



Digital Cinema 7-9 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Filmmaking Process

Students learn how to plan and create a film project that can be viewed by others.

2 Connecting to an Audience

Students learn how to use images and audio to connect emotionally to an audience.

3 Teamwork

Students learn how to work as teams to solve technical issues that arise during filmmaking.

Course Topics

1 Brainstorming

Students come up with feasible ideas for a film project with given resources.

2 Scriptwriting

Students learn how to outline and write a final script for a film.

3 Pre-Production

Students learn how to complete the phases of pre-production, including prop selection and casting.

4 Filming

Students learn how to handle a camera while filming a scene.

5 Editing

Students learn how to edit out unnecessary material for a film.

6 Special Effects

Students learn how to add visual effects to the film they produce.

7 Music

Students learn how to compose and incorporate music into their films.

8 Final Product

Students burn their films onto a DVD to show to an audience.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Introduction

Students introduce themselves and receive an overview of the layout and content of the course.

Filmmaking Pledge

Students are presented with and asked to sign an honor pledge to commit their best efforts to the filmmaking process.

Screening and Discussion

Students watch various examples of film scenes to discuss what can be improved and what can be incorporated into their own films.

Camera Test

Students are familiarized with the basic features of the camera and shoot test footage to get a feel for filmmaking and to use later for editing practice.

End of Day 1

Students start brainstorming ideas for short films, and go home preparing what to bring in the next day.

Day 2

Screening and Discussion

Students watch various examples of film scenes to discuss what can be improved and what can be incorporated into their own films.

Camera Test

Students are familiarized with the basic features of the camera and shoot test footage to get a feel for filmmaking and to use later for editing practice.

Brainstorming Stories

Students get together and brainstorm simple stories to use for their first film project.

Drafting Scripts

Students write the scripts for their films and begin to discuss pre-production.

Editing Demo

Students are taught the basic controls of editing and start to edit the test footage from Day 1.

Day 3

End of Day 1

Students start brainstorming ideas for short films, and go home preparing what to bring in the next day.

Lesson on Types of Shots/Film Vocabulary

Students learn basic shot types and film vocabulary.

Storyboarding

Students craft a storyboard for their projects to prepare for filming Film 1.

Discussing the 9 Points

Students discuss the 9 key points to use when filmmaking.

Test Shots of Storyboards

Students practice shooting utilizing pre-production materials.

Editing Continued

Students have the option to continue editing Day 1 footage.

End of Day 3

Students watch the day's footage and discuss plans for the next class.

Day 4

Brainstorming Stories

Students get together and brainstorm simple stories to use for their first film project.

Drafting Scripts

Students write the scripts for their films and begin to discuss pre-production.

Editing Demo

Students are taught the basic controls of editing and start to edit the test footage from Day 1.

Casting

Students select their character roles.

Prop Making

Students create props for their first film.

Begin Shooting

Students begin to shoot Film 1.

Introduce Film 2 Scriptwriting

Students start planning and writing their second film project.

End of Day 4

Students screen the day's footage and discuss further plans.

Day 5

Lesson on Types of Shots/Film Vocabulary

Students learn basic shot types and film vocabulary.

Storyboarding

Students craft a storyboard for their projects to prepare for filming Film 1.

Discussing the 9 Points

Students discuss the 9 key points to use when filmmaking.

Continue Shooting if Needed/Start Editing

Students continue shooting and try to wrap up Film 1.

Introduce Film 2

Students are introduced to the second film project.

Edit Film 1

Students edit Film 1.

Write/Develop Film 2

Students get to work on writing, developing, and planning Film 2.

Day 6

Test Shots of Storyboards

Students practice shooting utilizing pre-production materials.

Finish Writing if Needed

Students finish the script for Film 2.

Shot Lists

Students learn about and create shot lists for Film 2.

Film 2 Storyboards

Students make storyboards for Film 2.

Edit Film 1

Students finish editing Film 1.

End of Day 6

Students end the day by discussing tomorrow's big shoot.

Day 7

Editing Continued

Students have the option to continue editing Day 1 footage.

Film 2 Production (Shooting)

Students spend the next couple of classes shooting Film 2.

End of Day 7

Students end the day by watching the day's footage and discuss what needs to be accomplished tomorrow.

Day 8

End of Day 3

Students watch the day's footage and discuss plans for the next class.

Casting

Students select their character roles.

Film 2 Production (Shooting)

Students spend the next couple of classes shooting Film 2.

End of Day 8

Students end the day by watching the day's footage and discuss if anything else needs to be shot.

Day 9

Prop Making

Students create props for their first film.

Make-Up Shots

Students finish up any shooting or reshooting for Film 2.

Edit Film 2

Students begin editing Film 2.

Day 10

Begin Shooting

Students begin to shoot Film 1.

Edit Film 2

Students begin editing Film 2.

Watch Party

Students watch their completed work and reflect on the creative journey.

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