

**RTV 4929C**  
**(Spring 2021)**

**ADVANCED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP: DIRECTING DRAMA**

**Instructor:** James Babanikos, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9:35-11:30; and by appointment

**Description of Course**

This course is designed to teach the student the process of how to direct a dramatic video program, using single-camera, film-style technique. The course is very comprehensive. We will learn how to recognize and improve a short, dramatic script; how to translate a script into a shooting script; how to schedule a shoot; how to audition, rehearse and get the best performances from actors; how to set up a shot; how to edit; how to work with a composer; and so on.

The approach we will use is very similar to preparing and producing a typical, feature-length film, and students will get first-hand knowledge of what awaits them if they decide to pursue a career in dramatic film/video production.

The course will be comprised of lectures, screenings, analyses, reading scripts, and viewing rushes and rough cuts.

**Grading**

“Making Movies” book report	10%
Two-three minute dialogue scene	20%
Three-four minute chase film	20%
Final project: 7-12 minute fictional program	50%*

\* 20 % of this will be the student’s participation on the final project, evaluated by their teammates.

**Please Note:**

- one point will be subtracted from your final grade for each unexcused absence.
- 10% will be subtracted from the project you’re working on if you don’t return the equipment on time; you may also lose borrowing privileges.
- 10% will be subtracted from your project for every day that an assignment is late.
- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **Text**

- Required Text:** Lumet, Sidney's *Making Movies* (1999)
- Recommended Texts:** Jane Barnwell's *The Fundamentals of Filmmaking* (2008)  
 Robert Del Valle's *The One-Hour Drama Series: Producing Episodic Television* (2008)  
 Edward Dmytryk's *On Screen Directing* (1984)  
 John Douglass and Glenn Harnden's *The Art of Technique: An Aesthetic Approach to Film and Video Production* (1996)  
 Robert Edgar Hunt's *Directing Fiction* (2010)  
 Nicholas Proferes' *Film Directing Fundamentals: See Your Film Before Shooting* (2008)  
 Michael Rabiger's *Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics* (2003)

## **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

## **On-Line Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

## **University Honor Code**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible

sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

### **Campus Resources: Health and Wellness**

#### **U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).  
<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

### **Academic Resources**

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.  
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

### **Prerequisites**

RTV 3101 and RTV3320

## Tentative Course Schedule

### **1/11/2021**

- intro to class
- a very general discussion of the process involved in making a dramatic video/film.
- The role of the director.
- the various crew positions at work in a dramatic film, and what their responsibilities are.
- Discussion of the final film project.
  - *Assignment: book review of "Making Movies" assigned; due in three weeks, 2/1/21*

### **1/18/21**

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – N o c l a s s

### **1/25/21**

- a review of video/film terminology, and how that affects the emotional, intellectual and psychological response to a single shot and an edited sequence.
- How to cover a two-person scene.
- break up into pairs for first two projects.
  - *Assignment: shoot and edit 2-3-minute dialogue scene; due in two weeks, 2/3/21*

### **2/1/21**

- Writing the short script.
- Editing techniques: some guidelines for effective editing.
  - *Assignment: For next week, you will present (and hand in) a detailed synopsis or outline or script for your final film. Ideally, you would break up into groups of four and present one synopsis/outline/script for the group. But each of you need to be connected to a story. If not in a group of four, you can present as a group of three, or of two, or you can present on your own. But you need to present and have something ready to hand in.*

**2/8/21**

- Dialogue exercises are screened
- Final project pitches to the class. Break up into groups of four.
- Go over chase film assignment.
  - *Assignment: chase film, due in three weeks, 3/1/21*
  - *Assignment: First draft film script due in 10 days, Thursday, 2/18/21*

**2/15/21**

- Pre-production: location scouting, planning, auditions, and especially breaking down the script into a shooting script.

**2/22/21**

- Individual meetings with groups to go over final scripts.

**3/1/21**

- Chase films due – view in class.
- Developing a shooting script for the final films.

**3/8/21**

- Working with actors, and getting the best performances from them.
  - **Auditions will be held this week... Friday, 3/12/21, from 2:00 – 6:00 pm!**

**3/15/21**

- Shooting the film – what goes on in the production stage.

**3/22/21**

- Post-production: continuity editing, split edits, sound mixing, the use of music, etc.

**3/29/21**

- No formal class – students will be shooting their final film.

**4/5/21**

- Individual group meetings to go over rough cut of final film.

**4/12/21**

- Individual group meetings to go over rough cut of final film.

**4/19/21**

- Screening of final films.