ARTS3061

School of the Arts and Media // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Greg Dolgopolov	gregd@unsw.edu.au	Wednesday 12:00pm or by appointment	Room 207, Robert Webster Building	0424610123

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course provides some practical experience in video-making and gives you an understanding of the basic concepts that underlie a video production, from script to final cut. Video Production allows you to put into practice some of the theories and conceptual materials that you have covered in your preceding studies. You will have the opportunity to create a range of short video works with an emphasis on conceptual innovation. You are encouraged to look for practical solutions to theoretical problems concerning film/video that you may have encountered during your film and media courses. You will be introduced to the basic technical skills of operating a camera, lighting, scripting, pre-production planning, editing and presentation. The course aims to increase your practical knowledge and awareness of film language, style, process, and technique by way of craft-based functional workshop exercises, independent assembly and a substantial group-generated production process. The course encourages collaborative working practices to a professional standard.

In the first six weeks, your production skills will be developed and challenged through a range of technical exercises and a series of obstructions. You will be also required to develop the script and pre-production of your project. In the second part of the course, working as a group you will produce two short films. These films will then be curated and programmed for a special screening at the end of term. The screening of a range of short fiction and factual films will introduce you to the art of the short film. You will be encouraged to critically evaluate these films, your own work and the work of others and to test theoretical positions with creative solutions and practical exercises.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the basic craft and technical skills necessary to make a short video production in a variety of formats and for different platforms
2. Analyse short films - their own and others focusing on structure, ideas, technique, storytelling, lighting, sound and editing
3. Demonstrate an audiovisual creativity and develop critical thinking along with the appropriate skills of expression
4. Develop skills and strategies in planning and time organisation
5. Express a deeper understanding of screen culture and language through practical and creative application
6. Work collaboratively and undertake a range of crew roles to a professional standard
7. Negotiate effectively
8. Exhibit a range of skills in researching and developing audiovisual concepts

Teaching Strategies

While the instructors for Screen Production III (Video Project) recognise that not all students undertaking this course will seek to work in the film and media industries, this course is structured as a production course with high level expectations of professional conduct, robust group dynamics, ongoing formative feedback and a supportive environment for creativity. My teaching philosophy is to provide all the necessary materials, environment and facilitation to allow students to solve problems in a creative and pragmatic manner. I encourage self-determination and negotiation skills in providing solutions for pragmatic considerations that will invariably impact on creative decisions. This course does have high

time demands outside of class time and but with smart time management all students have the opportunity to gain valuable experiences. My teaching strategy is to structure a number of key skills based exercises in the first half of the term to develop students' craft skills with more time available than in previous courses thereby demanding higher quality outcomes. I seek to encourage student creativity and engagement with cinematic history through robust group collaborations to produce work of a high standard that is intended to be subsequently presented at film festivals.

This course is firmly situated in a hands-on approach to screen studies by exploring a range of production approaches in the short, multi-platform narrative format. Students who aim to continue with the study of film, media and communications, particularly those with a special interest in cultural representation and the study of film theory, styles, genres and history will benefit from this course. The course encourages collaborative working practices. The execution of crew roles to a professional standard will be expected as a minimum and will be evaluated along with the conceptual quality of the final project and the capacity of the crew to make changes from the rough cut to the final draft.

Assessment

safety and well-being of your colleagues. Video production is a collaborative process and it is essential that you are punctual, reliable and maintain a high level of group responsibility. Lateness or absence from workshops and lectures will undermine your position in the community of filmmakers. Absence or tardiness in attending production group meetings may result in expulsion from the group with subsequent assessment penalties (ie. you may fail this component of the course). As a production unit, Screen Production III is a time intensive course. There is an assumption that many workshop exercises and technical skills will be completed or developed outside of class time. Screen Production III course assumes that students will invest significant energy and time outside of the allocated classes to working on their collaborative productions. It is up to the groups to negotiate meeting and working times. Students will be assessed on their level of group participation as well as on the level of participation they display in workshop exercises and discussions. If you are absent you must provide a good reason backed up by documentation. This commitment is necessary to instill a similar culture to the professional film and media industry where punctuality and preparation prior to call time is fundamental as is responsibility to your team members and where the 'work' is always above personal issues and sorting out creative disagreements is part of the process. In order to achieve optimal outcomes, you will need to take an active and responsible part in workshop discussions, collaborative projects and other associated activities. Among the criteria for assessing the quality of your active engagement are: Responses to the ideas discussed in the workshops and screenings

Active collaboration with your colleagues on group work where ownership of creative content is shared

Creative solutions to workshops exercises

Attendance and punctuality

Professional attitude

Ability to translate feedback and incorporate into your work

Collaboration

All students will be asked to self-organise into groups of three to five at various stages of the workshop process. During the course, students will be asked to contribute to the group project by performing specific roles related to camera, sound, editing, producing and directing. Video productions are collaborative processes and it is important that you develop the necessary skills for effective teamwork, communication and conflict resolution. It is essential that you attend all the planning, discussion and pre-production meetings that you arrange as a group. The formal Resonance Meeting is a pre-production process that is a course requirement and will necessitate a special meeting arrangement with your group and your tutor. It is the responsibility of the group to arrange this with your tutor. If communications break down within the group, it is up to the group to find a solution to mediate this process in order to achieve a working outcome. It is important that the group notify their tutor or course convenor of such circumstances and request assistance in a mediation process. Ultimately the final project is a group exercise. The interests of the group and the project will be placed above individual aesthetic desires. This is an opportunity for all participants to develop the subtle skills of negotiation and creative persuasion and to be able to let go of ideas easily while maintaining a tight focus on the concept. Regular and ongoing independent study, reading, note-taking, scribbling and conceptualising are essential components of this course. This is a course in creativity and this requires discipline and establishing a rigorous imaginative practice. it is an expectation that the students will conduct their own research based on knowledge gained in Film Studies. You are expected to become familiar with the technical and creative writings in the field through relevant readings and various online tutorials in order to think about the specific craft skill discussed and start thinking of how you would adapt this to your

Assessment criteria:

Inventive, original and robust engagement with ideas

Response to key theme

Effective performance of crew role(s)

Emotional impact of film(s)

Clear dramatic structure and narrative development

Original response to style and structure

Appropriate pre-production documentation & process

LMS Feedback

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Short film

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: up to 7 minutes long. Written material about 1000 words

Details:

Group Project

In-class screening and LMS feedback

Additional details:

Following the Pitching of your project, groups will be selected. Working in small production groups, you will be allocated a crew role and required to work collaboratively to devise, research, plan, shoot and edit a narratively based short film (max. length 7 minutes). Students will be asked to complete a 500 word self-evaluation form and a peer review form at the completion of the project as well as an individually written 500 word project report. This is the final assessment task. Students receive considerable consultation and formative feedback during the process of project development and oral and written feedback on their projects at submission and after presentation at the final screening night.

Film Theme: TO BE DECIDED IN WEEK 1

Additional details: Small production groups will be selected to develop a script for production that examines the course theme (to be discussed in class). You are encouraged to work with a script written as part of the script writing course or an adaptation of an existing literary work. You may change or adapt this script to respond to production requirements. You may add more dialogue if required. Crew roles will be allocated and you will be required to work collaboratively to devise, research, plan, shoot, and edit your narrative (maximum length 7 minutes). You will be expected to apply all the technical and theoretical knowledge that you have learnt during your film studies. You will be allocated to a group according to your preferred crew roles and your preference for a specific project. It is essential that you start generating ideas from Week One and communicating them to your workshop group so that the most engaging projects can be selected and made.

Your mark will be made up of the evaluation of your film, your critical analysis of your film and your performance of your designated crew role.

A quality cut of your film needs to be presented to the curatorial team by 12pm Friday 23 April. Your tutor must site your project in the final week to provide you with fine cut and colour grading and sound mixing feedback before your final submission and the public presentation on 28 April

Submission notes: Please submit via Moodle a link to your film along with a brief critical analysis of your project (500 words) and a peer and self review of your crew role

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Owing to the nature of the production process, late arrivals and early departures will NOT be accepted. You MUST be able to attend all scheduled workshops and group meetings. Make arrangements NOW in order to do so – you will be very busy in April and May. You cannot complete this course without punctuality, organization and a professional attitude with a high commitment to your safety and the safety and well-being of your colleagues. Video production is a collaborative process and it is essential that you are punctual, reliable and maintain a high level of group responsibility. Lateness or absence from workshops and lectures will attract marking penalties. Absence or tardiness in attending production group meetings may result in expulsion from the group with subsequent assessment penalties (ie. you may fail this component of the course). As a production unit, Video Project is a time intensive course. There is an assumption that many workshop exercises and technical skills will be completed or developed outside of class time. The Video Project course assumes that students will invest significant energy and time outside of the allocated classes to working on their collaborative productions. It is up to the groups to negotiate meeting and working times. Students will be assessed on their level of group participation (that includes punctuality and engagement) as well as on the level of participation they display in workshop exercises and discussions. For a grade to be awarded, your attendance at all the seminar/lectures, screenings, workshops and your creative group meetings must be comprehensive. If you are absent you must provide a good reason backed up by documentation. This commitment is necessary to instill a similar culture to the professional film and media industry where punctuality and preparation prior to call time is fundamental as is responsibility to your team members and where the 'work' is always above personal issues and sorting out creative disagreements is part of the process. In order to achieve an optimal mark, you will need to take an active and responsible part in workshop discussions, collaborative projects and other associated activities

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Topic	Introduction: Resources, Cameras Inductions, Tripods, Facilities, Safety, COVID-Safe, Group Work Topic discussions & genre. Scripts v adaptations v Original projects
	Lecture	Course introduction, assessment details, crew roles and film grammar
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Project	Starting work on your projects. Structures, timelines, group work reqirements
	Group Work	Scriptwriting: adaptation, writing action. Script writing exercises. Script ideas. Pitching.
	Studio	Camera tests, different cameras, set up in 'Manual'. Tripods and Rigs. Handheld. Dolly Two Shot and interviews
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Group Work	Lighting theory and practice. Three Point Lighting. Noir lighting. Outdoor lighting and reflectors.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Most course resources will be posted on a weekly basis on the Moodle site to support your course experience. Students are expected to review these resources thoroughly.

Recommended Resources

Pleas see Moodle course site - weekly updates

Course Evaluation and Development

FEEDBACK

Feedback is an essential part of production and creative processes. Tutors will provide ongoing oral and formative feedback for course materials in the process and preparation of your projects but only if you

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
-

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

Poster from the theatre production *Qrwjw_eg*