

Movie Making Techniques
HUM 207 – Sec. 2371
M-F 11:30-12:30 (Rm. 1-205)

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Brief Course Description:

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the three basic phases of movie making and emphasizes the directorial and storytelling functions of the media.

Detailed Course Description:

This lecture and activity course is designed to student gain basic knowledge can application of movie making techniques, processes and practices. The student will understand and practice the three major areas of filmmaking: Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production. The student will practice the three phases with several projects throughout the quarter. The goal is for the student to understand the various filmmaking techniques and apply those techniques to the various projects. Each student will work on his/her own individual projects as well as critique other works as well as each other's works. Through these practices, the student will better understand the production process and how to make various films in the various media types and genre styles.

Required Text and Tools:

Students will be given hand-outs throughout the quarter. Each student must read and be prepared to discuss the hand-outs a day after they have been given to the students.

Tools:

Each student must have a USB (with the video file saved as an mpg or avi) drive and/or DVDs or CDs (to be used as VCDs) for which he/she will record and share the material.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. View and review films with a critical understanding of the material.
2. Recite the various styles of filmmaking.
3. Identify the basic elements of film.
4. Understand the various filmmaking duties and the jobs for each duty.
5. Define the various genres, styles and types of films.
6. Recite important terminology of the filmmaking process.
7. Practice the various duties in the filmmaking process.
8. Evaluate various film styles and productions.
9. Evaluate the use of visual and audio the technical enhancements made in those fields.
10. Identify important technological changes in film.
11. Develop a financial and properly list usable for each production.

Learning Tasks and Activities:

In order to accomplish succeed in this course each student needs to:

1. Read carefully each assigned chapter in the texts.
2. Read critically and carefully any handout selection the instructor may give.
3. Engage actively in class discussion (attendance, therefore, is assumed).
4. Keep accurate notes on lectures and discussions.
5. Write all assigned papers and complete all assignments on time.
6. Document carefully when appropriate.

Assessment of Outcomes:

Student learning will be assessed and grades assigned in the following areas:

1. Responsibility: the ability to recognize, understand, and accept ownership for learning by self-assessing, demonstrating, and evaluating behaviors that support the learning situation.
2. Communications: the ability to create meaning between themselves and their audience: learn to listen, speak and write effectively using words, graphic, electronic media, computers, and quantified data.
3. Problem-solving: the ability to assess, evaluate, and apply information from a variety of sources in a variety of contexts.
4. Global Awareness: students will demonstrate an awareness and appraisal of the world: its scientific complexity, its social diversity, and its artistic variety.

Statement About All Written Work:

All written work must be in MLA (Modern Language Association) format in Times New Roman or New Courier, twelve (12) point font and stapled. While this is not an English class, your writing must be clear and accurate before the instructor will read your work. If you need assistance with writing the reports concerning what content needs to be included please ask me. If you need assistance with writing the report please visit the Tutoring Center for assistance. If there are too many structural or grammatical errors I will not accept, read or grade the work. The words 'you', 'I', 'we' or any form of 'get' may not be found in any of the written work otherwise the written work will lowered for each time one of those word appear in the work. The only exception is the screenplay assignment and other non-academic writing.

Plagiarism:

The following rules and definitions concerning plagiarism:

Definition: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas without giving proper credit to the person who devised them. It includes any of the following:

1. Not citing the source for words or ideas which are not your own

2. Incorrect documentation into the body and the Works Cited Page
3. Carelessness or sloppiness in the research which results in faulty documentation
4. Use of purchased or acquired papers

Penalties for Cheating or Plagiarizing (WAC 132Q-4-061)

If the instructor suspects or believes the student has cheated or plagiarized, he is authorized to fail the student unless that student can prove the authenticity of the paper. The burden of proof rests on the student. If the instructor is convinced that cheating or plagiarism has taken place, the student will be dropped with a failing grade in the course.

First Offense: Automatic failure of the paper or test and possible failure of the course.

Second Offense: Automatic failure of the course.

A Statement About Electronic Devices:

The student may not use cell phones, mp3 players, or other communication or entertainment devices during class time. If the student is using such a device he/she will be asked to leave the class and will receive a failing grade for the day. If the student continues to use such devices he/she will be given a grade of 'F' for the class and will not be able to return to the class.

Eating In Class:

Please be sure to use the time before and/or after class to find you nourishment. While we do view films in this course and you may eat popcorn in the movie theatre or other food at home or at the movie you are not allowed to eat during the viewing of the films in this class. If the student is found eating or drinking (other than water) in class he/she will be asked to put it away or throw it away. If the student refuses, then he/she will be asked to leave and will receive a failing grade for the day. If the student continues to choose to eat or drink (other than water) during class then he/she will be given a grade of 'F' for the class and will not be able to return to the class.

Disabilities Statement:

In accordance with the mandates of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Subpart E and the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for otherwise qualified students with a disability(s) will be considered after receiving a student's request. The student will need to register with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office and provide appropriate documentation of the disability. Once the student has established a file and the disability(s) has been verified by DSS, then the facts of each situation will be thoroughly analyzed and reviewed to determine appropriate reasonable accommodations for classroom, laboratory or clinical settings. Accommodations that would compromise patient care, or fundamentally alter the essential nature of a program or activity are not considered to be reasonable.

A student who is denied an accommodation has the right to request a review of the determination through the defined grievance process available at each institution.

Procedures for student grievance are outlined in the SCC Student Handbook and in the SCC Center for Students with Disabilities Student Handbook.

Withdrawal Policy:

Please make sure to know the last day to withdraw from class. If the student does not withdraw by the deadline then he/she is given the grade of 'F'. No Z grade is possible.

Assessment:

Responses (5 Responses = 20pts. each (100pts. Total)

The student will write a response to specific films and the techniques used within those films. The student must complete a one page, stapled MLA formatted written document on the film that answers the questions for those that require it. Other formats include scriptwriting and synopsis writing.

Attendance and Participation (30pts.)

Each student will need to attend class, participate in discussions, participate in group work and complete required work for the full duration of each class meeting. If the student is late he will not be allowed in class unless he/she has made arrangements with the instructor prior to the specific day of class. If the student misses more than three class meetings he/she will lose 5 points. More than five absences is grounds for failure.

Included in this class is a SCC Film Festival that all the students in the class will help to organize and participate. The important dates are TBA. The student must work on the festival in order to pass the course. If a student is unable to participate he/she needs to speak to the instructor as soon as possible.

Mid-term (20pts.)

The mid-term project will be presented in class and will be discussed and critiqued by the instructor. The student must be prepared and have completed a simple treatment of the film prior to the mid-term. **You must complete the Mid-term to in order to pass the class.**

Filmmaking Projects (4 Total 15 pts each = 60pts.)

There will be a total of four projects that the student will complete for the quarter. Each project must be based on a particular filmmaking medium. Each project is worth fifteen points. The student will need to prepare the project based on the material we have discussed in class.

Each project will include the video that you have created as well as the supplemental material (ex: storyboard or script). The cameras will be loaned out from Michael Lynch (509-533-8172 or mlynch@scc.spokane.edu) in the Media Library located in the library. Please make sure to borrow the camera in a timely manner and reserve a time which you may borrow the camera.

Review of an Inspirational Director (10pts.)

Each student must write a critique a director's work that inspired him or her. The report must include a thorough critique based on the material discussed in class. The review should be no more than a page and a half. It is due before the final presentations for the course begin.

Final Project (40pts.)

The final project will include an oral presentation, a completed project as well as a written explanation of the project. This project will be presented on the Final Day and will be counted as a Final. **You must complete the Final Project in order to pass the class.**

Totals:

Responses = 100pts.

Participation =30pts.

Mid-term =20pts.

Presentations =60pts.

Performance Report = 10pts.

Final Project =40pts.

Total = 260 pts.

Grades:

A

4.0 = 260-254

3.9 = 253-249

3.8 = 248-244

A-

3.7 = 243-239

3.6 = 238-236

3.5 = 235-231

B+

3.4 = 230-226

3.3 = 225-221

3.2 = 220-215

B

3.1 = 214-210

3.0 = 209-208

2.9 = 207-205

B-

2.8 = 204-202

2.7 = 201-200

2.6 = 199-197

C+

2.5 = 196-195

2.4 = 194-192

2.3 = 191-189

C

2.2 = 188-187

2.1 = 186-184

2.0 = 183-182

C-
1.9 = 181-179
1.8 = 178-176
1.7 = 175-174
D+
1.6 = 173-171
1.5 = 170-169
1.4 = 168-166
D
1.3 = 165-163
1.2 = 162-161
D-
1.1 = 160-158
1.0 = 157-156
.9 = 155-153
F
.8 = 152-150
.7 = 149-147

No Make-Up Work:

There is no make-up work. The student must make arrangement turn any work in or give the presentation before the due date if he/she is unable to turn it in at the assigned day and time. All work is counted in the overall grading.

Extra Credit

There are two possibilities for extra credit. One: The student can volunteer to help with the current play at Spokane Community College. Make sure to ask the instructor for more details. Two: The student can discover the mystery score for the day to earn one (1) point for each score by discovering the movie; the year the movie was made a three sentence evaluation of the music. This is limited to a total of five mystery scores (totaling five (5) points).

Expectations:

For each class each student needs to...

1. Be punctual and attend every class, except in extreme emergencies.
2. Have the appropriate supplies (paper, text books, writing tools, and other supplies).
3. Have read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss the readings.
4. Listen attentively and participate through class discussions and group lessons.
5. Respect everyone's point of views and ideas.
6. Choose to learn as much as possible and show a positive attitude about the material while in class.
7. Develop positive learning habits throughout the class.

The Instructor will...

1. Attend every class on time and be prepared.
2. Grade each essay and all other work fairly and objectively.
3. Inform each student about the course content and grading policies.
4. Try to answer each question to the best of his ability.
5. Make the lessons and materials as interesting as possible.

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Assignment Schedule

Week One: Jan 4-8

Area of Study: Basic production: pre-production, production, post production. Understanding directing techniques. Review important production necessities.

Skills: Storyboarding, scene design, characterization.

Response One: Discuss the use of a storyboard for pre-production

Week Two: Jan 11-15

Area of Study: Setting, characterization, scene study.

Skills: Sound, Setting, Character Development, Emotional Development, Transitions

Film Project One: Music Video

Create Criteria for submission to Bigfoot Film Festival

Week Three: Jan 18-22

Area of Study: Timing, Editing, Continued Character Development through scene development

Skills: How to cut the scene. Integrating various layers of emotion through skilled editing, structure and plot.

Response Two: Discuss effective editing in a film you have watched

Week Four: Jan 25-29

Area of Study: Script, Effects, Focus and Light and Sound Enhancements

Skills: Scriptwriting, Light and Sound Development Technology

Response Three: Script

Film Project Two: Music, Sound, and Experience

Week Five: Feb 1-5

Area of Study: Follow-through of Character, Set and Camera Placement, Tension and Mystery

Skills: Advanced Camera Use, Creating Scene Structure, and Development of Patterns

Mid-Term

Week Six: Feb 8-12

Area of Study: Color and Emotion and Shadow and Light

Skills: Costume, Make-up, Character Transitions,

Film Project Three: Single Set Dialogue

Deadline for Big Foot Film Festival Entries

Week Seven: Feb 15-19

Area of Study: Acquiring Position and Character to Set Relationship

Skills: Producing, Directing and Distribution

Response Four: Create a treatment or synopsis of your film

Review Bigfoot Film Festival Entries

Week Eight: Feb 22-26

Area of Study: Symbolism, Metaphor, Subtext and Film Enhancements

Skills: Shade and Color and bringing it all together.

Film Project Four: Multiple Locations & Experience

Notify filmmakers of showing at Bigfoot Film Festival

Week Nine: March 1-5

Areas of Study: Project Workshops, public relations and Business Structure

Skills: Film festival (preparation and organization of films for the SCC Bigfoot Film Festival March 6th), review submitted films, and organize festival.

Response Five: Discuss an inexpensive promotional activity you could use for your project.

Week Ten: March 8-12

Areas of Study: Past, present and future directing. Challenges for the directors of tomorrow.

Skills: Full spectrum directing. Genre styles and types. Documentary, short subject films and technology.

Week Eleven:

Final Project: Short Film Presentation