

State University of New York at Buffalo
Department of Media Study

INTERMEDIATE VIDEO PRODUCTION

DMS 341, Fall 2008

Monday/Wednesday 11am-12.50pm CFA 286

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Office Hour: Monday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Or by appointment

Lab Fee: \$100.00

Course description:

In this course, students will explore and experiment with the video medium through a series of short exercises. Improvement of technical knowledge and skills will be emphasized, and creativity encouraged. Topics to be explored will include: video camera, advanced shooting techniques, sound gathering techniques, microphone placement and selection, non-linear sound editing, lighting techniques for studio and location, non-linear editing. Students learn properties of audio, video and still assets, and practice importing, logging, and insert assembly editing. They also develop a sensitivity to the unique aesthetic and usability criteria of digital video in application environments.

Course Texts:

The Filmmaker's Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for the Digital Age, Steven Ascher, Edward Pincus

The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video, Tom Schroepel

Video Goals, Tom Schroepel

Available at Talking Leaves Books, 3158 Main Street in Buffalo, NY, 14214

Recommended, but not required reading:

New Media in Art, Second Edition (World of Art) by Michael Rush

Video Art by Michael Rush

The Language of New Media By Lev Manovich

Digital Art By Christiane Paul

Evaluation:

DMS 341 is a production-oriented course, for which accuracy and mastery are essential. In general grades will be calculated as follows:

20 % Attendance, Participation, Quiz: Attendance is required. If you miss more than 2 classes, you will lose percentage points from your overall grade for every additional class missed.

10% Weekly quiz:

10% Final Exam: TBA

60 % Production Assignments, (group and individual)

Assignment Schedule:

- Non-Linear Editing- Assignment due September 22nd.
- Camera Assignment- due October 6th.
- Lighting Assignment—due October 20th.
- Audio Recording- Assignment due November 3rd.
- Edited Sound Environment- Assignment due November 17th.
- Final Project on DVD- Assignment due December 3rd.

The classroom performance grade will be awarded based on each individual instructor's criteria. In general the student can expect an:

A. if the student volunteers to participate frequently, is always prepared for class, shows interest and motivation, works well with others in groups, and comes to class regularly.

B. if the student is prepared and alert, however, does not volunteer as often to participate, or sometimes shows that s/he has not prepared for the day, and comes to class regularly.

C. if the student is prepared for class but needs a “push” to participate and help to answer questions in class, and comes to class regularly.

D. if the student fails to prepare adequately for class, does not contribute to the class, does not cooperate with group work, does not show interest, and does not attend class regularly.

Grading Scale: (in percentages)

94-100 A	80-82 B-	69-65 D
90-93 A-	77-79 C+	64-60 F
87-89 B+	73-76 C	
83-86 B	70-72 C-	

Course Policies:

NOTE: If you begin to experience inordinate difficulties with the course, or have issues regarding the class that you want to discuss, please see the instructor as soon as possible. If notifying the instructor does not seem appropriate, seek assistance from the Academic Advisor for the Department of Media Study. If you wait until the end of the semester, the possibilities of being helped are less promising.

General:

- Students who require special accommodations because of a diagnosed disability should bring relevant documentation to their instructor and /or to the chair, who will oversee arrangements with assistance from the Office of Disabilities.
- Student athletes must provide an official letter with the dates of their meets and travel days during the first weeks of classes. Make-up quizzes and exams that fall during those days must be rescheduled with the instructor at least 3 days before departure. As a rule of thumb, we will administer make-ups and move work deadlines to the day before the student leaves town.
- Students are expected to turn off and put away cell phones, pagers, iPods, CD players and computers before entering class.
- Students are not permitted to enter the classroom with any type of food. Please eat before or after class.
- Students are expected to follow the guidelines for appropriate behavior outlined in the University Catalog. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- If you need to depart early, do so quietly after having cleared it with your instructor at the beginning of the class session.
- The grade of incomplete will be given only to students who have some serious, well-documented medical condition or in cases of family tragedy, etc. and who have satisfied the attendance policy and are missing only one major assignment. No incomplete will be given to substitute for a poor or failing grade or for any other reasons. A written agreement must be drafted and signed by the instructor and the student. The program reserves the right to request completion of the incomplete prior to the 12 months set by the university.
- Final grades are final. Once grades are submitted, they will not be changed. Thus, students should refrain from cajoling instructors (via

email, phone, in person, etc) into changing the final grade, which goes against university policy.

Attendance:

- Regular attendance is required for the development of proficiency skills.
- Attendance means attentiveness, cooperation, and active participation in class.
- In order to remove an absence mark, students must bring OFFICIAL documentation detailing the extraordinary circumstance which prevented the student from being present in class (based on University Catalog guidelines). This documentation is due no later than one week after the absence.
- Students are responsible for the material covered and the homework assigned on the day/s they were absent.
- In case of an ongoing problem, such as a personal crisis or chronic illness, the student should resign from the course and retake it when circumstances allow for fulfillment of the requirements.
- Tardiness will be penalized. Once class has started, latecomers will be counted as absent.
- Leaving the classroom for a considerable period of time will be considered an absence.

Class work:

- Students are expected to do their own work on all assignments and course work.
- Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F and disciplinary actions by the university. Examples of academic dishonesty are: copying the work from the internet or a book, having someone else do the work for you, or copying during an exam or quiz.
- Be prepared for class each day by having done the assigned readings, etc.
- Homework will be assigned during each class by the instructor.
- It is the student's responsibility to bring any questions on the homework to the attention of the instructor.
- Homework will be turned in to the instructor on the designated date.

Each student will be required to meet with the instructor for a progress report before the end of the resignation period. Students who are failing the course will be encouraged to resign the course before the deadline designated by the university.

SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

RE: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) which may make it difficult for you to carry out the course work as outlined, and/or requires accommodations such as recruiting note takers, readers, or extended time on exams and assignments, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 25 Capen Hall, 716-645-2608, <http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/ods/>, and also your instructor during the first two weeks of class. ODS will provide you with information and will review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

RE: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is literary theft and a betrayal of trust. The term is derived from the Latin word for kidnapper and refers to the act of signing one's own name to words, phrases, or ideas which are the literary property of another. Plagiarism comes in many forms, all to be avoided: outright copying, or paraphrase, or a mosaic or disguised use of words and phrases from an unacknowledged source. To avoid plagiarism, make it your habit to put quotation marks around words and phrases, or to isolate and indent longer passages that you are using from someone else's writing. And be sure to cite the source, in a footnote or endnote or within parentheses in your text. The penalties for plagiarism can be severe: from an F for the particular assignment, to an F for the course, to referral of the case to the Dean of Education for administrative judgment. If you are unsure about how to use and document sources, please consult with your instructor. **PLAGIARISM ALSO INCLUDES THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF VIDEO / AUDIO / DIGITAL IMAGES OF OTHERS! FOR THIS CLASS, YOU MUST PRODUCE ORIGINAL MATERIAL!**

RE: WEAPONS AS PROPS

WARNING!!!

IF you are planning a student production which involves using any prop which could be interpreted to be a weapon [toy gun, BB gun, knife, etc.]

AND you are planning to shoot on the UB campus or any other public place,

you **MUST** obtain WRITTEN permission from the University Police or the equivalent authority before you shoot.

If you do not, you will face serious problems, including possible expulsion from the University.

RE: SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual Harassment of employees and students, as defined below, is contrary to University policy and is a violation of federal and state laws and regulations.

Unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic advancement;
2. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual;
3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

No university employee of either gender shall impose a requirement of sexual cooperation as a condition of employment or academic advancement, or in any way contribute to or support unwelcome physical or verbal sexual behavior.

Any member of the university community who requires additional information or who wishes to make a complaint or receive a copy of the University procedures to be followed for complaints arising from matters related to the policies outlined above should contact the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Affirmative Action Administration, 406 Capen Hall, 716-645-2266.

Examples of Sexual Harassment

- ❖ Sexual advances
- ❖ Touching of a sexual nature
- ❖ Displaying or distributing of sexually explicit drawings, pictures, written materials and/or computer (digital) images
- ❖ Sexual gestures or looks
- ❖ Sexual jokes or comments
- ❖ Pressure for sexual favors
- ❖ Touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in the presence of others
- ❖ Spreading rumors about or rating other student's sexual activity or performance

What to do if you are harassed

Do:

- ❖ Trust your instincts.
- ❖ Tell harasser that their behavior is unacceptable.
- ❖ Document the incidents in detail. Keep a journal with dates, times, possible witnesses, and other concise details.
- ❖ Tell someone about the incident and get emotional support.
- ❖ Seek advice or counseling.
- ❖ Inform school if behavior continues or of any threatening, intimidating, or retaliatory behavior.

Don't:

- ❖ Assume the behavior will go away if you ignore the harasser.
- ❖ Try to deal with the harassment alone – get help.

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I have read the **DMS 341** syllabus and I am aware of the program's requirements and policies including the attendance policy. I understand that I should keep the syllabus and course policies for my records.

Date: _____

Semester: _____

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Student person number: _____