FIL 5924.0061 Grad Seminar  
Fall 2011  
Assoc. Prof. Randy Finch  
Wed. 6:00-7:20PM  
Room: Soundstage NCS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contacting the Professor</th>
<th>Contacting the Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Hrs:</td>
<td>Class E-mail:</td>
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<td>Wed. 3-4:50PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office:</td>
<td>Course Web Site:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comm 171</td>
<td>finchclasses.blogspot.com/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Online Discussions:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office# 407-823-6111</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:randy.finch@ucf.edu">randy.finch@ucf.edu</a></td>
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Course Description:

This is a graduate seminar for film MFA candidates. The unique challenges of making a microbudget film while pursuing a terminal degree at UCF will be addressed in class and through assignments. In particular, graduate seminar will offer strategies for a successful graduate experience and a forum for modes of inquiry and thesis defense preparation. Graduate seminar will also cover issues related to microbudget film production and distribution, with a special emphasis on collaboration and interactions with consumers. 1 credit hour. To be repeated 3 times by all MFA candidates.

Course Requirements:

Prerequisites: Admission to Film graduate program or C.I.

Course Objectives:

- Discuss the challenges of creating a film and a thesis within the UCF Film MFA program
- Study microbudget filmmaking strategies and academic research methods
- Become part of a community of filmmakers and film educators at UCF

Required Text:


Recommended Text:
Evaluation Procedures

The course is Pass/Fail.

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<th>Description of the requirements</th>
<th>Weight toward final grade</th>
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<td><strong>Final Project</strong> Students will work individually on written assignments, which will become the elements of a blog. Posts that are timely and meet the length and format requirements will be judged as passing if they are original (not copied) works of authorship.</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td><strong>Class Participation</strong> Students will be graded on class participation. More than 2 unexcused absences and/or failure to participate in class discussions can result in a non-passing grade.</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Other Course Policies:

**Grades of "Incomplete":**
The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the Incomplete will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

**Graduate Level Writing and Collegiate Courtesy:**
Students will be required to post to a blog each week. Blog entries must be formally composed with correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. Responses to other students' postings must be constructive, thoughtful and polite. Any student crossing the line into shrill criticism or sarcasm will be subject to grade penalties, depending on the severity of the remarks.

**Course Policies: Technology and Media**

**Email:** The instructor will make every effort to answer emails within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends. Any communication needed less than 24 hours before a scheduled class meeting or performance attendance will be conducted via telephone by the instructor.
**Course Blog:** Your grade requires that you participate weekly by posting to your grad seminar blog. The instructor will prompt the discussion each week. You will be required to post an original response to the prompt.

**Course Policies: Student Expectations**

**Disability Access:**
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities 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. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students are allowed 1 class absence in cases of illness or hospitalization. Students may not miss class for a production shoot or freelance work without penalty. More than two unexcused absences may result in a failing grade.

**Professionalism Policy:**
Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc.* must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc.*, and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

**Academic Conduct Policy:**
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.