

**4397-001 Art Direction for Film**  
**Fall 2014 Syllabus V 1.0 (subject to change)**

**Instructor:** Gyorgy Beck

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**Office Hours:** 5 - 6:50 pm on Tue/Thur

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**Office Hours:** 2-3pm Mon/Tue

**Section Information:** ART 4392-009 Fall 2012

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** FA164 & 134, 11-2 PM Tuesday, Thursday

**Description of Course Content:** The goal of this course is to provide practical, technical, and aesthetic guidance in the field of art direction and production design for the students.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn the practical, technical, and aesthetic aspects of Art Direction and Production Design.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:** See below in detailed course schedule.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** See below in detailed course schedule.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructors of this section, we require attendance to all lectures, labs and critiques is required. Absences are only excused for participation in University-sanctioned events or the observance of religious holidays. No other absences will be excused. Excused absences are subject to prior notification and documentation that must be presented to the instructor. More than three (two For summer classes) unexcused absences will lower your final grade 10%. Two additional unexcused absences will further lower your final grade another 10%. A student who has missed 6 classes will have their final grade lowered a total of 20%.

Most lectures, demonstrations, critiques and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for latecomers. If you are late to class, notify the instructor to ensure a tardy is counted instead of an absence. Leaving early also counts as a tardy. Unproductive use of class time, talking on cell phones, web surfing for things unrelated to the course, or composing personal e-mails will not be allowed during class and could count as a tardy. Two late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence.

**Grading:** See below in detailed course schedule.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 4-6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** In addition to the assignments mentioned in the course schedule below you will serve as art director on one advanced film and apply the lessons and techniques learned in class to that project.

**Drop Policy:** 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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located: Room 134 there is the main door leading to the back door that opens to the loading dock, or if the large doors are open then exit to the loading dock through them, If in room 164 exit through the door that leads to the hall and out the door that leads to the faculty/staff parking lot on the north side of the building. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) 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 visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://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 shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**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.

## Look of a Film

(aka Introduction to Art Direction and Production Design)

*Instructors:* György Beck and Patty Newton

*Course description:*

The goal of this course is to provide practical, technical, and aesthetic guidance in the field of art direction and production design for the students.

The lectures and exercises mainly focus on visual design, but also educate students in construction and handling of sets and props.

A film, bearing significant examples of notable visual design, is shown each week.  
(see preliminary list at the end of syllabus)

*Final project:* To successfully complete the class, you need to work as the Art Director for one of the films that will be produced in the Advanced class (ART 4362). Make sure you begin early - you will be working for your Director from concept to realization throughout the semester. As part of the assignment, you are required to give a thorough presentation on the development and execution of the project in class.

*Required reading:*

The Visual Story, 2nd Edition by Bruce Block, Handouts and course pack.

*Recommended reading:*

The Filmmaker's Guide to Production Design, by Vincent LoBrutto

The Art Direction Handbook for Film, by Michael Rizzo

Scenic Design and Lighting Techniques, by Chuck Gloman, Rob Napoli

Motion Picture and Video Lighting, by Blain Brown

## Week 1

Assignment: 1) Read Ch. 1 & 2 in Textbook. 2) Write a page about your interests in art direction and production design and what you expect to learn from the class. Due 8/26 (email to [gyorgyb@uta.edu](mailto:gyorgyb@uta.edu))

## Week 2

Safety instructions for Studio (conducted by Francis Giampietro)

Introduction to the visual art and craft of cinematic storytelling and a brief overview of the history of production design and art direction. (genres, aesthetic, style, reality, illusion, emotion, atmosphere, metaphors ...)

Discussion of final project

Assignment: 1) Read Ch. 3 in Textbook.

## Week 3 - 4

Dissection of the visual elements of cinematic storytelling.  
(photographic image, space, light, color, line & shape, texture, architecture ...)

Review and discussion of week 2 assignment.

Discussion of Final Project

Assignment: 1) Read Ch. 4. 2) **Extra Credit opportunity.** Write a one page essay on visual element of your choice.

## Week 5

Overview of the design teams' structure and the different roles and responsibilities of the art departments' associates.

(PD, AD, set designer, set decorator, costume designer, property master ...)

Assignment: 1) Begin Design review. In teams (two people to a team), select a film from the list provided and create a design review. You will be presenting these in class over the course of the semester. 2) Synopsis for final project. Due first class of week 8.

## Week 6 - 7

Introduction to the stages and tools of the design process.

(research; script break down, location scouting, concept drawing, storyboard, drafting, ...)

Assignment: Read Script assigned in class.

## Week 8 - 9

Introduction to the available digital means for design and post-production.  
(computer drawing/modeling, animatics, pre-visualization, compositing, CGI, VFX...)

Review and discussion of final project.

Assignment: Previsualize your final project using one of these methods. Prepare to discuss in class.

## Week 10

Over view of the art department's tasks in pre-production.  
(scheduling, budgeting, modeling, staging plan, set construction and dressing, set inspection, props, wardrobe...)

Assignment: Devise your pre-production plans for final project.

## Week 11

Overview of the art departments' tasks during production and studio practice.  
(on-set presence/duties, handling changes, clearances, product placement, cover sets...)

Review and discussion of Final Project.

Assignment: Work on your final project.

## Week 12

Discussion of any unanswered questions.

Review and discussion of final project.

Assignment: Complete your final project. Due next class.

## Week 13 - 15

Presentation and evaluation of final projects. (5 person/class)

Assignment: Enjoy your break! :-)

## *List of films*

[Intolerance](#). 1916 (163 min.) - D.W. Griffith

[The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari](#) 1920 (78 min.) - Robert Wiene

[Metropolis](#). 1927 (153 min.) - Fritz Lang

[Citizen Kane](#) 1941 (119 min.) - Orson Welles

[Rashomon](#) 1950 (88 min.) - Akira Kurosawa

[Rear Window](#) 1954 (122 min.) - Alfred Hitchcock

[8½](#) 1963 (138 min.) - Federico Fellini

[Red Desert](#) 1964 (117.) - Michelangelo Antonioni

[2001: A Space Odyssey](#) 1968 (141 min.) - Stanley Kubrick

[Last Tango in Paris](#) 1972 (136 min.) - Bernardo Bertolucci

[Apocalypse Now](#) 1979 (153 min.) - Francis Ford Coppola

[Blade Runner](#) 1982 (117 min.) - Ridley Scott

[Paris, Texas](#) 1984 (147 min.) - Wim Wenders

[Brazil](#) 1985 (132 min.) - Terry Gilliam

[Ran](#) 1985 (162 min.) - Akira Kurosawa

[Time of the Gypsies](#) 1988 (270 min.) - Emir Kusturica

[Until the End of the World](#) 1991 (280 min.) - Wim Wenders

[Arizona Dream](#) 1993 (142 min.) - Emir Kusturica

[Dead Man](#) 1995 (121 min.) - Jim Jarmusch

[The Pillow Book](#) 1996 (126 min) - Peter Greenaway

[Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas](#) 1998 (118 min.) - Terry Gilliam

[Fight Club](#) 1999 (139 min.) - David Fincher

[In The Mood For Love](#) 2000 (98 min.) - Kar Wai Wong

[Amélie](#) 2001 (122 min.) - Jean-Pierre Jeunet

[The Royal Tenenbaums](#) 2001 (110 min.) - Wes Anderson

[Russian Ark](#) 2002 (99 min.) - Aleksandr Sokurov

[Hugo](#) 2011(126 min.) - Martin Scorsese

[Pina](#) 2011 (103 min.) - Wim Wenders

[Running With Scissors](#) 2006 (106 min.) – Ryan Murphy