EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

FILM AND VIDEO

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

FA / FILM 4003 6.0 SECTION A
ALTERNATIVE WORKSHOP II
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides fourth-year students with the opportunity to explore the practice, aesthetics and theory of alternative production at an advanced level. Over the course of the year, students will engage in various preparatory, practical exercises, culminating in the production of a major alternative project. Prerequisites: FA/FILM 2010 6.00 or FA/FILM 2010 9.00 and permission of the Film Department.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
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<td>Hoffman, Philip J</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

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: Arthur Lipsett, Joyce Wieland, Vera Frenkel, Midi Onodera, Michael Snow, Caroline Monnet, Jack Chambers, Deirdre Logue, Lisa Steele, Stan Douglas, Steve Reinke, Christina Battle, Karel Doing 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, and 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.

Recommended Reading and websites:

Experimental Cinema: https://expcinema.org/site/en
Hill, Helen, *Recipes For Disaster*: 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*.


Sound & Moving Image Library (SMIL) York University

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


Production & Tech

- Film 411 http://film411.pbworks.com/w/browse/#view=ViewAllObjects
- Production Equipment Manuals: http://film411.pbworks.com/w/browse/#view=ViewFolder&param=Production%20Equipment%20Manuals

- Samuelson, David. *Motion Picture Camera Data*, Focal Press.

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

**Evaluation**

**Fall Semester:**

**Minor Project(s)** 20%
Part A Due: Oct. 22, 2019 classtime
Part B Due: Nov. 19, 2019 classtime

**Major Project** 10%
Proposal Package Due: Nov. 19, 2019
(or sooner)

Attendance & Participation 10%

Winter Semester:

Research Paper/Presentation 20%
completed by Jan. 28, 2020

Major Project 30%
*Rough Cut Due: Feb. 25, 2020
Fine Cut Due: March 17, 2020

Attendance & Participation 10%

100%
*Last date to drop course is Feb 3, 2020

IMPORTANT: if sufficient progress has not been made by Feb 11, 2020 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.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

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 - https://registrar.yorku.ca/grades/legends/fa

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
**Length of Films:**
Please note that projects that exceed the maximum length of 15 minutes (including credits) will not be shown at the annual Finish Line screening.

**A Note on Attendance:**
Attendance at classes is mandatory. Staying away from class to work on an assignment is not a valid excuse. It will be extremely difficult to cover course content if you miss classes, because so much goes on in the class that cannot be repeated. Class begins promptly at 9:30 so plan to arrive a few minutes early. Late arrival is disruptive. Handing in your assignment late will result in the lowering of your grade unless medical documentation is submitted.

**A Note on Email:**
The course director may use email when necessary to communicate information to the whole class, but prefers not to engage in individual correspondence other than in the most exceptional circumstances. Please make use of office hours or make an appointment; face-to-face communication is preferred.

**Insurance**
Refer to the Film and Video Undergraduate catalogue for details regarding insurance for your productions.

**York Credit**
All productions must acknowledge York University as the final end credit, using a standalone, non-moving title, to read:

**Produced at York UniversityDepartment of Cinema and Media Arts Toronto, Canada (Year of Production)**

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

Moodle @ York University