next week **- Reserve DV camera and tripod for to shoot 6-8 frame storyboard assignment due March 2nd.**

Class 4 – Feb. 16th (Don't's forget to book DV Camera and tripod)

Review storyboards
Continued camera demo
Editing Aesthetics
Homework: Finish editing in-class shoot. Shoot 6-8 frame storyboard with a partner.
– Reading on editing by Walter Murch. Formalize and finished proposed final project scripts.

Class 5 – Feb. 23rd ****Proposed script for final project

Present: Final Script to class
Break into groups for Final Movie: Collaborate with fellow classmates on each other's project. You must help on another project and your peers must help you on yours.
Homework Assignment: Coordinate with classmates to determine a shooting and editing schedule to complete your final project on time. Start the first phase of pre-production planning. Location scouting, casting, etc. Finish shooting 6-8 frame storyboard assignment. Raw footage due next week!

Class 6 – March 2nd**Raw footage from storyboard assignment due**
Review: Raw footage from 6-8 frame storyboard
Editing Aesthetics (cont.)
Log, capture, and edit in-class demo
Homework: Finish editing and output edited storyboard assignment to tape.

Class 7 – March 9th ** Edited storyboard assignment is due**
Critique: Edited Storyboard Assignment
Lighting: Lighting Styles and Techniques
Homework: - Storyboard a Self-portrait video where you will use artificial lights and/or lighting tools (like bounce cards/reflectors/diffusion) to control the light on the subject. **(Don't's forget to book DV Camera, tripod, studio lights, and lighting video for Self-Portrait lighting Due April 6th.)**

March 16th - No Class - Spring Break

Class 8 – March 23rd
Special Effects in FCP
Editing Aesthetics (cont.)
-**Exercise:** Sound recording and mics
Homework Assignment:
Work on Self Portrait lighting assignment due April 8. Work on final group movie.

Class 9 – March 30th
Advanced Editing and Mixing Sound with FCP
Lab Work: Refine previous projects for final review
Homework Assignment: Work on group movie

Class 10 - April 6th ****Self-portrait lighting assignment due
Critique: Self-Portrait Lighting Assignment
Using iDVD
Review raw footage of final project
Homework Assignment: Work on group movie

Class 11 – April 13th– work on final project
Lab Work: Work on final movie, refine previous projects for final review
Homework Assignment: Work on final movie and revise previous assignments.

Class 12 – April 20th ** Assembly Due**
Lab Work: Work on final movie, refine previous projects for final review
Homework Assignment: Work on final movie and revise previous assignments.

Class 13 – April 27th ****Final movie rough cut due
Critique: rough cut
Lab Work: Final on movie, refine previous projects for final review
Homework: Finish final movie and finish previous assignments

Class 14 - May 4th- Work on final project and Final DVD

Class 15 – May 11th ****Final Movie, all class videos, & written/sketched work due
Meet at regular time 6-8:40pm
Hand in Final Movie - All work must be handed in on DVD.
Distribution: festivals, websites, broadcast, DVDs.
Evening Screening at 8pm: Evening projection your final group movies in a theatre with family and friends!! **You have the option to present an earlier project.**

Digital Moviemaking 1 Grading Criteria

"C" Final Grade
(Average)

A "C" means you met the basic requirements as mentioned in the "Grading Policies" but the level of your engagement throughout the majority of the course was not at your fullest potential. You did not attempt to revise your work after turning it in the first round. Your strengths are exhibited in some aspects of the production process that you want to know about or that you are already familiar with but you will not improve in others. For example, you are a good scriptwriter but your editing needs work. You choose not to improve in this area.

"C" for Writing/Sketched and Video Assignments

- Work is turned in on time
- You apply information learned in class and through assigned readings
- Demonstrates that you understand the production process
- You do not clearly communicate your ideas to an audience
- An attempt to revise your work is not apparent
- You reject the idea of revision without a strong understanding of your own intentions or a convincing argument supporting your work

"B" Final Grade
(Above Average)

A "B" means you not only met the basic requirements as mentioned in the "Grading Policies" and you have attempted to meet your fullest potential. You have revised your work for final review. You are able to communicate your ideas through digital video to an audience. You have been able to endure the production process and your skills have clearly progressed throughout the semester.

"B" for Writing/Sketched and Video Assignments

- Work is turned in on time
- You apply information learned in class and through assigned readings
- Demonstrates that you understand the production process
- You clearly communicate your ideas to an audience
- An attempt to revise your work is obvious
- You have a strong understanding of your own intentions and can make a convincing argument to support your work

"A" Final Grade
(Excellent)

An "A" means you not only met the basic requirements as mentioned in the "Grading Policies" and you have met your fullest potential. You have revised your work for final review with dramatic results. You are able to very clearly communicate your ideas through digital video production to an audience. You have been able to endure the production process and your skills have clearly progressed throughout the semester. You understand the grammar of moviemaking.

"A" for Writing/Sketched and Video Assignments

- Work is turned in on time
- You apply information learned in class and through assigned readings
- Demonstrates that you understand the production process
- You clearly communicate your ideas to an audience
- An attempt to revise your work is obvious
- Your technical skill in your writing, the pacing of your videos, lighting, & sound are apparent.
- You have a strong understanding of your own intentions and can make a convincing argument to support your work
- Your work is creative, original, and thought provoking

Statement on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's work as one's own in all forms of academic endeavor (such as essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, etc.) which may be derived from a variety of sources (such as books, journals, Internet postings, student or faculty papers, etc.). Students should refer to the Policy on Academic Honesty in the Eugene Lang College catalog for full information on the consequences of plagiarism.

Disabilities
In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student requesting accommodations must first meet with Student Disability Services. Jason Luchs or a designee from that office will meet with students requesting accommodations and related services, and if appropriate, provide an Academic Adjustment Notice for the student to provide to his or her instructors. The instructor is required to review the letter with the student and discuss the accommodations, provided the student brings the letter to the attention of the instructor. This letter is necessary in order for classroom accommodations to be provided. Student Disability Services is located at 79 Fifth Avenue - 5th Floor. The phone number is (212) 229-5626. Students and faculty are expected to review the Student Disability Services webpage. The webpage can be found at http://www.newschool.edu/studentaffairs/disability/ and the office is available to answer any questions or concerns.

Filmmaking is a collaborative art. With the advent of digital technologies, these collaborative entities have merged large production crews into only a few people working together. For example, the writer, producer, director, and director of photography of a motion picture may all be one person, *you*. Although this may be the case, you must still learn how to work with others on your own project as well as working on other people's projects. Working with classmates will prepare you for working with others in a professional environment. You may find that you are a better director of photography while your classmate is a better editor, hence the reason for collaboration. In addition, the more help you have on your project, the less stress you'll feel when you have to turn in that final project at the end of the semester. Get to know each role and figure out what role or roles suit you best.

Writer's Role

Writes the script –understands story structure – understands technical screenwriting to be interpreted for shooting by director.

Producer Role

Plans – Deals with the financing – Makes timeline – pushes the project along - must be realistic about what can and can't be done within the constraints of the production budget. For example, no crane shots or blowing up of buildings for our low budget digital movies. I will be partly producing with you to make sure you complete your projects successfully.

Director's Role

Conveys the story visually by actualizing the script into physical digital images - Directs other production entities. These additional production entities include:

- **Director of Photography (DP)** - Composes shots – camera person
- **Sound Recordist** -Records sound – must make sure we can HEAR film
- **Art Director** – Costume, make up, hair, set design
- **Actors** – self explanatory
- **Production Assistant (PA**)- Helps keeps things moving – helps set up lights, set, carries equipment, picks up food for crew, etc. Ask your friends to PA. The more help, the smoother and quicker your shoot will be.
- **Editor** – Edits the footage for the final movie– the Gatekeeper

(You will be practicing various roles in group projects and on your own solo projects)