

Video Production 2
Winter/Spring 2015
Syllabus

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

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. Pittsburgh Filmmakers will provide cameras using the DVCPRO HD format for image capture, Adobe Premiere Pro for post-production, and limited media storage. Students are expected to provide necessary production materials. It is recommended, but not required, that students own a large, fast external hard drive, formatted for Mac, 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 in small-group sessions that allow hands-on practice with key pieces of equipment. 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 a short lighting/dolly practicum, and longer video, in class. Students will be graded on participation in the shoots.
- 2a and b. A short quiz and a longer take-home exam. Each will be short answer, technical information written tests. The exam will be comprehensive.
3. Screening essays. Each student will be asked to turn in two 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 third essay for extra credit.
4. Each student will create a video work shorter than 15 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, 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 initial idea, script, and rough cut on time. The rough cut will also be graded on quality.

Grading:

The percentage of the final class grade is as follows:

Video idea deadline:	5%
Script deadline:	5%
In-class shoots:	10%
Quiz:	10%
Rough cut deadline	5%
Rough cut quality	5%
Screening Essays:	10%
Exam:	15%
Final Video Project:	25%
Class Participation:	10%
Total:	100 pts
91 – 100%	A
81 – 90%	B
71 – 80%	C
61 – 70%	D
60% 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. 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.

Personal Electronic Devices (laptops, tablets, smart phones) are welcome in class, but please be courteous to those around you. Your device should be on "silent" mode at all times. Do not text or accept calls during class, or view material that would be distracting or offensive to anyone who may be able to see your screen. Since they emit light, devices must be shut down during screenings.

Class Schedule:

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

- Class 1
Jan 14 Introduction to class – Assignments – TA Sessions
Why we make movies – Idea to movie – Crew roles
Non-narrative pre-production
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 1
Assignment: Idea for final video due next week
- Class 2
Jan 21 Narrative pre-production
Breaking down a short narrative script
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 2 and 3
DUE: Idea for final video
- Class 3
Jan 28 CCD and CMOS – Exposure curves and IREs
Digital video: bit depth and sampling rate – HD formats
Color and white balance
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 4 and 5
Assignment: Script for final video due in two weeks – Copies for all
- Class 4
Feb 4 The Panasonic HVX200 camera
The lens: focal length, focus, exposure
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 6
TA Session: HVX200 camera
- Class 5
Feb 11 **QUIZ**
Single-system vs. double-system sound - Logging
Microphones: types, pick-up patterns, available EQ
Marantz PMD digital recorder
Production sound techniques
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 7
TA Session: Marantz PMD Recorder and Sennheiser mics
DUE: Script for final video – email or hard copy to everyone in class
Assignment: Read student scripts
- Class 6
Feb 18 Script workshop
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 8
TA Session: Advanced lighting/grip EQ
Assignment: Begin shooting final video – Rough cuts due Class 11

Class 7
Feb 25 **Single-figure lighting practicum**
Advanced lighting/grip equipment – Dolly
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 9
DUE: Screening essay 1

Class 8
March 4 Advanced Editing – Examples from films and videos
Prep In-class shoot 2
Adobe Premiere Pro: Intro/Review
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 10

MARCH 11 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Class 9
March 18 **In-class shoot: Double-system sound**
Reading: Video Shooter Chapter 11
DUE: Screening essay 2

Class 10
March 25 Sound design – Examples from films and videos
Premiere: Syncing, rough cutting, trimming, exporting
Assignment: Exam due next week

Class 11
April 1 Premiere: Working with audio and effects
DUE: Exam

Class 12
April 8 Viewing of rough cuts
Producing: Agreements and copyright issues
DUE: Rough cuts of final project

Class 13
April 15 Visiting artist
Premiere: Color correction and finishing

Class 14
April 22 Viewing of final video projects
DUE: FINE CUT OF FINAL PROJECT
AS QUICKTIME OR MP4 FILE, BLU-RAY DISC, OR DVD