



DIG-595: CINEMATOGRAPHY

Effective Term

Fall 2025

BOT Approval Date

04/11/2024

Discipline

DIG - Digital Media

Course Number

595

Course Title

Cinematography

Short Title

Cinematography

Credit Status (CB 04)

D - Credit - Degree applicable

Units

Lecture Units

2.00

Lab Units

1.00

Total Units

3.00

Hours

Lecture Contact Hours

32-36

Out of Class Hours Lecture

64-72

Lab Contact Hours

48-54

Out of Class Hours Lab

0.00

Total Contact Hours

80 - 90

Total Out of Class Hours

64 - 72

Total Student Learning Hours

144 - 162

Is this an existing Extensive Lab?

No

**Do you want to propose this for Extensive Lab?**

Yes

Distance Education

No

Catalog Description

This course offers an extensive exploration of the principles and techniques underlying the art of visual storytelling within the realm of filmmaking. This course provides a hands-on examination of the intricate facets of cinematography. Through advanced lighting techniques, practical application, and in-depth camera knowledge, students will acquire the necessary skills to manipulate visual elements and effectively convey narratives through cinematic imagery.

Requisites**Prerequisite(s)****Prerequisite(s) (must be taken before)**

AUD-180 or DIG-190 (with a grade of C or better).

Codes**TOP Code (CB 03)**

0612.20* - *Film Production

CIP Code

50.0602 - Cinematography and Film/Video Production.

Repeatability Code

No

Grading Option

Letter grade OR P/NP

Learning Objectives**Learning Objectives****Learning Objective**

1. Demonstrate proficiency in camera techniques
2. Apply cinematic lighting principles to effectively convey mood
3. Apply cinematic composition principles to craft visually compelling and narratively meaningful scenes
4. Analyze cinematic aesthetic and design
5. Demonstrate cinematic storytelling that embraces diverse and ethical representation.
6. Develop a scientific understanding of camera exposure principles

Learning Outcome Information**Course Learning Outcomes****Learning Outcome**

1. Students will transform ideas or solutions into real world solutions/outcomes.
2. Students will generate new meaning using different media.
3. Students will adapt and apply a technical skill in a new and novel situation.

Program Learning Outcomes**Learning Outcome**

- Integrate theory with technical skills in digital media projects.
- Devise innovative solutions to workflow-related problems.

Analyze the implications of technology changes on the digital media industry.

Apply appropriate design decisions and techniques in new, industry-relevant contexts.

Interpret and produce digital media content in a culturally responsive manner.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Aesthetic Awareness: The student will identify and evaluate how aesthetic expression leads to an appreciation of social and cultural context as well as the values of art and nature.

Communication: The student will effectively express and exchange ideas through listening, speaking, reading, writing, visual works, and other modes of interpersonal expression.

Critical Thinking: The student will analyze problems, gather and synthesize relevant information, evaluate ideas, information, and evaluate alternative points of view to create, innovate and implement effective solutions.

Cultural Awareness and Humility: The student will demonstrate knowledge of and sensitivity toward individuals of diverse ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, and religious affiliations, as well as toward those individuals with diverse abilities and socio-economic classes to respectfully interact with individuals of diverse perspectives, beliefs and values while being mindful of the limitation of their own cultural frameworks.

Information and Technology Literacy: The student will access, interpret, evaluate, and apply relevant information sources and digital media effectively, and in an ethical and legal manner.

Social Awareness: The student will recognize and analyze the interconnectedness of global, national, and local concerns, analyzing cultural, political, social, and environmental issues from multiple perspectives and appreciate similarities and differences among cultures.

Civic

Personal

and Professional Responsibility

Content

Course Lecture Content

1. Introduction to Cinematography & Visual Language
 - a. Basic Camera Operation
 - b. Camera Terminology
 - c. Lighting Terminology
 - d. Visual Storytelling Elements
 - i. Shot
 - ii. Scene
 - iii. Sequence
 - e. Shot Types
2. Cultural Sensitivity in Cinematic Language
 - a. Exploration of Cultural Contexts in Global Cinema
 - i. Geography
 - ii. Historical Periods
 - iii. Socio-Political
 - iv. Religion & Spirituality
 - v. Gender & identity
 - b. Cultural Symbols & Visual Language
 - c. Addressing Stereotypes & Biases in Film
3. Camera Techniques & Movement
 - a. Basic Camera Moves
 - i. Pan
 - ii. Tilt
 - iii. Dolly
 - iv. Zoom
 - v. Handheld
 - b. Movement & Audience Perception
4. Camera Exposure
 - a. Aperture
 - b. Shutter Speed
 - c. ISO/Gain
 - i. Historical approaches to light metering

- d. Dynamic Range
 - i. Exposure Strategies
- e. Image Colorspace
 - i. Image Color Pipeline
- 5. Lenses
 - a. Focal Length
 - b. Field of View
 - c. Depth of Field
 - d. Anamorphic vs. Spherical
- 6. Lighting Fundamentals
 - a. Types of Lighting
 - i. Natural
 - ii. Practical
 - iii. Artificial
 - b. Three-Point Lighting Setup & Variations
 - c. Lighting for Mood
 - d. Lighting Modifiers
 - e. Color
- 7. Composition & Framing
 - a. Composition Principles & Guidelines
 - i. Rule of Thirds
 - ii. Leading Lines
 - iii. Symmetry/Asymmetry
 - iv. Size
 - b. Framing
 - c. Visualizing Space & Depth in the Frame
 - d. Blocking & Character Movement
- 8. Cinematic Aesthetics & Styles
 - a. Cinematic Styles
 - i. Classic
 - ii. Modern
 - iii. Experimental
 - b. Color Theory
 - c. Signature Styles of Directors
- 9. Cinematography & Storytelling
 - a. Cinematography & Narrative
 - b. Visual Enhancements to Story
 - i. Symbolism
 - ii. Motifs
 - iii. Foreshadowing
 - c. Production Team Collaboration
 - i. Director
 - ii. Cinematographer
 - iii. Production Designer
- 10. Project Portfolio

Course Lab Content

- 1. Basic Camera Operation
 - a. Hands-on camera operation practice
 - b. Camera setup, framing, and basic functions
- 2. Lighting Fundamentals
 - a. Practical lighting setup exercises
 - b. Experimentation with natural, practical, and artificial lighting sources
 - c. Understanding lighting modifiers
- 3. Compositions and Framing

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- a. Application of composition principles
 - b. Rule of thirds, leading lines, and framing techniques
 - c. Visualization of space and depth in the frame
 4. Cultural Sensitivity in Cinematic Language
 - a. Exploration of cultural contexts in cinematic language
 - b. Practical exercises reflecting different cultural elements
 - c. Addressing socio-political, religious, and identity-related themes
 5. Camera Techniques and Movement
 - a. Hands-on practice with camera movements
 - b. Pan, tilt, dolly, zoom, and handheld shots
 - c. Control of movement to influence audience perception
 6. Cinematic Styles and Storytelling
 - a. Analysis of cinematic styles (classic to experimental)
 - b. Practical exercises emulating specific cinematic styles
 - c. Experimentation with color theory
 7. Production Team Collaboration
 - a. Application of cinematographic techniques for storytelling
 - b. Work on visual enhancements like symbolism, motifs, and foreshadowing

Methods of Instruction

Method

Critique

Integration

Student film projects will be shown to the class for an interactive and collaborative critique session that will help students learn how to critique and how to apply criticism to future projects. Viewed content will be comprised of films from around the world and from diverse directors and will encourage students to critically engage with DEIA concepts in the context of cinematic storytelling. It provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the role of diversity and inclusion in the film industry and consider how these principles can inform their own work as aspiring cinematographers.

Method

Film/video Viewing and Discussion

Integration

Instruction will include films, clips, and movie scenes that students will analyze and discuss. This interaction with cinematic works allows students to apply their knowledge to real-world examples, enhancing their ability to recognize and appreciate various cinematic techniques and styles.

Method

Individual Projects

Integration

Instruction will prompt students to create short films centered around the application of foundational concepts. These assignments will be shown to the class for assessment and critique. These out-of-class assignments will require students to creatively apply cinematography principles learned in class.

Methods of Evaluation

Method

Capstone Project

Integration

A culminating design project will be evaluated on the success of the presented design's ability to comprehensively communicate through cinematography principles. Students will produce a short film scene incorporating all aspects of the course content. As course content builds/stacks on previous lessons, the capstone project will be evaluated based on how well it incorporates course content in a unique and novel way.

Method

Group Projects

Integration

Students will work together in groups on various projects where students can collectively solve problems related to current issues in film and media and explore complex concepts related to representation in their projects. These sessions facilitate peer learning, encourage active participation, and create a supportive learning community based on student voices and worldviews. Group work will be evaluated based on quality of peer learning, students ideas, and depth of collaboration that helps develop a deeper understanding of the course material.

Method

Class Participation

Integration

Since the class has a hands-on lab component, this course will require students to be present and participate in the various activities done during lab time. Participation will be evaluated based on presence, level of engagement, and quality of outcome.

Assignments**Assignment Type**

Reading

In-class and/or outside of class

Outside of class

Formative or Summative

Summative

Assignment

Representation in Film

This reading explores the evolving landscape of diversity and inclusion in cinematic storytelling. It delves into the context of underrepresentation in the film industry, addressing issues related to gender, race, sexuality, and other dimensions of identity. The reading offers critical insights into how cinema has been negligent to include more inclusive narratives with diverse stories. It also examines the role of filmmakers, critics, and audiences in advocating for change and driving progress toward a more equitable and representative film industry.

Read the provided article "The Importance of Representation in Film and Media" by Laura Washington (2019).

As you read, reflect on the following questions:

How has the film industry historically addressed issues of diversity and representation?

What are the key challenges and barriers faced by underrepresented groups in the film industry?

How have filmmakers and storytellers contributed to a more inclusive cinematic landscape?

What role do audiences play in advocating for diversity and inclusion in cinema?

How can the principles discussed in the reading be applied to your own approach to cinematography and storytelling?

Prepare a brief written reflection (approximately 300-500 words) that addresses the questions above and discusses your personal insights and takeaways from the reading and submit that reflection to the CMS.

Assignment Type

Writing

In-class and/or outside of class

Outside of class

Formative or Summative

Summative

Assignment

In this writing assignment, you will delve into the world of cinematography by selecting a well-known film sequence and analyzing the cinematic techniques used to convey a specific emotion or theme. Your task is to dissect the visual storytelling elements employed in the chosen scene and craft a comprehensive analysis.

Scene Selection: Choose a specific scene from a film of your choice. This scene should be rich in cinematic elements such as camera angles, lighting, composition, movement, and visual symbolism. Explain why you selected this particular scene.

Cinematic Techniques: Analyze the cinematic techniques used in the scene. Consider aspects like camera angles (e.g., high angle, low angle, POV shots), lighting choices, composition (rule of thirds, framing, symmetry/asymmetry), camera movement (dolly, pan, zoom), and visual symbolism. Identify how these techniques contribute to the overall mood, emotion, or theme of the scene.

Narrative Context: Provide context by briefly summarizing the scene within the larger narrative of the film. Explain how this specific scene advances the plot or character development.

Emotional Impact: Reflect on the emotional impact of the scene on the audience. How do the cinematic choices affect the viewer's engagement with the story? Discuss any personal reactions or feelings the scene evoked in you as a viewer.

Visual Storytelling: Evaluate the effectiveness of the visual storytelling in conveying the scene's intended message or theme. Did the cinematographer succeed in achieving the desired effect? Why or why not?

Conclusion: Summarize your analysis and conclude with a reflection on the importance of understanding and appreciating cinematic techniques as a cinematographer. How does this analysis contribute to your own growth as a visual storyteller?

Formatting Guidelines:

Your paper should be approximately 800 to 1000 words in length.

Use proper citations if you reference any sources other than the chosen film.

Follow a consistent formatting style (e.g., APA, MLA) for citations and references. Submit your final paper to the CMS.

Assignment Type

Other

In-class and/or outside of class

In-class

Formative or Summative

Formative

Assignment

In this formative short film project, you will have the opportunity to put your cinematography skills into practice by creating a short film that effectively conveys a specific story, mood, or theme through visual storytelling. This project will provide you with hands-on experience in planning, shooting, and editing a short cinematic piece.

Project Instructions:

1. Concept Development:

Brainstorm and develop a concise concept for your short film. Consider themes, emotions, or narratives you want to explore. This could be inspired by a personal story, a piece of literature, or an original idea.

2. Pre-production:

Create a storyboard or shot list that outlines the visual elements of your film. Plan camera angles, compositions, and lighting setups to convey your chosen theme or story.

Determine the locations, actors, and equipment you will need for your shoot.

Develop a shooting schedule and budget (if applicable).

3. Filming:

Execute your plan by filming the scenes as per your storyboard or shot list.

Pay close attention to cinematographic techniques, including camera angles, movement, lighting, and composition, to effectively convey the intended message or emotion.

4. Editing:

Edit your footage to create a coherent and engaging short film. Use editing software of your choice to arrange the shots, add music or sound effects, and fine-tune the pacing.

Ensure that your editing choices align with your initial concept and enhance the visual storytelling.

5. Submission:

Submit your completed short film project. This can be in the form of a video file uploaded to the course platform or presented in class, depending on your instructor's preferences.

Assessment Criteria:

The duration of your short film should be between 3 to 5 minutes.

Collaborative projects may be allowed, depending on the instructor's guidelines.

Be sure to seek feedback from your instructor or peers during the project development process to enhance your work.

Course Materials

Textbooks

Bloc, Bruce (2020). The Visual Story: Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV, and Digital Media. 3rd ed. Routledge. 113801415X

Other Resources

Brown, Blaine (2021). Cinematography: Theory and Practice: For Cinematographers and Directors. 4th ed. Taylor & Francis. 9781000433753

Class Size Information

Class Size

30

Class Size Category

F - Individualized, skills#based instruction/field practice 30

Diversity and Inclusion

Explain how diversity and inclusion(e.g., gender, culture/race, sexuality, etc.) is infused into the course.

The curriculum actively incorporates films and case studies from diverse cultural backgrounds, showcasing a spectrum of voices, experiences, and perspectives. Students engage in discussions and practical exercises that challenge stereotypes, biases, and cultural insensitivity within cinematic language, fostering a climate of critical reflection. Furthermore, the course promotes equity

by ensuring an inclusive learning environment where students' diverse identities, including gender, culture, race, and sexuality, are respected and valued. By encouraging students to explore their unique backgrounds and perspectives in their creative work, the course champions the rich tapestry of diversity, fostering an inclusive approach to storytelling that resonates with audiences from all walks of life.

Describe how assignments, instruction, evaluation, course content, and interactions are contextualized for diverse learners promoting an equitable course.

The instructional approach is inclusive, recognizing that students have varied learning styles and preferences. Lectures incorporate a range of teaching methods, including visual aids, hands-on demonstrations, and group discussions. This accommodates different learning modalities, ensuring that content is accessible to all. Moreover, instructors foster a respectful and open classroom environment where diverse viewpoints are encouraged and valued. Course materials are intentionally curated to reflect a wide range of cultural, social, and artistic perspectives. Films, case studies, and readings encompass diverse voices, allowing students to explore narratives, styles, and techniques from various backgrounds. This approach encourages students to appreciate the richness of global cinema and nurtures their capacity for empathy and cultural sensitivity.

Interactions

Explain how the course will incorporate student-to-student interaction.

Students will work together in groups on various projects throughout the course. These projects may involve creating short films, analyzing cinematic techniques, or collaborating on creative assignments. Group work encourages peer learning, where students exchange ideas, share expertise, and collectively develop a deeper understanding of the course material.

Explain how the course will incorporate instructor-to-student interaction.

Students will have access to technique guidance from the instructor through the lab time. These guiding sessions can be used for clarifying doubts, seeking guidance on assignments, discussing individual progress, or addressing specific challenges. These interactions ensure that students receive tailored support.

Explain how the course will incorporate student-to-content interaction.

Course content will include films, clips, and readings that students will analyze and critique. This interaction with cinematic works allows students to apply their knowledge to real-world examples, enhancing their ability to recognize and appreciate various cinematic techniques and styles. Assignments that require students to create their own cinematic compositions, scenes, or short films directly engage them with the course content. Through these creative projects, students actively apply what they've learned, allowing for a practical understanding of the content.

Explain how the course will incorporate student-to-self interaction (metacognitive).

As students tackle complex cinematography challenges, they will engage in metacognitive processes of problem-solving and decision-making. They will need to evaluate their options, consider alternative approaches, and reflect on the outcomes of their choices, fostering critical thinking skills.

Key: 3089