

DIGITAL CINEMATOGRAPHY

Course Syllabus

Fall 2015



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will gain hands-on experience in digital cinematography. Students will plan and practice camera techniques used for interior and exterior lighting, composition and framing, green screen techniques and other aspects of visual storytelling. Students will practice mechanical aspects of the lens: f-stops, depth of field and rack focus shots. Terminology and theory specific to cinematography will be explored as well as the strategies for common production and photography obstacles will be addressed and put into practice. Projects will be completed in groups as well as individual efforts.

COURSE PREREQUISITE (S):

A minimum grade of 'D' in MMS 111 Video Production I

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:

Canvas, Handouts, Websites, Film Clips, and PowerPoint Slides

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Brown, Blain. (2012). *Cinematography: Theory and practice. Image making for cinematographers and directors*. Focal Press: Burlington, MA.

Course Objectives

1. Create storyboards to plan and prepare for an extended video shoot.
2. Use cinematic techniques base on the needs of a specific script, story or idea.
3. Determine video shooting methods (style) based on action and character's activity in a given scene, ie. Static vs movement, dolly vs crane etc.
4. Determine how the "mood" of a cinematic scene influences film production (ie. Lighting, camera movement, wide shots, medium shots, close up shots etc).
5. Acquire the skills to perform the appropriate camera lens settings (ie, f-stops, depth of field, rack focus shots etc).

Course Information

MMS 111:	Cinematography
Semester:	Fall 2015
Location:	Black Hawk Hall 126
Time:	Monday and Wednesday 1-2:15 PM

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Troy McKay
Office:	Black Hawk Hall 157A
Office Hours:	Mon. – Fri. 12-1 PM
Email:	troy.mckay@hawkeyecollege.edu
Phone:	818-634-8756

Student Learning Activities

1. Class and/or small group discussion
2. Classroom Demonstrations
3. Lectures and Guest Speakers
4. Critical evaluation of films, videotapes, and other media practical shooting assignments
5. Presentations
6. Fieldtrips

Course Grading and Evaluation

METHODS OF

INSTRUCTION: The instructor will give some lectures and many hands-on demonstrations. Students will also learn through individual and small group projects, critiquing professional and student videos and creating short videos. Reading assignments will consist of handouts, online videos and online articles or websites.

METHODS OF

EVALUATION: Course grades will be based on a compilation of several in and out of class assignments and small group projects, short quizzes, a short paper, written tests, practical assignments and observation.

GRADING:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Laboratory Assignments	30%
Midterm Project	15%
Final Project	15%



"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves."

-Steve Spielberg

GRADING SCALE:

A	100 - 93
A-	92 - 90
B+	89 - 87
B	86 - 83
B-	82 - 80
C+	79 - 77
C	76 - 73
C-	72 - 70
D+	69 - 67
D	66 - 63
D-	62 - 60
F	59 and below

Attendance



"A film is never really good unless the camera is the eye in the head of a poet"

-Orson Welles

ATTENDANCE: Come to class on time and be prepared. This means come having read materials for class discussion and having completed assignments on time. If you are not in class you will lose your attendance points for that day. You have two chances to receive points, for classroom and laboratory on a single day. There will also be points given for participation. Demonstrate that you have made the attempt to understand the materials in readings or assignments and you will receive these points. If you are not prepared to discuss material you will lose your participation points. These points are given at the discretion of the instructor.

I will reinforce this one more time, **be on time for class**. If you are not able to be in the classroom on time for any reason you will need to contact me before the class or lab begins. At that point it will be determined if your points will be lost for the day.



Assignments

Laboratory Assignments -- The lab assignments will be completed in and out of class time. At times you will be working alone, in pairs, or in small groups to complete the assignments. Specific assignments will be given in class, along with requirements and due dates. Many of these assignments will be listened to and/or presented in class for open critiques led by the instructor. These assignments will be submitted in a variety of formats.

****Specific criteria** for each assignment will be stated on an assignment sheet. Previously learned skills will not be stated as criteria, but will be expected and will be graded. Continue to build on the skills the you are learning and include them in your materials and you will succeed in this course.**

Midterm Exam/Project – The Midterm will cover concepts and topics discussed in class lectures, the textbook and outside presentations such as fieldtrips. There is a possibility that the exam will include a project will be assigned to you to complete in and outside of class time. The project will be specific to the skills and content that has been covered in class to that point. You may be asked to turn in your preparation and research materials in the form of a short paper and give a presentation before and after the analysis of you project in class. If a project is assigned along with the exam, the project requirement will be discussed in class along with formal requirements and due dates.

Final Exam/Project – A final exam will cover concepts and topics that have been discussed in class lectures, the textbook and outside presentation such as fieldtrips. There is a possibility that the exam will include a final project that will be assigned to you to complete in and outside of class time. The project will be specific to the skills and content that has been covered in class to that point. You may be asked to turn in your preparation and research materials in the form of a short paper and give a presentation before and after the analysis of you project in class. If a project is assigned along with the exam, the project requirement will be discussed in class along with formal requirements and due dates.

Final Words on Assignments – Failure to turn in any assignment, project, test or paper will result in an automatic failure of the course. In addition, due dates are intended to simulate deadlines. In the industry deadlines are non-negotiable for a deliverable project. It is in your best interest to begin to develop good habits to be successful. **No extensions** will be given, so none should be requested. This includes minor illness or technical problems within or beyond your control.

Extensions not longer than the time of the absence will be allowed for hospitalization or major illness extending for over one week. If you are not done with a project at the time of it being due, you should turn it in to receive maximum points. The alternative is to turn the project in late.

If you turn in an assignment late (within one week) you will receive one-half of the points you normally would. Later than one week and you receive zero points but do get credit for turning the assignment in and will not automatically fail the course.



“I’m just trying to tell a good story and make thought-provoking, entertaining films. I just try to and draw upon the great culture we have as a people, from music novels, the streets”

-Spike Lee

“Cinema has the capacity to be so psychological.”

-Kathryn Bigelow



“If chess has any relationship to film-making, it would be in the way it helps you develop patience and discipline in choosing between alternatives at a time when an impulsive decision seems very attractive.”

– Stanley Kubrick

Class Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to the Course Shades of Light
Week 2	Shades of Light CH 1 Writing with Motion
Week 3	CH 1 Writing with Motion CH 2 Shooting Methods
Week 4	Shooting Exercise Quiz #1
Week 5	CH 3 Visual Language CH 4 Language of the Lens
Week 6	Shooting Exercise Quiz #2
Week 7	CH 5-6 Visual Storytelling/Continuity Shooting Exercise
Week 8	CH 7-8 Lighting Mid Term Exam
Week 9	CH 10 Exposure Shooting Exercise
Week 10	CH 9 HD Cinematography CH 11 Color
Week 11	Quiz #3 CH 12 Image Control
Week 12	CH 13 Optics and Focus Shooting Exercise
Week 13	Quiz #4 CH 14 Set Operations
Week 14	Final Project Final Project
Week 15	Final Project Final Project
Week 16	Final Project Final Project

Important Dates

Fall Semester Begins

August 24, 2015

Last Day for 16 Week Refunds

September 6, 2015

College Closed - Labor Day

September 7, 2015

Spring Registration Begins

October 2, 2015

College Closed Thanksgiving Break

November 26-27, 2015

Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Impact

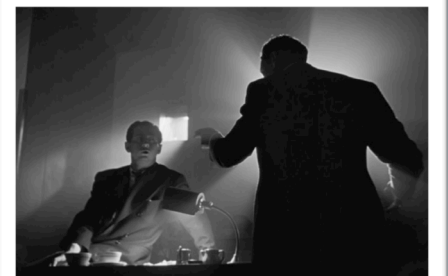
December 11, 2015

Finals Week

December 14-17, 2015

Cinematography Final

December 15, 2015 at 1 PM



Classroom Policies

CELL PHONE POLICY: You are allowed to have your cell phone on during class. However, it must be placed on **silent mode**. If your ringer goes off during class you will forfeit some or all of your participation points for that day. This goes both ways. If the instructor's ringer goes off, you will receive extra points for that day. If you need to answer a call you may exit the room and speak. Absolutely, no talking on the phone in the classroom at anytime or you will lose participation points. If you feel the need to leave the classroom for a conversation, I recommend being brief as you may miss important materials that I will not go over again. If you must answer a text message, do it discretely and do not disrupt class. If the instructor feels that you are disrupting the class by texting you will lose your participation points for that day. Be respectful of others in the class. If someone is giving a presentation in class, give them your attention and refrain from responding to a message until they are finished.

RESPECT YOUR CLASSROOM: Our classroom is a place for you to learn. If you are there to disrupt the class or prohibit others from a meaningful learning experience you will be asked to leave. If this is a common occurrence you will be removed from the course permanently. Intimidation and harassment will not be tolerated.

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours are posted above. If these times do not work for your schedule I can make arrangements to meet with you outside of these hours to discuss or clarify any information that you may need help understanding. I can also be reached by phone between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM Monday through Friday. On the weekends you can leave a message for me and I will get back to you within 48 hours. You always have the option of emailing me as well. I will try to respond within 24 hours to your message Monday through Friday and within 48 hours on the weekends or a holiday. I am here to help. Do not hesitate to contact me.



“For a writer, it’s a word. For a composer or a musician, it’s a note. For an editor and a filmmaker, it’s the frames.”

-Quinton Tarantino

College Policies

Academic Integrity and Conduct Policy

The integrity of the academic program and degree rests on the principle that the grades awarded to students reflect only their own individual efforts and achievement. Students are required to perform the work specified by the instructor and are responsible for the content of work submitted, such as papers, reports, examinations, and other work.

Violations of academic integrity include various types of plagiarism and cheating. Please see your student handbook for definitions of plagiarism and cheating, as well as the penalties for violations of academic integrity.

Email Policy

Each enrolled Hawkeye student is provided a free email account while in attendance. Hawkeye sends important college information including your grades, attendance, graduation, etc by email only. All email communication between faculty, advisors, staff and students will only be through this account. Accessing your email at least once a week will keep your account current, including access to your SOAR account. If you have problems with your email or SOAR account, contact the Academic Support Center, Bremer 116, or the Library.

Class Cancellation Policy

Class meetings can occasionally be called off due to bad weather, a college closing, or a teacher absence for illness. In any cancelled class situation, deadlines for tests, papers, projects, etc. will be in effect for the next scheduled class date.

Students' Special Needs

Hawkeye Community College (HCC) strives for student-centered, quality education with flexibility to allow for students with special needs. Students with physical, mental, or learning disabilities should contact the Special Needs Coordinator in Student Services at 319/296-4014 or specialneeds@hawkeyecollege.edu to learn how to

apply for accommodations at HCC. Or, visit our website for more information and forms:

<http://www.hawkeyecollege.edu/students/services/student-disability-services/default.aspx>

Nondiscrimination Statement: Hawkeye Community College does not discriminate on the basis of sex; race; age; color; creed; national origin; religion; disability; marital status; sexual orientation; gender identity; genetic information; political affiliation or belief in its employment practices; educational programs and activities; admission procedures; outreach and recruitment; counseling and guidance; testing; selection, placement, appointment, and referral; or promotion/retention. Veteran status in educational programs, activities, employment practices, or admission procedures is also included to the extent covered by law. Students, prospective students, employees, or applicants for employment alleging a violation of equity regulations shall have the right to file a formal complaint. Inquiries concerning application of this statement should be addressed to: Equity Coordinator, Human Resource Services, Hawkeye Community College, 1501 East Orange Road, P.O. Box 8015, Waterloo, Iowa 50704-8015, telephone 319-296-4405.

Tobacco Free: A tobacco-free campus policy has been implemented at Hawkeye. No smoking or chewing is allowed anywhere on campus grounds. Please follow the rules at all times, I don't want to police this, but I will. The Student Health Center also offers smoking cessation programs if you are a smoker and are interested in quitting.

