FMST 1181-20 INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 1:10-3:15PM
Professor: Melissa Bruno / 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.

ATTENDANCE:

More than one (1) unexcused absence will result in a lower grade. If you miss three (3) or more classes, you will fail the class. If a serious medical or personal situation occurs affecting attendance, please discuss it with me.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT:

Georgetown University and its faculty and staff are committed to supporting survivors and those impacted by sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking. Georgetown requires faculty members, unless otherwise designated as confidential, to report all disclosures of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a professor or staff member in or outside of the classroom (with the exception of disclosures in papers), that faculty or staff member must report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. The coordinator will, in turn, reach out to the student to provide support, resources, and the option to meet. Please note that the student is not required to meet with the Title IX coordinator and no action will be taken without the student's awareness. More information about reporting options and resources can be found on the Sexual Misconduct Website: https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/resourcecenter.
If you would prefer to speak to someone confidentially, Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources that can provide support and assistance. These resources include:
- Health Education Services: Sexual Assault Response and Prevention: sarp@georgetown.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS): 202-687-6985

Additional resources are included below:
- Georgetown Self-Care Resource Guide: https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/health-promotion/self-care/
- Georgetown Wellness Wheel: https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/hoya-wellness-wheel/
- Georgetown Guide to Recognizing Students in Distress: https://studentaffairs.georgetown.edu/studentoutreach/facultystaffresources/

PREGNANCY MODIFICATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS:

Georgetown University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant students. At any point throughout their pregnancy students may request adjustments/modifications based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication or medical need. Students may also request accommodations following labor and delivery based on a complication or medical need.

To request pregnancy modifications, please complete the SCS Pregnancy Modification Request Form: https://forms.gle/ZBfASxui7u13A8TU6
More information about pregnancy modifications can be found on the Title IX Georgetown University Website: https://titleix.georgetown.edu/title-ix-pregnancy/student-pregnancy/

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

The Filmmaker's Handbook, Fifth 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 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 Draft (free 18 week trial, screenwriting software)
https://www.finaldraft.com/offers/edu-trial-offer/
- 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 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 3 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. Length: 2-3 minutes. (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: 3-6 minutes. (25 points out of 100)

WEEK 1
July 8
Introductions
Screening: Snap Judgement episode: "What Accent" & Student Audio
Assignment: Project #1 Audio Story, due 7/19

July 9
Sound Recording Demo and Practice

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

July 10
Premiere Tutorial
Homework: Start Recording Project #1

July 11
Lecture: Screenwriting
Watch: Scene Examples
Read: Story Ch. 3, Ch. 4, Ch. 15, Ch. 18
Assignment: Project #2 Scene Study, due 7/24

WEEK 2
July 15
Edit during class in Picchi
Homework: Script Drafts due 7/18

July 16
Camera Demo and Practice
Read: (Ch. 9) Filmmaker's Handbook "Production"

July 17
Project #1 Audio Story due
Watch: "Stutterer"

July 18
Workshop Scripts in class

WEEK 3
July 22
Lecture: Production
Watch: "Lunch Date"

July 23
Lecture: Long Take
Screening: Student Long Take projects and "Thunder Road"
Assignment: Project #3 Long Take Sequence, due 7/31

July 24
Project #2 Scene Scripts due
Sync Sound Demo and Practice

July 25
Gimbal Demo and Practice

Watch: Student Scene Recreation projects
Project #4 Scene Recreation, due 8/8

WEEK 4
July 29
Lighting Workshop
Read: (Ch. 12) Filmmaker's Handbook "Lighting"

July 30
Lecture: Editing
Read: (Ch. 13) Filmmaker's Handbook "Editing"

July 31
Project #3 Long Take Sequence due
Present Scene Recreation clips

Aug 1
Group Shoot Day
Watch: Post-Production Lectures on Color Correction & Removing Background Sound

WEEK 5
Aug 5
Present Footage

Aug 6
Edit During Class in Picchi

Aug 7
Screen Work in Progress

Aug 8
Project #4 Scene Recreations due