

Advanced Digital Editing Techniques
Winter/Spring 2012
Syllabus

John Cantine
412-681-5449 x 215
jpc@pghfilmmakers.org
www.johncantine.com

Objectives:

In this course, students will explore the possibilities of digital editing through the software of Apple's Final Cut Studio. Students will review basic editing theory and discuss more advanced concepts. Lectures will discuss ways to prepare for editing while shooting, the role of the assistant editor, and the effects of editing on pacing, emotion, and meaning. Classroom demonstrations will focus on the possibilities and methods of working with Final Cut Pro, Motion, Soundtrack Pro, Color, and Compressor in the process of post-production for projects shot in HD video.

Text:

Wohl, Michael, *Apple Pro Training Series: Advanced Editing with Final Cut Pro 7* (Peachpit Press, 2010). \$60, available at Pittsburgh Filmmakers. Please note: This textbook contains a DVD with video and audio materials for use with Final Cut tutorials. We will NOT be using the tutorial material for class. It is, however, a good idea to practice the tutorial material along with the reading to increase your proficiency with Final Cut Pro.

The Wohl book is, as the title notes, somewhat advanced. If you're uncomfortable with the basics of Final Cut Pro, you might also want to have:

Brenneis, Lisa, *Final Cut Pro 7 Visual Quickpro Guide* (Peachpit Press, 2009)

Assignments:

1. Students will shoot footage in class that will be used for in-class demonstrations and out-of-class assignments. Students will be graded on their performance as crew members on these shoots.

2. Students will be asked to find a short movie or sequence from a feature film (6 minutes or less total length) and do an oral presentation of 20 – 30 minutes in class. The student will show the movie/clip, analyze the mechanics of the editing, and discuss the effect that the editing has on the overall meaning/emotion/theme of the movie. The presentation will be accompanied by a written shot breakdown and a short (4-10 page) written version of the analysis presented in class.

3. Students will edit a narrative scene (shot in class). We will view a rough cut in class. The final version will be viewed on DVD or Blu-ray during the final class.

4. Students will take interview and B-roll footage shot in class and create:

- a) a positive promo piece profiling the subject, and
- b) an "attack ad" on the subject

We will watch a rough cut of one of them in class. The final versions of both will be viewed on DVD or Blu-ray disc during the final class.

Grading:

In-class shoot 1	5 pts
In-class shoot 2	5 pts
Editing analysis presentation	10 pts
Editing analysis paper	10 pts
Editing analysis shot list	5 pts
Narrative rough cut	5 + 5 pts
Promo/attack rough cut	5 + 5 pts
Narrative final	10 pts
Promo final	10 pts
Attack final	10 pts
Participation	15 pts
(Early analysis bonus	3 pts)
Total points	100 (+3)
91 - 103 pts:	A
81 - 90 pts:	B
71 - 80 pts:	C
61 - 70 pts:	D
60 pts or below:	F

Policies:

Attendance is extremely important; chronic lateness or absenteeism will severely impair the student's ability to pass the course. Rough cuts will be shown on the dates indicated below; no late work will be shown, and points will be forfeited.

Bibliography:

Apple Computing, *Color User's Manual*. (Apple Computing 2007)
Apple Computing, *DVD Studio Pro 4 User's Manual*. (Apple Computing 2005)
Apple Computing, *Final Cut Pro 7 User's Manual*. (Apple Computing 2009)
Apple Computing, *Soundtrack Pro 3 User's Manual*. (Apple Computing 2009)
Black, Bruce, *The Visual Story, 2nd ed.* (Focal Press 2008)
Brenneis, Lisa, *Final Cut Pro 7 Visual QuickPro Guide* (Peachpit Press 2009)
Burns, Michael and George Cairns, *Designing DVD Menus*. (CMP Books 2004)
Cullen, Sean et al, *Apple Pro Training Series: Optimizing Your Final Cut Pro System*. (Peachpit Press 2006)
Gary, Brian, *Apple Pro Training Series: Compressor 3.5* (Peachpit Press, 2010)
Hullfish, Steve and Jaime Fowler, *Color Correction for Digital Video*. (CMP Books 2003)
Sobel, Jeff, *Apple Pro Training Series: Sound Editing in Final Cut Studio* (Peachpit Press 2010)
Spencer, Mark, *Apple Pro Training Series: Motion 4* (Peachpit Press 2010)
Weynand, Diana, *Apple Pro Training Series: Final Cut Pro 7*. (Peachpit Press 2010)
Wohl, Michael and David Gross, *Apple Pro Training Series: Color Correction in Final Cut Studio* (Peachpit Press, 2009)

Class Schedule:

Please note deadlines and due dates for assignments. These will not change unless announced in advance.

Class 1 Jan 17	Introduction to class – Post-production workflows Editing basics review - Continuity and discontinuity Assignment: Wohl Intro and Lesson 1
Class 2 Jan 24	More approaches to continuity Script supervisor duties – Logging on set The role of the Assistant Editor - Set up class shoot 1 Assignment: Wohl Lesson 2
Class 3 Jan 31	In-class shoot 1 – Narrative Assignment: Wohl Lesson 3
Class 4 Feb 7	Sample editing analysis Schedule student analyses Final Cut Pro: Workstation set-up, Preferences FCP: Log and Transfer, Batch capture using batch lists Assignment: Wohl Lesson 4
Class 5 Feb 14	The physiology of continuity editing Match cutting, pacing and emotion Set up class shoot 2 FCP: Synching dailies, rough cutting Assignment: Wohl Lesson 5
Class 6 Feb 21	In-class shoot 2 – Promo/attack footage Assignment: Wohl Lesson 6
Class 7 Feb 28	FCP: Fine cutting, dialogue editing and split edits FCP: Motion tab, wireframing Assignment: Wohl Lesson 7 DUE: Editing analyses 1 and 2
MARCH 6	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Class 8 March 13	FCP: Filters, mattes, keying, keyframing Introduction to Motion Assignment: Wohl Lesson 8 DUE: Narrative project rough cuts
Class 9 March 20	FCP: Vertical sound design, track cleanup Soundtrack Pro: Audio file editing Assignment: Wohl Lesson 9 and 10 DUE: Editing analysis 3
Class 10 March 27	Promo/attack rough cuts Soundtrack Pro: Multitrack mixing DUE: Rough cut of promo OR attack project
Class 11 April 3	FCP: Color correction Intro to Color Assignment: Wohl Lesson 11 and 12 DUE: Editing analyses 4 and 5
Class 12 April 10	Export options: web, iPod Compressor: Exports, custom presets, and droplets DVDs, Blu-ray and AVCHD discs Assignment: Wohl Lesson 13 DUE: Editing analyses 6 and 7
Class 13 April 17	Comparison of editing software FCP X, Avid, Premiere DUE: Editing analyses 8 and 9
Class 14 April 24	DUE: DVDs or Blu-ray discs with final narrative, promo, and attack projects