

FILMMAKING II: DIRECTING THE SHORT FILM

Fall/Winter, 2016/17
Rooms OT10 and OT14
Classes every Tuesday/Thursday: 10:00 - 12:45

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Office Hours: Monday, 12:00-2:00
(and by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an advanced filmmaking course synthesizing the various elements of film grammar explored in Filmmaking I towards the creation of longer visual narratives. Emphasis will be on the techniques employed for shooting and sequence-building of an extended dramatic narrative.

TEXTS

Recommended – This book is available in the Kindle Edition for \$22.99
The Filmmaker’s Handbook by Ascher & Pincus

STUDENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Students are expected to provide their own hard drives for project storage and editing. The recommended minimum drive is a 1TB USB2 7200RPM drive. Thunderbolt and USB drives are supported. Drives must be formatted for Mac computers.
- Students should also have a flash drive available every class to copy assignments, media, and to hand in film work. Please note, they are very unstable storage devices and are not to be used in place of a hard drive.
- Students are required to provide their own media cards to record their video assignments on. It is advised to bring them to every class. Recommended is a Class 10 16 gig card.
- Students will be expected to work on the Media Lab computers on the Apple-based editing software.
- Students are required to provide their own headphones.

ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION

1st assignment: Continuity Project.....	10%
2nd assignment: POV project	15%
First Term Major assignment	25%
3rd assignment: Dramatic Action	10%
Misc. In class assignments	10%
Second Term Major Assignment.....	30%

TOTAL	100%

There will be no final exam.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

Late assignments: Because the assignments are based on availability of equipment and the logistics of scheduling film shoots within a limited time frame, there is no margin for flexibility. Extensions will be granted only if arrangements have been made with the instructor **PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE** and only under **EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. Work submitted late without prior arrangement will be graded at zero (0).

NOTE: Cellular phones **MUST BE TURNED OFF** during classes, both in the lecture room **AND** in the Editing room. Students discovered talking on their cell phones during class time will be asked to leave the class. Ringing cell phones will be confiscated for the duration of the class.

COSTS

This is a practical hands-on course in filmmaking utilizing video and film equipment and students should take note of certain costs involved.

There is a \$50.00 non-refundable Technology Fee to help defray the costs of regular equipment maintenance. You paid this fee with your tuition.

In addition to the non-refundable Technology Fee, students are required to pay a **\$200 Damage Deposit** for this class. In return, we will loan you our equipment for use on class projects. If you lose or damage equipment while it is in your care, the damage deposit will be applied to costs of repair or replacement, but note: you are responsible for the total value of the loss even if it is more than this deposit. Any unused portion of your Damage Deposit will be returned to you, usually by the end of June.

The deadline for payment of the Damage Deposit is **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS**. If you fail to pay in full by the deadline, a "hold" will be placed on your student file and you will not be permitted to sign out or use any equipment. In order to make payment, take the "Damage Deposit Ticket" handed out in class to Student Central by the deadline. Once you have paid, **take your receipt to Patty Hawkins in Room 3T03**. You will be required to complete an *Equipment Loan Damage Deposit Agreement* which you must show to the Equipment Manager the first time you attempt to sign out equipment.

(NB: if you are taking more than one course requiring a damage deposit, you only pay the Damage Deposit once during the Fall/Winter term.)

Attendance and Class Participation: Attendance will be taken at each class and absenteeism will affect your grade. Also, students are expected to participate in class discussion.

Class Etiquette: Be on time. It is very disruptive to the rest of the class if people are wandering in late, especially if films are being screened or workshops are being conducted.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FIRST TERM

September: Weeks 1-4 – Continuity Project 1 Assigned - Workshops on framing, shot planning, camera motion, subject motion and axis, as they apply to a continuity sequence built on cuts.

Term One major film project assigned.

October: Week 1 - October 6: Continuity Assignment Due.

Weeks 2 Oct. 9-16 **FALL READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)**

Week 3- 4 - POV Project 2 – Workshops on framing, shot size, eye line, camera height, movement, lighting (mood), color and contrast as tools for the filmmaker to create a point of view or narrative stance.

November – Weeks 1 – 4 Shoot and edit 1st term project – Workshops on acting in the medium of film, directing the actor, planning and getting the coverage required to use the editor to create a scenic rhythm.

Tuesday, November 1 - POV Assignment due

Tuesday, November 29 – 1st term major assignment due.

SECOND TERM

January – Weeks 1- 4 – Dramatic Action Project 3 Assigned – Workshops on character objectives, scenic beats, text versus subtext, scenic shifts in objectives, stakes, and circumstance, blocking etc.

Final project assigned.

February – Weeks 1 - 4 – Workshops in technical/craft aspects of filmmaking – lighting, sound, setting, set dressing, hair, makeup, physical FX, CG FX, stunts, casting etc.

February 19 to 25 - READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)

March - Weeks 1 – 4 – Shoot and edit final projects. Workshops continue on technical/craft aspects.

March 28 – Final Assignment Due.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Wed Sept 21 (clowns Morro and Jasp), Mon Oct 17, Wed Nov 9, Wed Jan 18, Mon Feb 27, Mon Mar 13. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

2016 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15**. **ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular **Performance Jams**, **Socials**, and the very popular **24/7 Event** during which students move into our building and five plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented –

all in a period of 24 hours! And this year, for the first-time, TAFSA is planning a **Play Festival** (Jan 11-14). Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting: Mon Sept 19, 12:30-1:20, Room OT10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *Academic Calendar* (found on-line at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/new-faculty-handbook/appeals-and-academic-misconduct.html>) for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2016 and end in April 2017 (2016-17 Fall/Winter Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.