

Video Production 2
Winter/Spring 2012
Syllabus

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

Objectives:

This course assumes a basic knowledge of video production and digital post-production. More detailed information and advanced techniques will be discussed in class, to be used in creating a polished, exhibition-quality expressive work in video. The main assignment will be the creation and completion of a short video by each student, using the DVCPRO HD format for image capture and Final Cut Studio for post-production. Pittsburgh Filmmakers will provide all equipment and some media storage. Students are expected to provide necessary production materials. It is recommended, but not required, that students own a large external hard drive for increased media storage.

Textbook

Braverman, Barry, *The Video Shooter 2nd ed* . Available at Pittsburgh Filmmakers.

T.A. Sessions and Open Labs:

In addition to the weekly class sessions, each student will be required to attend several contact hours with a Teaching Assistant. These include small-group sessions to allow hands-on practice with key pieces of equipment, and open lab sessions that make trained personnel available to help the student with post-production issues. The syllabus indicates the schedule of sessions; exact times will be determined by the second week of class. No student will be allowed to check out a piece of equipment until they have attended a T.A. session for that type of equipment.

Assignments:

1. We will shoot one or two short videos in class, to be decided on by the class as a whole. Students will be graded on their participation in these shoots.
- 2a and b. A short quiz and a longer written exam. Each will be short answer, technical information written tests. The quiz will be on information covered until that point. The exam will be comprehensive.
3. Screening essays. Each student will be asked to turn in three essays of two to four pages each, typed. For each essay, the student must watch one moving-image piece, on film or video, either films seen at a theater, videos viewed at home or online, or an installation piece seen at a museum or gallery. For each essay, analyze the work as a whole and try to ascertain what the maker is trying to say or do with the work. Then pick one technical area (lighting, sound, camerawork, etc) and say how it contributes to (or detracts from) what the maker is trying to do overall. Students may turn in a fourth essay for extra credit.
4. Each student will be asked to write a short (3-5 page) essay discussing the video that they are producing in class. Write about the most important influences on your movie. This can be other movies, art movements or filmmakers, but can also be "outside" influences – books, songs, historical figures, social movements, mathematical equations, whatever has led you to make this particular video saying this particular thing in this particular way.

5. Each student will create a video work shorter than 12 minutes in total length; the recommended length is 3 to 10 minutes. The style, subject matter, and structure of this video are to be determined by the student. The student will take this video from concept through script, rough cut, fine cut and on to final exhibition copy by the end of the semester. The project will be graded on creativity of idea, aesthetic value and technical proficiency of the finished product, and effort expended. In addition, students will receive deadline points for delivering the treatment, script, and rough cut on time. The rough cut will also be graded on quality. All deadlines and due dates are noted on the schedule below.

Grading:

The percentage of the final class grade is as follows:

Treatment deadline:	10 pts
Script deadline:	10 pts
In-class shoots:	10 pts
Quiz:	10 pts
Rough cut deadline	10 pts
Rough cut quality	10 pts
Screening Essays:	30 pts
Influence Essay:	20 pts
Exam:	30 pts
Final Video Project:	40 pts
Class Participation:	20 pts
Total:	200 pts
181 pts – 200 pts:	A
161 pts – 180 pts:	B
141 pts – 160 pts:	C
121 pts – 140 pts:	D
120 pts or below:	F

Policies:

Attendance is extremely important; chronic lateness or absenteeism will severely impair the student’s ability to pass the course. Make-up exams will be given only in unavoidable circumstances, and never more than one week later than the scheduled exam date. If assignments are not completed by the due date deadline points will be forfeited for that assignment – no exceptions will be granted. All material must be the student’s own or must be properly attributed. Cheating on an exam, turning in the same assignment for more than one class, or turning in a plagiarized assignment will result in a grade of “0” for that exam or assignment. A second incidence will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

Class Schedule:

Please note deadlines, assignments, and dates of exam and quiz. These will not change unless announced in advance.

- Class 1
Jan 19 Introduction to class – Assignments – TA Sessions
Pre-production
Assignment: Treatment of final video due next week
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 1
- Class 2
Jan 26 CCD and CMOS – Exposure curves and IREs
Digital video: bit depth and sampling rate – HD formats
Color and white balance – Monitors, connectors, and the video signal
DUE: Treatments of final videos
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 2
- Class 3
Feb 2 The Panasonic HVX200 camera
The lens: focal length, focus, exposure
TA Session: HVX200 camera
Assignment: Script for final video due in two weeks
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 3
- Class 4
Feb 9 **QUIZ**
Advanced Lighting
Dolly grip
TA Session: Advanced lighting/grip EQ
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 4
- Class 5
Feb 16 **In-class shoot – Single-figure lighting**
TA Session: Marantz PMD Recorder and Sennheiser mics
DUE: Scripts for final video
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 5
- Class 6
Feb 23 Sound and audio
Microphones: types, pick-up patterns, available EQ
Production audio support EQ and techniques
Assignment: Begin shooting final video – Rough cuts due Class 10
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 6
- Class 7
March 1 Double system and the sound recordist
Crew duties – Logging - Prep In-class shoot
Marantz recorder
DUE: Screening essay 1
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 7

- MARCH 8 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
- Class 8 **In-class shoot- Double-system sound**
March 15 **Reading:** Video Shooter Chapter 8
- Class 9 Advanced Editing – Examples from films and videos
March 22 Final Cut Pro: Log and Transfer, syncing dailies
 DUE: Screening essay 2
 Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 9
- Class 10 Viewing of rough cuts
March 29 Producing: Agreements and copyright issues
 DUE: Rough cuts of final project
 Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 10
- Class 11 Sound design and sweetening – Examples from films and videos
April 5 Final Cut Pro: Fine cutting and dialogue editing
 Final Cut Pro: Building tracks and audio mixing
 DUE: Influence essay
 Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 11
- Class 12 **EXAM**
April 12 Final Cut Pro: Questions and specific project issues
 Color correction
 Export options and distribution
- Class 13 Visiting artist
April 19 Career issues and general discussion
 DUE: Screening essay 3
- Class 14 Viewing of final video projects
April 26 **DUE: FINE CUT OF FINAL PROJECT**
 AS QUICKTIME FILE, BLU-RAY DISC, OR DVD