

**INTERMEDIATE MEDIA PRODUCTION
COMM 3342 CRN 17838 SEC 002
FALL 2019**

INSTRUCTOR: Nakisha Acosta

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday, 4:30 – 5:30 Cotton Memorial, Room 307A

LOCATION: Cotton Memorial, RM 306

DATE AND TIME: Mon 4:30 – 7:20 PM

EMAIL: ntacosta@utep.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced techniques of video production and technology. The class will consist of lectures, discussions, screenings, and group projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A student can expect to learn the ins and outs of creating a short film from concept to finished work. The course will cover preproduction packages, budgeting, protocols of production, roles of crew members, safety laws, acting and shooting regulations, copyright laws, and the necessary postproduction work needed in order to finish a film. Students will have their own short film by the end of the course.

DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION SEQUENCE OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate disciplinary knowledge
Assessment tool: Final paper in FILM 1390
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final paper
- Apply communication theories to communication events
Assessment tool: Final paper in COMM 3371
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final paper.
- Evaluate and employ various research methods
Assessment tool: Final exam in COMM 4372
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on the final exam
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in digital media preproduction and production
Perform competency in the preparations, processes, and practices of beginning and completing a digital media production project
Perform competency in a variety of digital media production environments such as in a studio and on location
Perform competency in using production hardware and software
Assessment tool: film project in COMM 2342

- Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on film project
- Demonstrate aptitude in storytelling techniques in terms of postproduction
 - Perform competency in conceptualizing, evaluating, and implementing filming and editing techniques
 - Assessment tool: Final exam and film project in COMM 3343
 - Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final exam and film project
- Demonstrate the ability to produce a film combining conceptual, creative, and technical skill sets
 - Apply all three phases of production
 - Aggregate various forms of communication to create a topical basis for a documentary film project
 - Pursue assorted outlets and venues to showcase a film
 - Assessment tool: Final exam and film project in COMM 3346
 - Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on their final exam and film project

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is Mandatory. Your attendance and participation are integral to the class curriculum. It is imperative that you attend class regularly and on time. Everyone is allowed one emergency absence. After that point your grade will be dropped one full letter grade for any unexcused absence acquired thereafter. Likewise, a student will be dropped after three unexcused absences. An unexcused absence is any absence without valid documentation explaining the reason for missing class. An excused absence will have valid documentation explaining why the student was absent. It is under the discretion of the instructor if an absence can be considered excused. Students will be considered absent if they are not present for roll call at the beginning of class. Likewise, if a student leaves during class the student will be considered absent. Students must be reliable when working in groups. Filmmaking is a group effort, and your fellow filmmakers will depend on you to be present, and willing to work hard for their projects. Take an interest in your group members' projects, and they will reciprocate.

GRADING:

If you come to class regularly and on time, take your assignments and screenings seriously, and participate in the class discussions, (i.e. asking questions, and sharing your opinions) you can expect to do well in this class.

Completion of a group project, preproduction package, and final video are required in order to pass this class. No late work will be accepted.

Grading Scale: 100

100 – 90 = A

89 – 80 = B

79 – 70 = C

69 – 60 = D
59 and below = F

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Attendance: 10%
Group Project: 10%
Script: 10%
One-on-One Preproduction Meeting: 10%
Preproduction Package: 30%
Final Video: 30%

REQUIRED READINGS:

Bare Bones Camera Course for Film & Video, 3rd Edition, by Tom Schroepel

ASSIGNMENTS:

Group Project: I will give each group a short script that you will use to create a 5 minute video. Each student will perform a different task on the project, and the group as a whole will edit the video. It is the group's responsibility to find talent to act in the short films. Start getting in contact with potential willing participants from the UTEP theater department. The project must be completely finished including a proper sound mix, and end credits by the due date. We will watch the projects in class.

Preproduction Package: The student will create a preproduction package that will include the script, a shooting schedule, a shot list, a budget, and a lookbook. This needs to be in a folder or have a spiral binding.

One-on-One Preproduction Meeting: I will meet with each student one week before the preproduction package is due. I will check to make sure everything is being done properly, and help answer any questions you may have.

Script: Each student will write a 5 - 7 page original, fictional piece of any genre.

Final Video: Students will screen their finished film in class during finals week. The video should not be longer than 10 minutes in length, and should have gone through a proper sound mix, edit, and export.

Requirements

Each student should have an external hard drive with at least 50 GB available for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is 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, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP)*, and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at www.utep.edu/dos, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

CASS POLICY

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This course calendar may change at any time under the discretion of your instructor. Chapters should be read before the class date in which they are assigned.

WEEK 1

AUG. 26 Course introduction and syllabus. Create groups. I will email everyone the script for the group projects.

WEEK 2

SEP. 2 **LABOR DAY. UNIVERSITY CLOSED**

WEEK 3

SEP. 9 Explanation of crew roles, and call sheet. We will cover shot types and setting up a shot. Groups will decide crew roles, and tell me the assigned roles at the end of class. **Bring books to class.**

WEEK 4

SEP. 16 You will work in your groups to come up with your shot list. During the second part of class each group will present their shot list and idea for your shoot. **Each group's A.D. needs to email me a callsheet before their shoot.**

WEEK 5

SEP. 23 What makes a good short film? We will watch several examples of award winning shorts.

WEEK 6

SEP. 30 **ROUGH EDIT SCREENING.** We will watch rough edits of each groups' videos and give feedback. We will go over proper script formatting, and loglines.

WEEK 7

OCT. 7 **Screening of completed group projects.** This will be your first grade for the class. Bring in 3 loglines for your short film. Be prepared to share in class.

WEEK 8

OCT. 14 Preproduction package components: Shot list, script, shooting schedule, budget, and lookbook. For next week email me your script. We will read them out loud and give feedback.

WEEK 9

OCT. 21 Bring in copies of your script for each role. Read scripts.

WEEK 10

OCT. 28 Finish reading scripts.

WEEK 11

NOV. 4 One-on-one meetings. Bring all components of your preproduction package with you. **This is a grade so come prepared.**

WEEK 12

NOV. 11 **PREPRODUCTION PACKAGE DUE**
Directing the actor

WEEK 13

NOV. 18 Protocols of production, safety laws, acting and shooting regulations.

WEEK 14

NOV. 25 Post production sound, and credits.

WEEK 15

DEC. 2 Rough cuts are due.

WEEK 16

DEC. 9 **SCREENING OF FINAL FILMS**
CLASS IS FROM 4:00 – 6:45 PM