

**RTV 4929C**  
**(Spring 2013)**

**ADVANCED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP: DIRECTING DRAMA**

**Instructor:** James Babanikos, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Mondays 9:30-11:30; Tuesdays 9:30- 11:30;  
Thursdays 2:00-3:00; 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 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                   | 5%   |
| Three-four minute chase film                  | 25%  |
| Final shooting script and production schedule | 10%  |
| Rough cut of final film                       | 5%   |
| Locked picture of final film                  | 5%   |
| 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)

## 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.

## Prerequisites

RTV 3101 and RTV 3320.

## Tentative Course Schedule

### **Week 1 – 1/07/2013**

- 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, 1/28/13*

### **Week 2 – 1/14/13**

- 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, 2/04/13*

### **Week 3 – 1/21/13**

- no class – Martin Luther King Day

### **Week 4 – 1/28/13**

- 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, Friday, 2/08/13, by 1:00 pm.*

### **Week 5 – 2/04/13**

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

### **Week 6 – 2/11/13**

- Individual meetings with groups to go over final project scripts.

### **Week 7 – 2/18/13**

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

- *Assignment: Break down script into shooting script, due next week 2/25/13*

### **Week 8 – 2/25/13**

- Working with actors, and getting the best performances from them.
- Individual group meetings to go over shooting script.
  - **Auditions will be held this week... Tuesday, 2/25/13, from 4:00 – 9:00 pm!**

### **Week 9 – 3/04/13**

- no class – Spring Break

### **Week 10 – 3/11/13**

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

- *Assignment: Final shooting script and production schedule due next week, 3/18/13*

**Week 11 – 3/18/13**

- Individual group conferences to go over shooting script and production schedule.

**Week 12 – 3/25/13**

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

**Week 13 – 4/01/13**

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

**Weeks 14 – 4/08/13**

- Individual group meetings to go over rough cut of (entire) final film.
  - *Assignment: Rough cut of entire film due today.*

**Weeks 15 – 4/15/13**

- Individual group meetings to go over locked picture rough cut.
- Assignment: Locked picture of final film due.
  - *Assignment: Locked picture of final film due today.*

**Week 16 – 4/22/13**

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