T351/T352 Video Field/Post-Production

Instructor

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Materials

• Course Packet (to be announced)
• Several mini-dv videotapes

Course Description

Advanced aesthetics, concepts and practical techniques for video field production. Course includes elements of acquisition and post-production, including composition, continuity, sound, lighting, digital editing, and sound manipulation. Practical experience in the planning, shooting and editing process is gained through a series of hands-on activities and projects using Final Cut Pro.

Special Needs

Any student with special needs should schedule a meeting with me during the first two weeks of class.

Attendance

This is a no-cut course and attendance is mandatory. If you miss a lab, your final grade will drop one full letter. Attendance is also taken in lecture and your final grade may be reduced for excessive absences.

There is an IU policy regarding stating that instructors must reasonably accommodate students who wish to observe their religious holidays. It is your responsibility to inform me of any possible conflicts. This information must be presented in writing before the end of week two so that accommodations can be made.

Don’t purchase airline tickets before checking the entire schedule and the final exam schedule.
Course Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable and are grounds for an Academic Misconduct Report and a failing grade. Having another individual complete any part of your assignments, including shooting and editing, is considered cheating. Likewise, inappropriate, uncivil actions or language will not be tolerated. This extends to the use of e-mail messages to instructors or classmates.

Cell phones must be turned off and kept concealed during class. If your device rings in class, you must leave the room and you will be considered absent.

Grading

You will be evaluated individually and as a member of a team. There are a number of general exercises throughout the first few weeks designed to test your competence with the tools and techniques of field production. Each assignment requires a typed critique which is due at the same time as the assignment. Late critiques and e-mailed critiques will not be accepted. You will develop and write scripts, fill out production forms, and justify your production concepts throughout the course. You can not achieve a grade of B or better if you don't complete the design requirements for a project. Last, there will be a written test based on readings and lectures.

Grading Criteria

A  Outstanding, mastery of all subject material
B  Very good work, well above average
C  Good work, average
D  Below average, needs some improvement

Specific Projects/Points

Edit Review (20)

This in class exercise will help you re-familiarize your self with FCP and introduce some new techniques in version 4. You will be given footage and an objective for a specific program.

Acquisition Exercise (40)

In this exercise, you will be given a shot list to complete. Attention to composition, camera functions/features, microphone selection and audio recording levels is important. The objective is to familiarize yourself with the equipment and to assess your shooting competence. The typed critique is a considerable part of your grade.

Lighting Exercise (30)

The use of supplemental TV lighting is necessary for professional quality video. Working in teams, you will shoot several scenes using lighting instruments and existing lighting conditions.
**Edit Competencies & FCP 4 Tutorial (30)**

Completion of a series of specific competencies in capturing, importing, project management, timeline editing, audio mixing, graphics and outputting. After finishing the competencies, you will complete the tutorial.

**In-class Exercise (50)**

This exercise allows you to add graphics, incorporate additional refinements and sweeten the soundtrack from the original edit exercise. The best tapes will be selected by the Multivisions committee and be used as a promotion on the Department website and in Telecom classes.

**Project One: Non-fiction (100)**

A two person project to be submitted to the Fox News Channel “Excellence in Fair and Balanced Reporting Competition”. This 2:30-3:30 minute news piece has the potential to be broadcast nationally on the Fox News Channel! This class has been selected as the first college class to be given this unique opportunity.

**Project Two: Fiction (100)**

This project can be a short “film”, a documentary or a music video. Individual proposals will be pitched in class. The actual productions will consist of two person team during the design and acquisition stages. Each team member is required to edit their own version.

**Midterm Exam (30)**

Problem-solving questions based on lectures, website and handout readings and practical experiences.
SCHEDULE

WEEK 1  COURSE INTRODUCTION
Weekly readings to be announced

LAB: Editing Review
In-lab Edit Review Exercise (begin during lab)

WEEK 2  COMPOSITION/SINGLE-CAMERA SHOOTING

LAB: Camera Operation
Camera Familiarization Exercise (complete during lab)

WEEK 3  PROJECT DESIGN/PREPRODUCTION

LAB: Sound Acquisition
Microphone Techniques for Interviews and Natural Sound Acquisition Exercise (begin during lab)
In-lab Edit Review Exercise Due
Cyber College Modules 37-41, 42b

WEEK 4  LIGHTING AESTHETICS
Cyber College Modules 27-30

LAB: Lighting for Single-Camera Video
Lighting Exercise (Begin during lab)
In-class Pitch/Typed Proposal for Project One Due

WEEK 5  POST-PRODUCTION

LAB: FCP Review
FCP Competencies Exercise & Tutorial (begin in lab)

Project One Final Proposal and Script Draft Due
WEEK 6  POST-PRODUCTION/NONLINEAR EDITING CONTINUED

LAB: Advanced edit techniques
*In-class Edit Exercise (complete during class)*

WEEK 7  EDITING AESTHETICS

LAB: Edit techniques continued
Free time for shooting or editing project one

WEEK 8  MIDTERM EXAM

LAB: *Project Two individual pitch, team selection and team report to class*

WEEK 9  DESIGNING/PRODUCING GRAPHICS

LAB: *Final Project Proposal, Treatment and Script Due*

WEEK 10 TEAM PRESENTATIONS TO CLASS

LAB: *Project One Screenings*

WEEK 11 THE MAKING OF A DOCUMENTARY

LAB: *Project Two team meeting with instructors*
WEEK 12  TBA
11/17

LAB: Free time to work on project two

WEEK 13 Project Two Rough Cut Due

LAB: TBA

WEEK 14 TBA

LAB: Project Two Due, including complete production book

WEEK 15 TBA

LAB: Recommended revisions to project due
Project Two critique due