

FIL3427C
Introduction to Production
School of Visual Arts and Design
UCF College of Arts & Humanities
Fall 2017
Wednesdays 9a – 1150a
NSC 183

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE PREQUIZ BY FRIDAY AUGUST 25!

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Office Hours: Tues 930a-1130a, Wed 1p-5p

Or by appointment

What is this course about?

UCF Catalog Description: FIL 3427C CAH-SVAD 3(2,4) Introduction to Film Production: Introduction to production utilizing film equipment. Basic technical and aesthetic aspects of production.

Why is this course important?

Welcome to the Film BFA! I am sure you are excited about getting started on making your own films. But where to start? What's the most efficient way? How can I save money but still tell my story the way I want to? How do the professionals do it? These are the topics we will explore in this course. It is the foundation of all your filmmaking from this day forward. You can always break the rules but you have to know what they are first.

What are the course policies?

Grading

Your grade will be based on a 1000-point scale. If you want to earn an A, you will need to earn between 940 and 1000 points (the complete scale is below). The assignments are available through the course Canvas page.

Syllabus subject to change at any time

You earn points through:

Grade Categories	Description of the requirements	Points
Quizzes on readings	There will be in class and/or online one-minute essays and/or quizzes on the assigned weekly readings. 10 points each	100
Digital Story		100
5 Story Ideas		100
Script Format Exercise		100
Look Book		125
Script for your short film		100
Shot List		100
Short film		125
Participation	You must sign up for a shift at the Casting Event on Saturday Sept ??	100
Attendance	See below	50
Optional Final		75
Total		1075

SCALE

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A = 940 or higher

A- = 900 - 939

B+ = 870 - 899

B = 840 - 869

B- = 800 - 839

C+ = 770 - 799

C = 740 - 769

C- = 700 - 739

D = 650 - 699

F = less than 650

Attendance - Each student is permitted two absences per semester. If a class is missed, students are expected to see the films outside of class on their own. The Attendance Grade will be calculated as follows:

- Two or less absences – 50 point bonus
- Three absences – 100 point deduction from final points
- Four absences – 300 point deduction from final points.
- Five absences – 500 point deduction from final points.

Optional Final - 75 points. If you're happy with your grade, you won't need to attend the final. If you totally screw up a quiz or essay, you'll have an opportunity to recapture those points with another assignment. The choices are yours.

Technology Policies

I use Canvas Announcements through our course webpage to communicate my messages to you. Be sure your official email attached to your myUCF profile is valid and check your e-mail at least daily.

Avoid using cell phones and devices in class, which can prevent you or others from learning. In cases of emergency, please take your phone outside.

If you persist in checking your phone, texting, using your iPad, etc., during class or screenings, I will have to deduct 250 points from your final grade. You may also be asked to leave the class.

Deadlines

Homework will be due at start of class on the due date. Homework turned in after the start of class will receive a 50% reduction. As of 48 hours beyond the deadline, homework can no longer be turned in late and the grade will be a zero.

Academic Integrity

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It is assumed that all students will be courteous to the instructor and to their fellow students, will listen attentively at all times, will arrive on time, return from break on time and stay for the entire class. Leaving early will be treated the same as a late arrival for class and count against the attendance portion of your grade.

Students will abide by any and all of the University rules (<http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) which include but are not limited to:

Possessing and/or Providing False and Misleading Information and/or Falsification of University Records to Instructor
Disruptive Conduct
Personal Abuse

Disregarding these expectations may result in a reduction of your grade.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities or other issues who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations

This syllabus is subject to change. All dates, assignments, scheduled screenings and other statements in this syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be noted on Canvas.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course the student will:

- Understand the motion picture process
- Apply the procedures learned in the course through production of sample scripts
- Analyze determining how the parts of the production process relate to one another and to an overall structure or purpose through differentiating, organizing, and attributing.
- Know how to put the filmmaking process elements together to form a coherent or functional whole.

Textbook requirements

Filmmaking in Action, by Adam Leipzig, Barry Weiss, Michael Goldman

Adam Leipzig; Barry Weiss

©2016 | First Edition | ISBN-10: 1-319-05549-4; ISBN-13: 978-1-319-05549-3

Any format is fine, you can get it at the UCF bookstore or any vendor of your choice online.

Price ranges from \$50-\$90, new

Assignment #1 – Your Digital Story – see Canvas for details.

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For the first three class sessions, we will focus on creating a digital story. Each of you will craft a 2-3 paragraph narration, get feedback from your fellow students, record your narration and set it to pictures in an editing program of your choice. We will learn how to use WeVideo in class, a free web-based program for simple editing.

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There are so many benefits to creating a digital story! Here's just a few things it will do:

- Provides a way to know your fellow students more intimately
- Provides a simple way to understand the basics of a moving image project from beginning to end
- Helps you practice the art and skill of putting sound to picture to convey an idea

This is what a previous student had to say about the digital storytelling experience in this class:

First and foremost, I think this project served as a good introduction to film production and to the BFA program as a whole. Given the freedom to tell a story that I wanted while at the same time having to follow some parameters, such as length and genre, helped me to get a good beginner taste of what to expect in the years to come. In addition to this, the overall creative process, from writing the script to editing the last clip and then getting the final result was really gratifying.

Assignment #2 – 5 Story Ideas – see Canvas for details.

Come up with at least 5 ideas for a short film that will be 2 minutes or less.

This is good practice for what you will be doing in all your film classes – thinking about what makes a good story, and learning how to come up with multiple ideas.

Assignment #3 - Script Format Exercise – see Canvas for details

This assignment will teach you how to write in the professional screenplay format. Your original script that turn in for this class later on will have to be written in this format, so it's good to get familiar with it now. It is also the industry standard for narrative screenplays.

Assignment #4 - Look Book - see Canvas for details

For this assignment, you will create a look book for your film. In filmmaking, a look book is a collection of photographs selected as visual references to express the director's vision for the look and feel of the film.

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Assignment #5 - Script for your short film - see Canvas for details

You are required to submit a script for the film you will shoot in this class.

You have to create a new script for this class – you can't recycle something you have started or completed for another class. Take one of your 5 ideas and flesh it out. If you have come up with a new idea since you did the 5 ideas, that's fine, but I have to see it before you write it up.

Assignment #6 - Shot List - see Canvas for details

Do one shot list for each day of shooting of your short film script. If you shoot two days, there should be two shot lists. If you shoot four days, four shot lists, etc. One per day.

Assignment #7 – Your short film - see Canvas for details

You will write, producer and direct your short film and it will be screened in class.

DATE	TOPIC	NOTES	DUE
8/23	Partner exercise, review syllabus, DS prep		
8/30	Digital Storytelling - Story Circles		Rough draft of your story to share
9/6	Digital Storytelling - Record Narration, work on story		
9/9	Casting Event?		
9/13	Digital Storytelling - Screen our stories! Intro to Big Picture, in-class exercises		
9/20	The Big Picture Introduction to foundational principles of filmmaking;		
9/27	Start with the script		
10/4	Directing		

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10/11	Conceptualization and Design		
10/18	Production Planning and Management		
10/25	Telling the Story with the Camera	Guest Speaker	
11/1	Telling the Story through Lighting		
11/8	Sound	Guest Speaker	
11/15	Telling the Story through Editing		
11/22	NO CLASS but your film is due to me		Short film due
11/29	Screen student films		
12/6	OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM		

Do you need extra help?

Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>

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