EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

FILM AND VIDEO

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

FA / FILM 3160 3.0 SECTION A
CINEMATOGRAPHY I
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021

Last Modified Date: 08/26/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides an intensive study of the foundational elements of lighting, camera and photography, as they relate to film and video production. Prerequisites: FA/FILM 2010 6.00 or 9.00 and permission of the Film Department.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<td>Kazimi, Ali</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus.


Technical requirements for taking the course: This online will be held weekly using the Zoom platform for the class sessions. In addition to stable, higher-speed Internet connection, students will need a computer with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

Some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:
Student Guide to Moodle
Zoom@YorkU Best Practices
Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide
Computing for Students Website
Student Guide to eLearning at York University

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as Speedtest, that can be run.

NOTE

All students will require access to a digital camera with manual controls capable of recording moving images in High Definition, a basic tripod and a light meter.

A basic kit of lighting & grip equipment will be provided to students in the GTA. For those outside the GTA, the instructor will provide suggestions on the equipment and where it could be procured.

A supplementary document containing detailed information will be sent by the instructor

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS
Organization of the course

The course is designed to take students through a series of hands-on iterative assignments designed to build on their foundational knowledge of cinematography.

Weekly reading from the assigned textbook supplemented with carefully selected tutorial material constitute the asynchronous aspect of this course. Assignments are designed so that students immediately apply knowledge gleaned from this material.

Students are required to assemble their assignments output them in HD, compress the files to chosen platform specifications and upload them to either Vimeo or YouTube.

Questions arising from the readings/viewings are to be posted on the discussion form on the Moodle site.

Class time will consist of critiques of assignments and responding to questions about the readings and tutorials.

Expanded course description:

Film 3160 is an intensive introductory level course, designed to aid students in the understanding of the fundamentals of the craft of cinematography and prepare them to act as cinematographers on documentary, alternative and fiction films.

This practice intensive course will build on the understanding and applications of the basics of photography, digital imaging and lighting as taught in the foundation courses thru assigned readings, viewing of tutorial material and assignments followed by synchronous sessions (conducted via Zoom) during which assignments will be critiqued.

This course will focus on fundamental aesthetic & theoretical concepts in exposure, composition, lighting and colour design, visualization of a film and its realization through the application and control of the cinematographer’s tools, as well as an understanding of camera movement and its creative use.

Units to be studied will include understanding of exposure (from exposure meters to waveform monitors) light and light sources, lenses, the proper operation of digital video and digital cinema cameras, controlling the digital image, colour temperature and balance using filters/gels.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Course objectives and learning outcomes

The purpose of this course is to assist students in learning and developing the basic skills and working methodology required of a cinematographer in order to work on, documentary fiction and alternative films.

Brief list of specific learning objectives of the course:

• achieving cinematic results using basic tools such as a DSLR,
• to strengthen the basic understanding of the digital motion picture image gathering process
• to develop the basic skills of cinematography – the ability to evaluate a scene, determine coverage needed, light it to achieve desired effect and the selection and use of equipment required.
• the course is designed not only for those wishing to pursue cinematography but all interested in learning about the basic principles of camerawork and the tools required to achieve a particular result or effect, to develop an understanding of the task of a cinematographer

Course readings


NOTE: These required texts are central to the course.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Evaluation

Assignments                                60%
Quizzes                                40%

Course policies

Students are required to do weekly assignments that are to be uploaded on Vimeo or YouTube with the links posted to the course Moodle site by 12pm on the following Monday. Quizzes will be posted on Moodle and are to be completed before the start of the next class.

The intensive nature of this course requires all assignment to be delivered by the deadline, failure to do so will result in a 25% grade penalty and each subsequent day will result in another 25% reduction.

Each class session conducted via Zoom will be recorded strictly for the purposes of review. It will be posted on the Moodle site two day after each class. All students are required to fill out and sign a consent form and email a copy to the instructor. Please note that 1) the recordings should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also FIPPA); and 3) all recordings will be destroyed after the end of classes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Academic honesty and integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK’s Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another’s work, the representation of another’s ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

Please ensure that you have set the correct metadata on your cameras i.e. date, time, year and please ensure that if your camera has a copyright field, it has your name on it.

Course information

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

• Student Rights & Responsibilities
• Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
• [For more language on course information, please consult the University’s Important Course Information document.]

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

Moodle @ York University