

Indiana University Department of Telecommunications

T436 – Digital Video Cinematography

Syllabus v1 - Fall 2012

Instructor: Jim Krause jarkraus@indiana.edu
www.indiana.edu/~telecom/people/faculty/krause.shtml
Studio: 332-1005 & IU: 856-2172 &
Office Hours (RTV Bldg. 350): Mon 8-10 AM & by appointment.

Asst/GA: Russell McGee rusmcgee@umail.iu.edu

Book: "Cinematography: Theory and Practice" 2nd edition by Blain Brown. Additional on-line readings will be assigned and available through the course website.

Materials: 3 or more mini Sony HDM63VG Digital Master-quality MiniDV tapes.
Available at TIS - (Write name clearly on both box spine & tape spine!)
18% grey card (Available through Jim or Cord Camera)
A cine capable light meter is highly recommended but not required. (Sekonic L-558 or Sekonic L-308)

Course Description: This class focuses on storytelling, and explores advanced digital video cinematography techniques for both studio and field. Students will operate HD video cameras, use light meters, determine set and lighting needs, operate a jib, block scenes, mount and use a matte box, and become familiar with topics including film space, continuity, lenses, color, filters, and camera control. Over the course of the semester, students will work together to produce a number of short stories in both field and studio environments. The best shorts will be used in the TV show, "*Small Screen Cinema*," which airs on WTIU. Students are also encouraged to submit their projects to various film festivals and contests.

No laptops, iPads or cellphones – To reduce distractions and keep attention focused, cellphones, iPads, and laptops are absolutely forbidden in class. Students are welcome to use them on breaks, but during class please do not even check for messages, updates, or tweets, etc.

Attendance: Your presence is absolutely required at each lecture and lab throughout the entire semester. Attendance is mandatory and promptness at the start of lab is required. Missing a class or repeated tardiness will result in a drop in your final grade by 5/100 points, or a half letter for each occurrence. More points will be deducted if your absence creates a hardship for fellow lab partners and production team members. You will be an integral part of a functioning production team and are expected to behave in a professional manner.

There is an Indiana University Religious Holy Days/Holidays policy stating that instructors must reasonably accommodate students who want to observe their religious holidays at times when academic requirements conflict with those observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform instructors of conflicts *no later than the second week of the semester* so that reasonable accommodations may be provided.

Computers, Procrastination & Murphy's Law: It is unacceptable to come to class without paperwork/homework due to printing problems or other *technical difficulties*. Don't wait until the last minute to write, print or carry out your work. If you do, your computer will most likely malfunction. ALWAYS make a redundant copy of anything you do. This applies to computer files and paperwork. It is your responsibility to have these materials when required.

Lab Usage & Equipment: You are responsible for knowing and adhering to all Lab Policies. Always treat equipment as if it were your own and return it on time. If you will be late, call the lab at 855-7855. Returning equipment late will result in a grade reduction and possible restrictions on using Departmental equipment. Food and drinks are not allowed in the production facilities. You will be financially liable for broken or lost equipment due to negligence. Cameras, lights, and editing equipment are only used for work directly related with the course.

Course Requirements & Grading: Your grade will be based on your understanding of class material and your competence with skills demonstrated in the labs. There are hands-on graded lab activities, production assignments, critiques and exams, which altogether total 500 points. There are no makeup opportunities for missed quizzes or work due to absence or tardiness.

Assignments are to be turned in on time or not at all.

The total final points awarded will be resolved into a percentage of 100. The final grading criteria is: A+ = 98-100, A = 94-97, A- = 90-93, B+ = 87-89, B = 84-86, B- = 80-83, C+ = 77-79, C = 74-76, C- = 70-73, D+ = 67-69, D = 64-66, D- = 60-63, F = 59 & below.

T351 Grading Criteria - 500 total points

- 5 Expectations Exercise
- 25 Cinema Techniques (oral presentation & written lesson/report)
- 30 Journal/blog (A journal/blog you update weekly documenting your work and experiences)
- 15 Treatment/Script submissions
- 10 Week 1 Scene Fragment Exercise
- 10 Week 2 Scene Fragment Exercise
- 15 Week 3 Camera Filter/Matte Box Exercise
- 20 Week 4 Lighting Exercise
- 20 Week 5 Final Scene Fragment Exercise
- 40 Directing/Producing/DP (or other assigned production duties)
- 40 AD/Lighting (or other assigned production duties)
- 40 Editing/Audio/PA (or other assigned production duties)
- 40 Quiz 1
- 40 Quiz 2
- 30 Production Critiques
- 70 Final Exam
- 50 Participation, teamwork & professionalism
- 500 total class points

T351 Schedule -----

WEEK 1 (8/20): COURSE INTRODUCTION – Cinematography 101

Cinematography, filmspace, “building expectation,” proscenium shooting, building blocks, composition.

Class Expectations & Outcomes activity

Readings: Brown: Ch 1 “writing with motion,” Ch 2 “shooting methods,” & Ch 3 “visual language”.

LAB: View examples of cinematic techniques.

Week 1 Scene Fragment Exercise.

WEEK 2 (8/27) Lenses & Cameras

Readings: Brown: Ch 4 “language of the lens,” Ch 5 “visual storytelling,” & Ch 6 “cinematic continuity”

LAB: Cinema examples.
Week 2 Scene Fragment Exercise.

WEEK 3 (9/3) NOTE: No Lecture on Labor Day! Lab meets as usual on Wednesday (9/5)

LAB: Lenses & Cameras
Oral reports #1, #2

Readings: Brown: Ch 7 “lighting basics” & Ch 8 “lighting sources” & Ch 9 “HD Cinematography”

LAB: Set initial production schedule
Rating a camera’s ASA/ISO.
Mounting & using a matte box
Camera Filter Exercise.

WEEK 4 (9/10): Lights & Lighting

Setting mood through lighting, Lighting as a story element. Using a light meter.
Oral reports #3, #4

Readings: Brown: Ch 10 “exposure,” Ch 11 “camera movement,” Ch 12 “color,” & Ch 13 “image control”

LAB: Zone Lighting exercise.
Finalize production schedule

WEEK 5 (9/17): Exposure, Image and Camera Control

Determining ASA/ISO, Determining Latitude, Camera Support Gear, & Matte Boxes
Oral reports #5, #6

Readings: Brown: Ch 14 “optics & focus,” & Ch 15 “set operations”

LAB: Final Scene Fragment Exercise.

WEEK 6 (9/24): Optics & Set Procedures

Optics, The Production team, Chain of Command, Slates
Quiz #1
Oral reports #7, #8

Readings: Brown: Ch 16 “technical issues,” & Ch 17 “film formats”

LAB: *Small Screen Cinema* Production Week #1

WEEK 7 (10/1): Tech Issues and Film Formats

Oral reports #9, #10

Readings: TBA

LAB: *Small Screen Cinema* Production Week #2

WEEK 8 (10/8): Digital Video Cinematography

High-definition digital video cinematography equipment and practices.

Oral reports #11, #12

Readings: TBA

LAB: *Small Screen Cinema* Production Week #3

WEEK 9 (10/15): Digital Cinema / Distribution

Digital cinema, equipment and distribution.

Oral reports #13, #14

Readings: TBA

LAB: *Small Screen Cinema* Production Week #4

WEEK 10 (10/22): Tools and Tech

Tools and techniques for the Digital Video Cinematographer. Technical issues

Oral reports #15, #16

Readings: TBA

LAB: *Small Screen Cinema* Production Week #5

WEEK 11 (10/29): Producers & Producing / Project Review

The role of the producer. Getting ideas from your head onto the screen.

Quiz #2 (cumulative)

Readings: TBA

LAB: View & assess projects. *Small Screen Cinema* Production #6

WEEK 12 (11/5): Advanced Production

Advanced tools and techniques for the Camera and Lighting Crew.

Readings: TBA

LAB: *Small Screen Cinema* Production Week #7 / Shoot introduction and segues

WEEK 13 (11/12): Advanced Post Production

Tools and resources for Post Production.

Readings: TBA

Thanksgiving Week - No lab this week!

WEEK 14 (11/26): Finishing for Broadcast Delivery

LAB: Focus Group Screening / Shoot pick-ups, missing components

WEEK 15 (12/3): Issues in Cinematography

Comprehensive review

LAB: Movie (TBA) screening

WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM – Wrap Party

Final Exam: 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM, Friday, December 14

(Day & time assigned by registrar.)