

COMM 4406: DIGITAL CINEMATOGRAPHY & IMAGE DESIGN

M, T, W, TH, F 5:30 pm - 7:45 pm - Anthropology G15

Instructor: Deon Kay

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Office Hours: email for appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW: In this intensive skills workshop, you will explore the communicative and expressive potential of the moving image. Through a working process you will learn to consider how deliberate image-making strategies (framing, composition, lighting, production design and camera movement) are used to deliver narrative information, generate character identification, establish mood and produce intended experiences and meanings for viewers across a broad array of audio-visual media.

REQUIRED COURSE READING: *Voice & Vision: A Creative Approach to Narrative Filmmaking*, 3rd Edition by Mick Hurbis-Cherrier

We will only be using a small section of this book for this class, but the text is going to serve as the "bible" for our Film Production Curriculum, which means you should buy it now and hold onto it for the remainder of your time here as it will be used in many subsequent classes (and it will be a valuable resource beyond your formal schooling).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: You will need a portable USB 3.0 Hard Drive to store your work, at least 200 GB of free space for the semester. WORK LEFT ON LAB COMPUTERS MAY BE DELETED UPON LOG OUT.

Treat this drive carefully. Be sure to eject the drive from the desktop before disconnecting. Store it in a padded case or its original box. UNPLUG ALL THE CORDS FOR STORAGE AND TRANSPORT.

MISSING FILES & BROKEN DRIVES ARE NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR NOT TURNING IN WORK.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information. (*Where to place the camera, and why? Mis en scene. How, Why and When to move the camera*).
2. Think critically, creatively and independently.
3. Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work. (*Synthesize technical and aesthetic concepts to produce portfolio-quality work*).

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

1. As aspiring Media professionals, the expectation is that you are required to act like a professional to rehearse the industry's best-practices. At a real job, and on a real set, if you don't show up, or if you behave in a way that is deemed unprofessional you will be replaced by one of the other aspiring media professionals trying to get their foot in the door. Treat class time like a job - this is part of your learning experience in this class.
2. We will be doing a lot of graded, in-class shooting in order to ensure access to on-screen subjects, so come to class camera-ready, everyday.

3. This class is going to be like a set, which means, if you're late, you're fired, so be on time or you will likely have to watch, rather than do.

CONDUCT: The classroom will be a safe space for diversity and students must remain aware and accepting of each other. Comments of intolerance, including prejudice or bullying, will not be tolerated, nor will sexual harassment or harassment of any kind. See the student code of conduct for more information.

MATURE CONTENT: Some examples used in this course may be explicit and therefore offensive to some. If you anticipate having an issue with this at any point in this semester, please speak with me privately.

PLAGIARISM:

1. It is assumed that all work will be created by you, and you only. Work that has been plagiarized in any way will be given a zero, and reported to the university for further action to be taken.
2. Unless explicitly stated in the assignment handout, you may not use copyrighted work of any kind (this includes music). Do your own work.
3. Work submitted in this class must be produced for this class only.

PRESENTATION: Because creative work is meant to be seen and talked about, you will be required to share your work with the class. This means you will be required to include your ideas in class discussion and must present your ideas and work in class. Do not produce work you are not prepared to share, from both a *quality* and a *content* perspective.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Because of the nature of this class and condense timeline, it is very difficult to make accommodations for work not completed on time. If you are having issues, talk to me ahead of time and we can try to work something out, but *try* is key word there.

OTHER CLASS POLICIES:

- Class starts at 5:30pm - work due at the start of class is due at 5:30pm. 5:31pm will be considered late and your work may not be graded. If you are not in class to receive a quiz, you cannot complete it.
- Undocumented absences cannot be made up (tests cannot be taken, work cannot be submitted, etc.)
- Documented, excused absences will not count against you, but you are required to make up any work that has been missed - this includes in-class shooting and/or other exercises we complete.
- Multi-tasking is outlawed. Learn to do one thing for 2h30, once a week, even if that thing is listening. You will learn a lot!
- Cell phones have NO PLACE in the classroom whatsoever. Turn them off before you walk into the room. If I see you using your cell phone you will be asked to leave and you will be considered absent for the day. That means any in-class work will be graded as 0, and you cannot turn in homework. This is another exercise in professionalism. If you are on set and the talent and/or above the line crew are waiting for you to finish texting

before they can roll, you will not be there to make that mistake again. Practice paying singular attention. It is a rare and valuable **soft-skill** that will help you in the world and set you apart from your competition. *If there is something pressing you need to deal with, inform me at the start of class, and leave the room to the deal with the matter.*

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: I will gladly make the necessary accommodations to ensure students with special needs can complete the class and get the most out of it. Please don't "wing it" and then tell me at the end of the semester. Come see me in private with your paperwork and we can discuss your particular needs.

EMAIL POLICY: The University considers students' MyUWG e-mail account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email frequently for class, department, and University information. I frequently email documents, deadlines and syllabus modifications - not checking your email is no excuse for not completing work on time.

I am very responsive to email, but it is **always** best to not leave things until the last minute. You can expect an email response within 24 hours, or 48 hours over the weekend (but not immediately), and I will similarly NEVER email you with last-minute demands or changes. There will be obstacles and hiccups as you learn, and the best way to overcome them is to allow yourself enough time by starting early, and working often.

BEFORE YOU EMAIL, make sure to re-read the syllabus and assignment handouts because, in my experience, most of the answers are already there.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY: The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week. As a guide, multiply this by 3 (credit hours). So for every one hour in class you should be spending 2 hours on your work. For a 3 credit hour class, this is SIX additional hours per week outside of class.

COMMON LANGUAGE FOR COURSE SYLLABI (PLEASE REVIEW see link in courseden)

https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE A CONTRACT - by remaining enrolled in the class you agree to abide by all policies and expectations.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

In-Class Work _____	40%
Quizzes and Exams _____	25%
Take Home Work _____	35%

Take-Home Work 25%

The category is made up of two shooting assignments, completing a Color Correction exercise, and two small research assignments.

Tests & Midterm Exam on Terminology, Concepts, and Theory (25%)

Approximately three in-class quizzes and/or one or two, take-home reading quizzes. Instead of a final exam you will complete a self-evaluation during finals period.

In-Class work 50%

These shooting exercises make up the bulk of your work for the class and will be detailed in dedicated handouts where necessary, and will be used to expand your understanding about approaches to cinematography.

This schedule posted in courseden is *live* and it is my best guess at how things will evolve over the next few weeks. You should assume it will change and you should therefore make it a priority to monitor it, and track any changes on your personal calendar or "to do" list.

I will never make schedule changes without notifying you in class.

Week 1:

- Mon 6/3 Introduction
In-class worksheet on Eyes and Histograms
Basic Camera Operation
- Tues 6/4 *In-class Quiz on Eyes, Histograms & Basic Camera Operation
Lenses and Depth of Field - In Depth
*In-Class Lens + DoF Assignment
- Wed 6/5 Tripod handling - Why, When, and How.
*In-Class Tripod Exercise
ASSIGN One Lamp
- Thurs 6/6 *IN-CLASS Quiz on Exposure, DoF and Lenses (Chap 10 + 11)
Angles/Lines/Composition.
ASSIGN - *What makes a camera good?*
ASSIGN - Chap 4 reading quiz
- Fri 6/7 Shooting day - Lamp and Table - **No class**

Week 2:

- Mon 6/10 *One Lamp -- Due & Review
*DUE - *What makes a camera good?*
Mise en Scene & Lighting - What, Why the How
- Tues 6/11 *IN-CLASS Quiz on Lighting (Chaps 13 + 14)
*In-Class Lighting Assignment
- Wed 6/12 Moving the Camera for coverage - Why, When, and How
DUE - Chap 4 reading quiz
- Thurs 6/13 *Blocking and Staging in-class
ASSIGN moving the camera
ASSIGN Coverage Assignment
ASSIGN Final Project
- Fri 6/14 Work/prep day - **No class**

Week 3:

- Mon 6/17 *In-Class Shoot - moving the camera
- Tues 6/18 *Color Correction
- Wed 6/19 *DUE moving the camera EDIT and Color Correction
*DUE Coverage Assignment
- Thurs 6/20 Advanced Camera moves and Coverage techniques
Check in for Final Project
- Fri 6/21 Shooting Day for Final Project - **No class**

Week 4:

- Mon 6/24 *Green Screen
- Tues 6/25 *Final Project -- Due & Review
Wrap-up
ASSIGN Self Evaluation
- Wed 6/26 Reading Day
- Thurs 6/27 *DUE Self Evaluation -- NOON