

**RTV 4929C**  
**(Fall 2013)**

**ADVANCED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP: DIRECTING DRAMA**

**Instructor:** James Babanikos, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9:35-11:30; Wednesdays 12:50-2:45; Thursdays 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%
Three-four minute chase film	30%
Final shooting script and production schedule	10%
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 it’s late.

## 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)

## Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodations 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.

## Online Course Evaluation

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>.

## Prerequisites

RTV 3101 and RTV 3320.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1 – 8/26/2013**

- 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, 9/16/13*

### **Week 2 – 9/02/13**

- no class – Labor Day

### **Week 3 – 9/09/13**

- Writing the short script.
- Break class up into pairs for first production assignment.
- Screening of some chase films.
  - o *Assignment: chase film, due in three weeks, 9/30/13*

### **Week 4 – 9/16/13**

- Editing techniques: some guidelines for effective editing.
- Pitches for final film – from those who want their film produced. The class will then break up into six groups of four.
- Screening: examples of short films

- *Assignment: Draft of final film, due in ten days, Thursday 9/26/13, by 1:00 pm.*

### **Week 5 – 9/23/13**

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

### **Week 6 – 9/30/13**

- Chase films due – view in class.
- Individual meetings with groups to go over final project scripts.

### **Week 7 – 10/7/13**

- Individual meetings with groups to go over final films.
  - *Assignment: Break down script into shooting script, due next week 10/14/13*

### **Week 8 – 10/14/13**

- Working with actors, and getting the best performances from them.
- Individual group meetings to go over shooting script.
  - **Auditions will be held this week... Thursday, 10/17/13, from 4:00 – 9:00 pm!**
  - *Assignment: Final shooting script and production schedule due next week, 10/21/13*

### **Week 9 – 10/21/13**

- Camera and sound recording workshop in the TV studio.

**Week 10 – 10/28/13**

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

**Week 11 – 11/04/13**

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

**Week 12 – 11/11/13**

- No class – Veteran’s Day.

**Week 13 – 11/18/13**

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

**Weeks 14 – 11/25/13**

- Individual group meetings to go over locked picture cut.

**Week 15 – 4/22/13**

- Screening of final films.
  - *Assignment: Final film due today.*