

Cinematography

ART+Art History Dept. ART 3384 - 001, Spring 2013

Class Rooms: FA 164 & the Big Studio

Class Times: M/W 2:00PM - 4:50PM

Instructor: Gyorgy Beck, gyorgyb@uta.edu, Office Hrs: M/TU 5-6:50pm

ALWAYS CHECK YOUR EMAIL WITHIN AN HOUR BEFORE CLASS – we may have changes in assignments, meeting, etc.

Description/Goals: The course provides basic knowledge of the art and craft of motion picture photography.

Student learning outcomes: Students will understand the practical, technical, and aesthetic aspects of Cinematography.

Required Textbooks: See below in detailed course schedule.

Attendance: All faculty members of the film/video program share the following attendance policy. Attendance is required to all scheduled classes. However we do understand that there are occasions when absence is necessary and excusable. In accordance to university policy religious holidays are excusable as is illness with a written note from a physician. The student is responsible for notifying the professor **ahead** of class if the absence is unavoidable. Unexcused absences over two days, including any absence in which the professor and student do not communicate in writing about before the absence will result in the following grade reductions:

- Third day absent will result in reduction of one letter for the final semester grade.
- Fourth day absent will result two letters off the final semester grade.
- Fifth day absent will result in automatic failure of the class.

The student is responsible for any work missed during an absence, including any handouts given in class and any demonstrations. It is not the responsibility of faculty to re-teach what the student has missed. Students should be aware that if a demonstration is missed they might not be allowed to utilize that equipment. Attendance is also mandatory for all critiques whether the student has completed the work required or not. Consistent lateness will also have a detrimental effect on the student's final grade. If you are more than ten minutes late you will be counted as absent. Always check your My Mav email an hour before class for assignments, updates and critical information.

Policy: The student is responsible for all material presented in class and this should be demonstrated in the work produced. All assignments must be handed in on the due date. All written assignments must be typed, hand-written work is not accepted. **All written assignments must have a cover sheet which includes your name, the class/section, assignment and the title of your work.** All DVD's and videotapes must be labeled both on the disk/tape and the sleeve/box. Please read the assignments carefully and plan the steps of the project with adequate time for completion. Lack of planning will not be accepted as an excuse. Please speak to or email instructor prior to due date if any problems arise.

Due Dates: Due dates are either noted in this syllabus or will be given at the time of assignment in class. These are deadlines that you must adhere to. If dates change you will be advised. If your work is not completed by the deadline it will be considered late with the following deductions in grade given.

- First deadline missed will result in one letter grade reduced for the assignment grade.
- Second deadline missed will result in one letter grade off the final grade for the semester.
- Third deadline missed will result in automatic failure of the class.

There are occasions when an excuse will be given for a student unable to complete work for the due date. An excused deadline will be solely at the discretion of the instructor. Any student wishing to ask for an excuse must provide a written (typed) excuse in **advance** of the due date. **Plan in advance that you will encounter technical problems with camera equipment and in the editing suites. Actors will drop out as well – have a back-up plan. Don't wait until the last minute as this is typically when equipment (and personal) errors arise and you may end up with a less than passing grade on your assignment.**

Grading: See below in detailed course schedule.

Class Participation Grading Determination:

A

Actively supports, engages and listens to peers. Arrives fully prepared for every class. Plays an active role in discussions. Comments advance the level and depth of the dialogue. Group dynamic and level of discussion are consistently better because of the student's presence.

B

Makes a sincere effort to interact with peers. Arrives mostly, if not fully prepared. Participates constructively in discussions. Makes relevant comments based on the assigned material. Group dynamic and level of discussion are occasionally better (never worse) because of the student's presence.

C

Limited interaction with peers. Preparation and level of participation are inconsistent. Participates constructively in discussions only when prepared. Group dynamic and level of discussion are not effected by student's presence.

D

Virtually no interaction with peers. Rarely prepared. Rarely participates. Comments are vague. Demonstrates lack of interest. Group dynamic and level of discussion are harmed by student's presence.

F

No interaction with peers. Never prepared. Demonstrates noticeable lack of interest. Group dynamic and level of discussion are significantly harmed by student's presence.

Please NOTE: A **significant amount of work** outside of class and lab time is required to successfully complete this class: Filmmaking requires substantial time and effort in researching, planning and producing your assigned projects. Once the project is captured onto media, it must be edited requiring a greater time commitment. This is a studio art class – plan your personal, family and work time accordingly.

Additional Information for Film/Video Students: Please read and be certain you understand all of the lab policies. You are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of these policies. These policies are designed to facilitate the use of all of the equipment available to you and other students. **Attend demonstrations, take notes, and ask questions if you do not understand something.** Also understand that as a student you are responsible for adhering to the attendance and due dates in this syllabus and discussed in class. If you do not understand a policy please ask us about it. These policies are not in place to make your life difficult but rather to insure that you get the full benefit of the class. As we're sure you have all heard before – life in the “real, working world” is different than in college. Any job you have will expect you to show up on time, complete your work on time, and think critically. It is unlikely they will have a written policy on these things as they are simply expected. It is assumed that you learned these in college if not long before. Read and remember these policies and your time in the film/video program will prove beneficial.

Throughout this class we will be viewing a wide variety of work from artists in all cultures, religions, languages and lifestyles. This work has been carefully chosen to expose the students to different points of view and the artistic methods utilized to express those points of view. Some of the work may contain material with which some students may not be comfortable. If at any point in time a student becomes excessively uncomfortable with material being viewed they are welcome to exit the class for the remainder of that video piece and to return for the discussion of that piece.

Due to the technical nature of our video/computer/film facilities, certain systems or parts of systems may be unavailable as they are removed for maintenance or repair. The faculty will make every effort to accurately inform students as to when equipment will be available again. If you feel that technical issues will impact your ability to complete a project, you should discuss this with the professor in a timely manner BEFORE the project due date. Please note that technical difficulties are a very standard occurrence in this field and successful professionals are often noted for their abilities to find creative solutions that allow them to complete their projects on time and with artistic excellence despite technical difficulties.

Cinematic Photography

(aka Introduction to Cinematography)

Course description:

The goal of this course is to provide basic knowledge of the art and craft of motion picture photography. Through the lectures, exercises and screenings students learn the role of the cinematographer and her/his available tools and means of creative image control for effective visual story telling.

The final projects are self-produced, short films/videos with emphasis on visual qualities.

Required reading:

Handouts and course pack.

Highly recommended reading:

Notes on Cinematography, by Robert Bresson

Recommended reading:

American Cinematographer Manual

Better Location Shooting Techniques for Video Production, by Paul Martingell

Cinematography - Theory and Practice, by Blain Brown

Motion Picture and Video Lighting, by Blain Brown

The 5 C's Of Cinematography, by Joseph V. Mascelli

Lighting for Digital Video & Television, by John Jackman

Selected chapters from the above will be available in the course pack.

Grading:

20% Class participation

30% Assignments

20% Written exam

30% Final project

Week 1	Introduction
<p>Introduction and course overview. (visual basics, perception, photographic image, visual story telling, creative image control ...)</p>	
Week 2	Light
<p>Light is the fundamental ingredient of photographic imaging, therefore cinematography. The lecture focuses on its different qualities. (light and shadow, contrast, high vs. low key, soft vs. hard light, day vs. night, color temperature, exposure...)</p>	
Week 3	Camera
<p><i>Bring your own still/video camera</i> This lecture gives an overview of the cinematographers' most important tools - the camera and the lens. (shooting format, film vs. video, aspect-ratio, exposure, focal length, lenses, angle of view, wide, normal, tele, aperture, depth of field, filters, camera support, ...)</p>	
Week 4	Composition
<p>The lecture introduces the basic principles of composition and their usage in filmmaking. (framing, simplicity, balance, The Rule of Thirds, foreground, background, movement ...) Discussing final project.</p>	

Week 5	Production & Studio Workshop
<p>Overview of the cinematographers' and her/his teams' role in motion picture production. (within the crew structure, camera team, duties from pre-production to post, ...)</p> <p>During the studio workshop, the previously studied elements of cinematography are being demonstrated.</p>	

Week 6 - 14	Studio Exercise
<p>In the studio exercises students are given of the chance to get first hand experience with the previously discussed subjects through various assignments.</p>	

Week 15	Written Exam
<p>Discussion of any unanswered questions and a comprehensive exam.</p>	

Week 16	Work Day
<p>Work days, allowing students to work on their Final Project</p>	

Week 17	Screening - Discussion
<p>Screening, discussion and evaluation of final films/videos.</p> <p>Assignment: Enjoy your break! :-)</p>	

Assignments

Photo Series I.

Make a series of photographs of three objects of the same kind in different compositions.

Due: 1/27 10pm by email. Format: multipage pdf, under 5MB in size

Bring photos -- in jpg format -- to class (1/28) on flash/thumb drive as well.

Photo Series II.

Make a series of (at least six) photographs of an object or person in different lighting.

Due: 2/10 10pm by email. Format: multipage pdf, under 5MB in size

Bring photos -- in jpg format -- to class (2/11) on flash/thumb drive as well.

Video Haiku

Create a 3 Video Haiku. Video Haiku is a 3 shot film that uses the rules of haiku poetry as inspiration. The first shot is 5 seconds, next shot is 7 seconds, and the final shot is 5 seconds. Include poetry as well.

Due: 2/25 in class on hard-drive. Format: h.264

Proposal presentation for Final Project

Present your idea for Final project.

Due: 3/3 10pm by email. Format: pdf

One Word

3 min short film. Details will be discussed.

Due: 3/18 in class on hard-drive. Format: h.264

Final Project

Self-produced, short film/video with emphasis on visual qualities. Details will be discussed.

Besides presenting your final video project, you also need to submit a Portfolio DVD containing:

- Final Project
- Statement of intent
- all of your pieces completed during the course (home/class)
- your presentation (selected film/cinematographer) if applicable
- a one page essay about your experiences in the course.

Due: Proposal - 3/3 10pm by email. Format: pdf

Final presentation - TBA

Assignments for Extra Credit

Give a presentation on either a film you find visually outstanding or on a cinematographer whose work inspires you. (Keynote or Powerpoint)

There will be additional non mandatory assignments throughout the course. These possibilities shall be discussed in class.

Also, if you shoot a project for someone outside of the class, you can submit your work for extra credit.

Drop Policy: Friday, March 30, 2012 is the last day to drop a class without penalty.

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability- based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Student Syllabus Agreement Form For Art 4349

VIDEO ART & NEW GENRES Spring 2013

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the syllabus and class schedule and understand the classroom policies, expectations, and rules as stated in the syllabus and schedule and have been given a digital copy of my own to keep and download. By signing this form, I agree to comply with the policies listed in the syllabus and accept the terms and schedule for this class.

Student Signature

Student Name Printed

Date

Student Email _____@mavs.uta.edu