

RTV 4929C
(Fall 2012)

ADVANCED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP: DIRECTING DRAMA

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Office Hours: Mondays 8:30-10:30; Tuesdays 8:30-10:30;
Fridays 8:30-10:30

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 direct 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%
Three-four minute chase film	25%
Final shooting script and production schedule	15%
Rough Cut	10%
7-12 minute fictional program	40%

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 it’s late.

Please refer to the official University of Florida website at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for an explanation of the letter grades.

Text

Required Text: Lumet, Sidney's *Making Movies* (1999)

Recommended Texts: Jane Barnwell's *The Fundamentals of Filmmaking*
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*
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 Honor Code

The University of Florida has a standardized code for instructors which states:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

As students, you have a commitment to academic honesty as well, and it is as follows:

I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the university.

There are six specific types of violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines: cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication. I hope you take this commitment to academic honesty and integrity seriously.

Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Prerequisites

RTV 3101 and RTV 3320.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1 – 8/27/12

- 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.
- a review of video/film terminology, and how that affects the emotional, intellectual and psychological response to a single shot and an edited sequence.
 - o *Assignment: book review of "Making Movies" assigned; due in three weeks, 9/17/12*
 - o *Break up into pairs for your first film project, and into groups of three or four for your final film project... groups will be finalized next class meeting.*

Week 2 – 9/3/12

- no class – Labor Day

Week 3 – 9/10/12

- camera and equipment workshop.
- a close analysis of a couple of film scenes.
- Break class up into pairs for first film project, and into groups of three or four for final film project.
- Screening of some chase films.
 - o *Assignment: chase film, due in three weeks, 10/1/12*

Week 4 – 9/17/12

- Writing the short script – the basics
- Screening: examples of short films
- Break into groups of 3 or 4 for final project.
 - o *Assignment: Each group will write a one-page synopsis of their idea for the final film, and present that to the class next week.*

Week 5 – 9/24/12

- Editing techniques: some guidelines for effective editing principles.
- Read and discuss each group's synopsis/idea for final film.
 - o *Assignment: Scripts for final film project will be read in class in two weeks, 10/8/12*

Week 6 – 10/1/12

- Chase films due – view in class.
- Pre-production: location scouting, planning, auditions, and so on.

Week 7 – 10/8/12

- final project scripts will be read in class.

Week 8 – 10/15/12

- Pre-production: Working with actors, and getting the best performances from them.

▪ Auditions will be held this week!

Week 9 – 10/22/12

- Pre-production: breaking down the script (creating the shooting script); checklist to make sure all's ready for the shoot.

- Production: what happens on the set – the process of preparing a shot; deciding the order of what to shoot; focus on clean sound recording.

- o *Assignment: Break down script into shooting script. Due next week, 10/29/12*

- **Please Note: All shooting needs to be finished by November 19th, so you can have at least two weeks to edit your project.**

Week 10 – 10/29/12

- Individual group conferences to go over shooting script.

Week 11 – 11/5/12

- No formal class – groups will be shooting their final projects.

Week 12 – 11/12/12

- No formal class – groups will be shooting their final projects.

Week 13 – 11/19/12

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

Weeks 14 – 11/26/12

- Individual group meetings to go over rough cut (of entire film).

Weeks 15 – 12/3/12

- Screening of final films.