

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A. Department Information:

Division: Humanities
Department: Radio/Television/Film
Course ID: RTVF 240
Course Title: Fundamentals of Film Production I
Units: 3
Lecture: 1 Hour
Laboratory: 6 Hours
Prerequisite: RTVF 131

B. Catalog and Schedule Description: This course is an introductory study of the aesthetic and technical aspects of digital film production. This course emphasizes a critical awareness of the aesthetics of narrative film techniques as applied in the construction of the students' productions. In this course, students produce their own narrative films and assist other students in other aspects of narrative film production including camera operation, set design, lighting, casting, and acting as a grip. Students should have a basic knowledge of digital video cameras and non-linear editing prior to taking this course.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: ONE

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

- A. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately use film terminology.
- B. Demonstrate the ability to create properly exposed and in-focus moving images.
- C. Critically evaluate and apply narrative film techniques.
- D. Demonstrate the ability to write and shoot a one-minute, in-camera narrative.
- E. Demonstrate the knowledge of lighting for narrative including the three point lighting system.
- F. Recognize and implement various techniques and applications of camera movement.
- G. Explain the basic components of narrative "invisible" (or "seamless") editing.
- H. Understand the basic components of montage editing.
- I. Edit a montage project using sounds and images.
- J. Edit a narrative project utilizing "invisible" editing techniques.

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

A. Basic film terminology

1. Camera obscura
2. Circles of confusion
3. Focus
4. Depth of field
5. Exposure: f-stop/aperture
6. Persistence of vision
7. Focal length
8. Color temperature
9. Photosensitive area
10. Formats: video vs. film
11. Aspect ratio: 4:3, 1.85:1
12. Tripod: pan and tilt

B. Narrative Film Techniques

1. Basic narrative structure: beginning (set-up), middle (confrontation) and end (resolution).
2. Implied dramatic question

3. Screen direction, clean entrance, clean exit
 4. The one hundred and eighty degree rule
 5. Cut-ins, cut-aways, shot composition and matching eye-lines
 6. Cause and effect logic, dramatic unity and plausible motivations
 7. Point of view: first, second, third ("objective") and character pov
- C. Narrative Lighting
1. Motivated light sources in a scene
 2. Intensity, contrast, quality and direction of light
 3. The three point lighting system: key light, fill light and back light
 4. High key vs. low key lighting
- D. Camera Movement
1. Equipment: doorway dolly, dolly with tracks, steadicam, braces, hand held
 2. Tracking shots: spatial relationships, perspective, importance of the camera or the character
 3. Use of moving camera for emotional, logical, ideological or stylistic purposes
- E. Narrative "invisible" ("seamless") editing
1. Editing to provide the viewer information or emotional intensity
 2. Editing when movements occur in the frame
 3. Montage based on associations or ideas

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lectures and discussions on each subject area.
- B. Additional content may be provided through field trips, guest speakers and multimedia presentations, including videotapes. Computer demonstrations may be used to enhance the classroom experience.
- C. Students are encouraged to study outside resources and discuss them in class.
- D. Every class consists of extensive hands on instruction with digital video cameras, digital editing systems and other film equipment. Students are required to shoot, edit and export narrative film projects and exercises.
- E. Explanations and sample handouts are given for all paperwork needed to complete projects.
- F. Demonstrations are given on equipment and students are given extensive hands on projects to complete within the class period.
- G. Students are expected to do research on current movies and technologies.

VI. EVALUATION:

- A. Method: Instructors will select at least three of the following:
 1. Students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge through written tests, quizzes and examinations.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- a) How does the focal length of a lens affect the magnification of a scene?
 - b) How do you obtain a critical focus using a camera with a zoom lens?
 - c) What is the difference between using manual exposure and automatic exposure in a video camera?
 - d) What is depth of field?
 - e) Name three factors that affect the depth of field.
 - f) What is the estimated depth of field in front of and behind the point of critical focus?
 - g) What is the phi phenomena and how does it affect motion pictures.
 - h) What is the one hundred and eighty-degree rule and what is the affect on a narrative film when the rule is broken?
- B. Frequency
1. Written tests, quizzes and examinations: at the discretion of the instructor, but at least once during the semester.

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2. In-class discussions of video/computer demonstrations: at the discretion of the instructor.
3. Written evaluations of topics discussed in current articles on film production: at the discretion of the instructor.
4. Students are assigned projects that are evaluated while in progress and upon completion.

VII. TEXT(S):

The Complete Film Production Handbook by Eve Light Honthaner, 3d. Ed. Butterworth-Heinemann; ISBN: 0240804198

The Filmmaker's Handbook by Edward Pincus and Steven Ascher, Penguin/Plume; ISBN: 0452279577, Revised March, 1999.

How To Shoot a Movie and Video Story by Arthur Gaskill and David Englander, 4th Edition Morgan and Morgan; ISBN: 0871002396

Film Directing Shot by Shot by Steven Katz, Focal Press; ISBN: 0941188108, July, 1991.

VIII. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

Students may be required to provide zip disks, CD-Rs, and videotape for class projects.

Content Review Form
COREQUISITE (OR PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE) COURSE

Target Course: RTVF 240

Prerequisite/Corequisite Course: RTVF 131

Instructions:

1. List exit competencies (skills) from the Corequisite Course. These skills are listed in the "Student Outcomes" section of the Course Outline.
2. Indicate which of the listed exit competencies (skills) are necessary concurrent enrollment skills that should be developed in conjunction with completion of the target course. Mark with an "X" each needed skill.
3. Indicate the degree of importance of each identified concurrent enrollment skill related to the target course, using the following rating scale:
 1= Critical 2 = Very Helpful 3= Desirable

Skills Analysis

Concurrent Enrollment Skills in Corequisite Course	Concurrent Skills Needed for Success in Target Course (Mark with an X if needed.)	Degree of Importance (Rate 1 – 3)

- A. a) Explain the difference between analog and digital video, including A/D and D/A conversion. **X-1**
- B. Identify and evaluate the various types of interconnects available for conventional component and composite digital video and for 16:9 aspect ratio signals. **X-2**
- C. Define and evaluate digital video encoding standards (e.g., MPEG & MPEG2). **X-3**
- D. Compare and contrast the various digital video platforms, and their uses. **X-1**
- E. Describe the process of non-linear editing. **X-1**
- F. Demonstrate basic digital video capturing, editing, and exporting techniques. **X-1**

Curriculum Committee Worksheet for Review of Library/Learning Resources

(to be completed jointly by Curriculum Proposal Originator and the Librarian)

New or Revised Course Title: _____ Introduction to Creative Filmmaking

Projected enrollment per section: 20

Projected number of sections per year: 1

1. Book Collection. Holdings are: (X) Adequate () Inadequate
 Number of titles to be: () Added () Updated () Deleted

Recommendations/comments:

2. Periodical Collection. Holdings are: (X) Adequate () Inadequate
 Number of titles to be: () Added () Updated () Deleted

Recommendations/comments:

3. Media Collection. Holdings are: (X) Adequate () Inadequate
 Number of titles to be: () Added () Updated () Deleted

Recommendations/comments:

4. Access to Multimedia, CD-ROM or Online Databases and Indexes to support research.
 Holdings are: (X) Adequate () Inadequate
 Number of titles to be: () Added () Updated () Deleted

Recommendations/comments:

5. Will library/learning resource assignments be used in the new course/program?

(X) yes () no

6. Will this course/program require assistance of library faculty for orientation or instruction?

() yes (X) no

7. Total estimated cost for new library/learning resource materials to support this course/program:

Based on a review of the needs for library/learning resources for this new course/program, it is the judgment of the faculty originator and the librarian that:

A. The Library/Learning Center currently has adequate materials to support this course/program.

(X) yes () no If the answer is "no," proceed to "B" below.

B. The Library/Learning Center currently does not have adequate materials to support this course/program. Additional needed items have been identified and will be purchased prior to the first offering of the course/program using the following plan:

Librarian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Curriculum Originator's Signature: _____ Date: _____