



MCOM 3351: Moving Images Aesthetics

SPRING 2018, 3 Credits

WHEN	WHERE
Wednesdays, 5:00 pm - 7:50 pm	CB 305

INSTRUCTOR

Wojciech Lorenc (pronounced Voytek Lawrence)

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Office Hours: MW 10 AM – 11 AM, MW 1:00 PM - 4PM ...or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the short experimental narrative film through challenges to traditional narrative structure and image construction. Students will script, shoot and edit short films, identifying challenges to the form, and discussing the success of these challenges. You will work in small groups and individually on short script assignments and exercises. To this end, the structure of this class ensures that it is production intensive. The assignments and exercises are intended to allow you to experiment and explore, and to receive and give constructive criticism. You are experimenting. A workshop is like a rehearsal: it is a place to experiment and fail. Grading: Students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assignments on time, and to work successfully within their small groups. Failure to do these things will adversely affect a student's grade.

In this class, you may be exposed to images and ideas that you find disturbing; they are a part of the learning process of the class. Please decide early on if you are willing to open yourself to these images and ideas, and are prepared to experience and discuss them in class.

COURSE QUALIFICATIONS:

This is an advanced filmmaking course; therefore, you are expected to know your way around cameras, lighting, audio recording, and editing. Pre-requisites: MCOM 1332, MCOM 1371, MCOM 2371.

IDEA OBJECTIVES:

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.

- Developing creative capacities (writing, inventing, designing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.).

SUGGESTED TEXT:

Ascher, Steven; Pincus, Edward. The Filmmaker's Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for the Digital Age. 4th Edition. Plume: 2013. ISBN-10: 0452297281 ISBN-13: 978-0452297289

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You are required to have an EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE (formatted for Apple Computers) with at least 500GB of memory and preferably with a USB 3.0 connection. You must bring your hard drive to all classes, no exception! Sharing hard drives or saving your assignments in the school computers or server is not allowed. It is highly recommended that you backup your project files on a separate flash drive after quitting each edit session to avoid the loss of your edited work in case your hard drive crashes. You are also required to have HEADPHONES or EARBUDS.

ATTENDANCE

Your participation is important. You are allowed TWO unexcused absences. Every absence after that will cause you to lose 25 points of your Attendance grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All written assignments must be typed and handed in during class, unless otherwise indicated by instructor. Late assignments result in loss of points. If you have to miss a class when an assignment is due, have another student turn it in for you, or hand it in ahead of time. Please keep track of your own progress in the class. Keep all of your handed back assignments. Late assignments are docked one full letter grade per day. An "F" is equal to "0" points. For several of the production assignments you have to be in class and on time. If you miss any of those, you will receive zero points, unless you have a documented excuse (doctor's note, for example).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM ENVIROMENTS

Active and constructive participation in class discussions is required. However, both listening and speaking are involved in successful participation, and this requires sensitivity to the ideas and methods of participation of others in the class.

This is a workshop environment, and all ideas, thoughts and critiques are welcomed. You are beginning, and a workshop environment will allow and encourage you to take risks, to try out new ideas.

PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR / RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking with each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy #861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement

concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made two weeks in advance of when the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

SHSU Required Policies:

Please visit <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT Participate and be respectful.	50 Points
ATTENDANCE Each student is allowed 2 unexcused absences, after that, each absence will cost the student 25 points from the Attendance grade.	50 Points
STORYBOARD PRESENTATION #1 You will create and present storyboards for an assigned scene.	30 Points
STORYBOARD PRESENTATION #2 You will create and present storyboards for an assigned scene.	30 Points
STORYBOARD PRESENTATION #3 You will create and present storyboards for an assigned scene.	30 Points
3 FILM PITCHES You will pitch three ideas for your final film. This will be your own original idea.	30 Points
FINAL FILM SCRIPT You will present the script for your final film.	30 Points
PRESENTATION OF FINAL FILM IDEA AND VISUAL APPROACH You will present the storyboards for your final film and defend the aesthetic choices that you plan to make. Note that this is the highest graded item in the rubric.	100 Points
SELECTED FOOTAGE You will present selected 10 minutes of your footage.	20 Points
ROUGH CUT	30 Points
FINAL CUT	80 Points
FILM FREEWAY PAGE	20 Points
total:	500 Points

A	451 – 500
B	401 – 450
C	351 – 400
D	301 – 350
F	0 – 300

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK #	WEEK STARTS ON	LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS DUE, ETC.
WEEK 1	1/17/18 (W)	Intro to the Course: Syllabus; Equipment Room rules and tour. Lecture: Shot Types, Screening
WEEK 2	1/22/18 (M)	Lecture: shot types (sizes), Workshop: storyboarding
WEEK 3	1/29/18 (M)	STORYBOARD PRESENTATION#1 IS DUE
WEEK 4	2/5/18 (M)	Lecture: size of elements in the frame, position of elements in the frame sharing the frame, angles, Workshop: Storyboarding
WEEK 5	2/12/18 (M)	STORYBOARD PRESENTATION#2 IS DUE
WEEK 6	2/19/18 (M)	Lecture: focal length, camera movement, symbolic framing, meaning through juxtaposition, Workshop: Storyboarding
WEEK 7	2/26/18 (M)	Workshop: Storyboarding
WEEK 8	3/5/18 (M)	STORYBOARD PRESENTATION#3 IS DUE
SPRING RECESS		
WEEK 9	3/19/18 (M)	Lecture: Story Structure
WEEK 10	3/26/18 (M)	3 FILM PITCHES DUE
WEEK 11	4/2/18 (M)	FINAL SCRIPT DUE
WEEK 12	4/9/18 (M)	PRESENTATIONS OF FINAL FILM IDEAS AND VISUAL APPROACHES IS DUE
WEEK 13	4/16/18 (M)	Work Day
WEEK 14	4/23/18 (M)	ALL FOOTAGE DUE - CRITIQUE
WEEK 15	4/30/18 (M)	ROUGH CUT DUE - CRITIQUE
WEEK 16 (FINALS)	5/7/18 (M)	FILMFREEWAY PAGES DUE, SCREENING OF FINAL FILMS