

RTV 4929C
(Summer 2013)

ADVANCED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP: DIRECTING DRAMA

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Office Hours: An hour before every class, 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	10%
Two-four minute chase film	30%
Final shooting script and production schedule	10%
5-7 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

Tuesday, May 14

- 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.
 - *Assignment: book review of "Making Movies" assigned; due next Thursday, May 23*

Wednesday, May 15

- Writing the short script.
- Break class up into pairs for first production assignment.
- Screening of some chase films.
 - *Assignment: chase film, due Tuesday, May 28*

Thursday, May 16

- 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 groups of three or four.
- Screening: examples of short films
 - *Assignment: Draft of final film, due Thursday, May 23*

Week 2

Tuesday, May 21

- camera and mic'ing workshop in TV studio.

Wednesday, May 22

- working with actors.

Thursday, May 23

- Preparing the shooting script and the shooting schedule.
 - o *Assignment: Shooting script and shooting schedule due Thursday, May 30*

Week 3

Tuesday, May 28

- Screen chase films
- Pre-production techniques.

Wednesday, May 29

- Auditions

Thursday, May 30

- Go over shooting script and shooting schedule with individual groups.

Week 4

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 4, 5 and 6

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

Week 5

Tuesday, June 11

- Troubleshooting – discussing the shooting process.

Wednesday, June 12

- Post-production techniques.

Thursday, June 13

- Individual group meetings to go over rough cuts

Week 6

Tuesday, June 18

- Individual group meetings to go over fine cuts and work on the soundtrack.

Wednesday, June 19

- Individual group meetings to go over fine cuts and work on the soundtrack.

Thursday, June 20

- Screening of final films.