

## **FMST 181-20 INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING**

**Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 1:10-3:15PM**

**Professor: Melissa Bruno / [mb1660@georgetown.edu](mailto:mb1660@georgetown.edu)**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores introductory film production techniques and strategies. Students will practice video and audio recording techniques, scriptwriting and using non-linear editing software. Visual storytelling concepts and creative post-production editing will be emphasized. Additionally, critiques and screenings of student and professional film work will provide students with an understanding of film genres.

Taking a production course is a time-intensive commitment. You will be required to spend many hours outside of class time reading, reviewing materials and working on projects. Please make note of other academic and personal obligations and plan accordingly. Late work will greatly affect your grade.

### **SUGGESTED TEXTS:**

The Filmmaker's Handbook, 2013 Ed. Steven Ascher & Edward Pincus.

### **REQUIRED PURCHASE:**

External hard drive preferably formatted for your computer to store your film footage and projects. Aim for 1TB size or larger and be sure to have this before you start editing first project.

Recommended drives:

- Lacie Rugged
- G Tech, G Drive

### **EQUIPMENT and SOFTWARE:**

You will be using the following equipment for your projects:

- Canon 80D (DSLR), Canon mirrorless
- Zoom & prime lenses
- Weebill-S gimbal
- H4N Zoom Recorder (audio recorder)
- Sennheizer Shotgun Microphone & AT897 Shotgun Microphone
- Sony Wireless Lavs
- Boom Pole
- XLR cable
- Basic Tripod
- Shoulder Mount

Here is a list of applications and sites you can use for your projects:

- Final (free 18 week trial, screenwriting software)  
<https://www.finaldraft.com/offers/edu-trial-offer/> (Links to an external site.)
- Celtx (online, free screenwriting software, limit 3 scripts per account)
- freesound (free sound effects, must create account)

## PROJECTS:

Course requirements include 4 projects. Emphasis is placed on your ability to visually tell a story. All projects for this course must be created by the student in the class. The projects will be evaluated on both technical and creative levels.

**Project 1 Audio Story:** Record an audio story using a combination of dialogue, sound effects and music. Select one still image to use to provide visual context for the story's narrative. Length: 3-5 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

**Project 2 Long Take Sequence:** Film a long take sequence to tell a story- your choice in subject matter. Make sure to plan out and rehearse before filming. You may choose to use any type of audio but there should be no edits to the video footage. You must use the gimbal for this project. Length: 2-3 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

**Project 3 Scene Script:** Write a script for a scene that takes place in a feature film. Your scripts should have two characters and be set in one location. Length: 4-5 pages. (25 points out of 100)

**Project 4 Scene Recreation:** Work in groups to film and edit a scene from a narrative film. You may also choose to film one of the scenes written for the script project. The script can be modified for filming purposes. Length: 3-5 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

## WEEK 1

July 10

Introductions

Screening: Snap Judgement episode: "What Accent"

Snap Judgement episode: "The Bat Boy and the Pine Tar"

Assignment: Project #1 Audio Story, due 7/18

July 11

Sound Recording Demo and Practice

Listen: Student Audio Projects

Reading: (Ch. 11) Filmmaker's Handbook "Sound"

July 12

Watch: Premiere Tutorial

Homework: Start Recording Project #1

July 13

Edit During Class

Email: Work in Progress by Sunday (7/16)

## **WEEK 2**

July 17

Lecture: Shot Composition

Read: (Ch. 9) Filmmaker's Handbook "Production"

July 18

Project #1 Audio Story presentations

Lecture: Long Take

Assignment: Project #2 Long Take Sequence, due 7/26

July 19

Camera Demo & Filming Exercise

Student projects and "Thunder Road" (short film)

July 20

Work on Long Take Sequence

## **WEEK 3**

July 24

Lecture: Screenwriting and Final Draft

Read: Story Ch. 3, Ch. 4, Ch. 15, Ch. 18

Assignment: Project #3 Scene Study, due 8/2

July 25

Sync Sound Demo

Watch: Scene Examples

July 26

Project #2 Long Take presentations

Email: Script Drafts over the weekend

July 27

Work on script drafts- email by Saturday 7/29

## **WEEK 4**

July 31

Lighting Workshop

Read: (Ch. 12) Filmmaker's Handbook "Lighting"

Project #4 Film Scene Study, due 8/10

Aug 1

Lecture: Editing

Read: (Ch. 13) Filmmaker's Handbook "Editing"

Watch: Student Films

Aug 2

Project #3 Scene Study due

Watch: Post-Production Lectures on Color & Sound

Aug 3

Group Shoot Day

## **WEEK 5**

Aug 7

Edit During Class

Aug 8

Edit During Class

Aug 9

Screen Work in Progress

Aug 10

Project #4 due