

Syllabus for Digital Filmmaking I

Instructor: Eric Rogers

Phone Number: 355.2569

E-Mail Address: emrogers@greenville.k12.sc.us

Class Time: 9:15-11:05

Web Page: www.FineArtsCenter.net

Course Description:

This course is designed to give each student an overview of the many aspects of film and video production, including writing, producing, directing, lighting, shooting, and editing. This will be achieved partially through lecture time, partially through critiquing the work of other filmmakers, including your fellow classmates, and partially through hands on production.

Objectives:

A completed film is a very complicated entity. It contains the work of photographers, artists, thespians, editors, musicians and graphic artists. All of these different people must combine their skills in such a way as to create a unified whole. When a student learns this piecemeal process and then observes how it comes together into a finished project, in effect, he is gaining valuable insight into the use of applying the process of abstraction to concrete principles. In turn, this creates a nurtured mind that will then better understand how to analyze other concrete ideas, whether they be in math, physics, psychology, philosophy, or art.

The film and video industry is a diverse and rapidly changing industry. It involves numerous areas of expertise that require an intense amount of study. Lighting, shooting, editing, directing, writing, computer graphics, special effects, sound engineering, & digital photography, are just a few of the many areas in which a student interested in media production can become involved.

It is my goal to expose you to a sampling of all of these areas so that you may have a better grasp of what area to focus upon when you go to college. Through this process, you will not only gain a valuable and marketable skill, but will have strengthened your thinking skills by learning to think abstractly and conceptually.

Supplies Necessary for the Course:

Loose-leaf Notebook Paper

Large 3 Ring Binder

Pen or Pencil

Course Requirements:

Tests (50-100 pts) - There will be 1-2 tests per quarter.

Yearly Assignments: Grades for these projects are calculated in the following manner: A completed project is worth a minimum of 60 points. The project is then ranked from 1-10 in four areas - Camera, Editing, Sound and Overall (i.e. was it interesting, entertaining, did it meet the assignment etc.)

Project 1 - Commercial (100 pts) - You will be required to shoot a commercial utilizing at least one of the following propaganda techniques: Card Stacking, Glittering Generalities, Transfer, Name Calling, Band Wagon, Plain Folk or Testimonials. It must be for a product such as clothing, beverages, perfume, etc., in which it is impossible to use facts to sell it.

Project 2 – Production logo (50 Pts) – You will create a production company name and logo to place at the opening of your film projects.

Project 3 – Russian Montage (100 pts) - You will be required to shoot a short film utilizing the concepts of juxtaposition as referenced by Sergei Eisenstein, Lev Kuleshov and Vsevolod Pudovkin.

Project 4 – *Mise-en-scene* (100 pts) You will be required to shoot a short film, focusing on the development of the *mise-en-scene* through the use of color, rhythm, timing, composition, etc.

Project 5 - Music Video (100 pts) - You will be required to take a piece of poetry or song lyrics and shoot a film that demonstrates the concept visually.

Weekly Assignments:

Monday - Biographies (5 Pts) - You must bring in a short biography about someone who has made an impact on the film industry. Good sources to use are the *Film Encyclopedia*, available in the classroom and the Internet Movie Database available at www.IMDB.com. On page 6 of this syllabus you will find a list of potential subjects for your biographies. You do not have to use people on this list.

Tuesday – (5 pts) Article Day – Good filmmakers must have a wide breadth of knowledge. On Tuesday, bring in an article about anything you find of interest that is non-movie, non-television and non-computer related.

Wednesday - Characters (5 pts) - You must create a character or analyze one from real life or in an existing work of fiction. Write a half page describing the character.

Thursday - Definition Quizzes (5 pts) - During the first semester, you will have quizzes over five film terms every Thursday.

Friday - Film Pitch (5 pts) - Every Friday, you must pitch an idea to the class for a film or video project. You must have this idea written down (3-5 sentences) and kept in your notebook.

Daily Grades – (2 pts)

Notebooks (50 pts per quarter) - You must keep and maintain a notebook that will contain your biographies, characters, and proposals. You must also keep the handouts that I will give you. I will check each of these at the end of the quarter. The order of your notebook should be as follows:

Section I - Blank loose-leaf paper

Section II - All handouts in the numbered order that I give them to you starting with this one.

Section III - Biographies

Section IV - Characters

Section V - Proposals

Section VI - Movie Critiques

Syllabus for Digital Film II

Course Description:

This is an advanced production course designed to allow you to learn more about editing, shooting and writing, and producing primarily through hands on instruction.

Objectives:

To write, produce, cast and edit a five-ten minute film.

Supplies Necessary for the Course:

Loose-leaf Notebook Paper
Large 3 Ring Binder
Pen or Pencil **EVERYDAY**

Course Requirements:

Text: *In the Blink of an Eye* by Walter Murch.

Quizzes: You will have quizzes based on the chapters in your textbook.

Test Grades:

You will also have tests based on advanced lectures on Final Cut Pro.

Weekly Assignments:

Monday - Biographies (5 Pts) - You must bring in a short biography about someone who has made an impact on the film industry. Good sources to use are the *Film Encyclopedia*, available in the classroom and the Internet Movie Database available at www.IMDB.com. On page 4 of this syllabus you will find a list of potential subjects for your biographies. You do not have to use people on this list.

Tuesday – (5 pts) Article Day – Good filmmakers must have a wide breadth of knowledge. On Tuesday, bring in an article about anything you find of interest that is non-movie, non-television and non-computer related.

Wednesday - Characters (5 pts) - You must create a character or analyze one from real life or in an existing work of fiction. Write a half page describing the character.

Thursday - Definition Quizzes (5 pts) - During the first semester, you will have quizzes over five film terms every Thursday.

Friday - Film Pitch (5 pts) - Every Friday, you must pitch an idea to the class for a film or video project. You must have this idea written down (3-5 sentences) and kept in your notebook.

Daily Grades – (2 pts) - Each day you will be given a maximum of 2 points dependent upon your productivity during the class.

Assignments: Some of the assignments you will be doing this year include (not necessarily in this order).

- Write a script based on a tabloid story.
- Write a script that you produce 5-10 minutes in length.
- Shoot several 30 second long films on the following topics:

Color

Black and White

Emotion

Suspense

Comedy

Negative space

Sound effects

Music

Make a film using three point lighting.

Make a film using one point lighting.
Form

Syllabus for Digital Filmmaking III

Course Description:

Advanced course based primarily on hands-on production utilizing the things you've already learned.

Objectives:

To produce work for your reel.

Text Book: Master Shots

Course Requirements:

1st Semester: You're going to make a number of short films that will all be completed in FCP Color. They will be based on the chapters in your textbook, *Master Shots*.

You will also be producing a thirty minute film for Dr. Fluhrer about dancer Brian McGinis.

2nd Semester: You will create your own project based on what aspect of filmmaking you hope to pursue in the future (i.e. animation, script writing, costume design.)

Smaller Projects:

- **Book Reports:** You'll have four book reports due throughout the year. Two pages, double-spaced typed in size 12 Times New Roman font.
Book Titles: *Land Your First Job in Film Production*, *Art Direction for Film and Video*, *Making a Good Script Great*, *Writer of Light*, and/or *Directing Actors*
Due Dates: October 10th
January 9th
March 5th
May 7th

Weekly Assignments:

Monday - Biographies (5 Pts) - You must bring in a short biography about someone who has made an impact on the film industry. Good sources to use are the *Film Encyclopedia*, available in the classroom and the Internet Movie Database available at www.IMDB.com. On page 4 of this syllabus you will find a list of potential subjects for your biographies. You do not have to use people on this list.

Tuesday - (5 pts) Article Day - Good filmmakers must have a wide breadth of knowledge. On Tuesday, bring in an article about anything you find of interest that is non-movie, non-television and non-computer related.

Wednesday - Characters (5 pts) - You must create a character or analyze one from real life or in an existing work of fiction. Write a half page describing the character.

Thursday - Definition Quizzes (5 pts) - During the first semester, you will have quizzes over five film terms every Thursday.

Friday - Every Friday you'll each teach a 5-minute lesson on Final Cut, Photoshop, Soundtrack, Motion or some other approved computer program.