EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

FILM AND VIDEO

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Cinema and Media Arts

FA / FILM 3003 6.0 SECTION A
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT WORKSHOP I
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 08/23/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides a workshop environment for the development, production and post-production of a range of film and video projects, with an emphasis on works which cross boundaries through the use of innovative subjects, processes and approaches. Prerequisites: FA/FILM 2010 6.0 or 9.0 and permission of the Film Department.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hoffman, Philip J</td>
<td>Sec. A / STD0 / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

**Course:** FA/FILM 3003 6.0 A, Alternative Project Workshop I

**Course Webpage:** N/A

**Term:** Fall/Winter 2017-18

**Prerequisite / Co-requisite:** FA/Film 2010 Film and Video Production or equivalent and with permission of the course director. *Alternative Project Workshop 1 is a major in the Film Department and enrollment is limited to students enrolled in the Film Program.

**Philip Hoffman**  
Office: CFT 218

email: phoffman@yorku.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(by appointment preferred)

**Time and Location:** Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CFT 135

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

**Expanded Course Description:**

Exploring alternative approaches to the mainstream filmmaking genres, this project-driven course encourages students to tackle more personal and experimental subjects and modes of expression through independently spirited and independently produced films and videos. Canadian filmmaking has its more recent international stature from fiction filmmaking, and its long history of excellence in documentary, but no less significant are the film and video innovators, experimenting with both form and content, often working alone and in the first-person to deepen and broaden the media: Michael Snow, Arthur Lipsett, Joyce Wieland, Vera Frenkel,
Midi Onodera, Jack Chambers, Deirdre Logue, Mike Hoolboom, Lisa Steele, Stan Douglas, Steve Reinke, Caroline Monnet, Christina Battle and many others. The experimentation with form, manipulation of celluloid and digital video, multi-screen presentation, and hybridisation in contemporary media arts also reflects precisely the kind of independent and experimental projects encouraged and developed in this course. Thus Alternative Project Workshop seeks to mentor students working consciously within these traditions as they create new forms for their self-expression.

Combining screenings with workshops in experimental film and digital technique and instruction on the authorship and direction of expressive alternatives to fiction and documentary, this course leads the student through exercises and lectures and ultimately a major independent project.

Each student will, in consultation with the course director, fill out a Project Contract form, which will outline their responsibilities on their own major project work and on other major class projects. The contract will be filled out during the 1st semester and will outline the grading % of all the work to be carried out in the creation of the major project. Project initiators must prepare a Proposal Package, before projects are given the go-ahead. The details of what should be included in the Proposal Package will be established on a project to project basis, depending on the nature of the project, & in consultation with the course director.

All students, in groups of 2, will be required to submit and present a research paper due in the first half of the Winter Semester. Details will be outlined in class.

Projects in this course will be limited to solo production or very small crews (2 persons). Large productions cannot be supported in this class due to limited resources in the department, and because the course work does not cover large scale production processes. Solo artisanal filmmaking is what is covered and supported in this course. Various forms of collaboration with your Alternative Project classmates will be encouraged, including co-directing.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Recommended Reading and websites:

- Experimental Cinema: https://exp cinema.org/site/en

Hill, Helen, *Recipes For Disaster*, at http://www.filmlabs.org/docs/recipes_for_disaster_hill.pdf


Public Journal: Art/Culture/Ideas at http://www.publicjournal.ca/books/


Shaw & Weibel, Editors., *Cinema Future: The Cinematic Imaginary After Film*.


Tarkovsky, Andrey. *Sculpting in Time*, University of Texas Printing, 1986


* more texts to be added to complement individual research & projects

**GRADED ASSESSMENT**

**Evaluation**
Fall Semester:

Minor Project(s) 20%
Part A Due: Oct 10, 2017 classtime
Part B Due: Nov 21, 2017 classtime

Major Project 10%
Proposal Package Due: Nov. 14, 2017 (or sooner)

Attendance & Participation 10%

Winter Semester:

Research Paper/Presentation 20%
completed by Feb 27, 2018

Major Project 30%
*Rough Cut Due: March 6, 2018
Fine Cut Due: March 27, 2018

Attendance & Participation 10%

100%

*Last date to drop course is Feb 9, 2018

IMPORTANT: if sufficient progress has not been made by Feb. 13, 2018 the instructor claims the right to discontinue the project, a mandate directed by the production committee due to shortages of equipment and facilities at the end of winter semester. In this case the student may have to re-negotiate his/her contract through post production roles on classmates projects.

NO SHOOTING OF PROJECTS WILL CARRY INTO THE MONTH OF MARCH, AS THIS IS THE PERIOD FOR ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE OF EDITING AND SOUND PROCESSES.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.). (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf)

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in at class time on the due date, unless otherwise instructed. Written work must be submitted as a hard copy. Email submissions will not be accepted. If in-class submission is not possible, work may be left, in person, with Grace Walker in the Film and Video Department. If this occurs after the class has ended it will be considered submitted past the in-class deadline.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one-half letter grade (1 grade point) per day that the assignment is late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as
illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Important information

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious issue. It is also damaging to yourself as a writer and a student, as well as being grounds for severe academic penalties, as indicated in the undergraduate catalogue. Website:
http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students.htm

The Instructor requires that each class member has taken the tutorial associated with Academic Honesty.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures
- Academic Integrity Website http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity
- Accessibility/Disability Services: course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities www.yorku.ca/cds
- Accommodating Students with Disabilities (York Senate Policy)
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
  https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs

- Student Conduct http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82 Please note that this information is subject to periodic update. For the most current information, please go to the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University