

MCOM 6330 DIGITAL EDITING (3 CREDITS)

SPRING 2018

Wednesdays 4:00-6:50 p.m. (TWC)

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Office Hours: T/H 1 PM – 4 PM (314)
Wed 1 PM – 4 PM (TWC)
Or by appointment.

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“Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself”
Chinese Proverb

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a hands-on course devoted to the art of editing. By the end of this semester you will have improved your editing techniques by cutting footage that presents you with a variety of challenges. You will have the option to use any professional editing software of your choice. We will not focus on software, but rather on how to create unique pieces through editing.

Lectures inspired by Karen Pearlman’s excellent editing book “Cutting Rhythms: Intuitive Film Editing”, hope to stimulate you to look at your editing more critically, artistically, and intuitively.

You will have limited time during classes to work on your pieces, therefore you are expected to edit on your own time to finish the assignments timely. It is imperative that you learn how to work with deadlines, as it will prepare you for the industry, therefore, late assignments will be considered for partial credit.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, students will have:

1. Developed and expanded their hands-on experience in editing with a variety of challenging exercises.
2. Worked on their own personal films, focusing heavily on editing techniques.
3. Learned to look critically at their own work, as well as the work of their peers.

COURSE QUALIFICATIONS:

This is an advanced editing course; therefore, you are expected to know your way around professional editing software.

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:

Pearlman, Karen. *Cutting Rhythms: Intuitive Film Edit*. 2nd Edition. Focal Press: 2016.

ISBN-10: 1138856517

ISBN-13: 978-1138856516

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

You are required to have an **EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE** (formatted MAC OS Journaled or ExFat) with at least 1TB of memory and preferably with a USB 3.0 connection. 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 THREE unexcused absences. Every absence after that will cause you to lose 5 points of your Attendance grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

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. The final film cannot be handed in late.

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 ENVIRONMENT:

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:

If you have a disability that may affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center 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 Counseling Center.

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

Attendance: 50 points

Each student is allowed 3 unexcused absences, after that, each absence will cost the student 5 points from the Attendance grade.

A	900 – 1000
B	800 – 899
C	700 – 799
D	600 – 699
E	500 – 599
F	Below 500

Use of Language & Imagery: 50 points

During class critiques you will be required to justify your editing choices, and your grades will highly depend on your ability to talk about your work and your decisions.

Class Participation: 100 points

This course is comprised of lectures and critique sessions. Your active collaboration during those is fundamental for the success of the class.

Exercise 1 - A Hospital Scene: 100 points

Using the footage and instructions provided by Framelights TV, you will edit a Hospital Scene.

<http://framelines.tv/modules/news/article.php?storyid=179>

Exercise 2 - A Horror Scene 100 points

Using the footage and instructions provided by Framelights TV, you will edit a Horror Scene.

<http://framelines.tv/modules/news/article.php?storyid=167>

Exercise 3 – A Car Chase Scene: 100 points

Using the footage and instructions provided by Framelights TV, you will edit a Car Chase Scene.

<http://framelines.tv/modules/news/article.php?storyid=111>

Exercise 4 – Found Footage Film: 100 points

For this exercise, you will look for public domain or creative commons footage online and use your creativity to edit a brand new short film with that footage.

Exercise 5 – Trailer: 100 points

In this exercise, you will create a brand new trailer for your favorite film!

Personal Film Project: 300 points

Throughout the semester, each one of you will be working on your personal film projects. They can be anything you want: a short film, a TV pilot, a web series pilot, a short documentary, a music video, etc. Early in the semester you will write a proposal for this project to hand in. During the first half of the semester you will shoot your project, and during the second half you will edit your project. You are welcome to meet me during office hours to discuss the development of your project. The final film is due at the end of the semester.

Extra Credit Opportunities: TBA

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

TUESDAY

Week 1 01/17

Introductions

Syllabus and Assignments.

Assign: Personal Films

Week 2 01/24

Lecture: Timing, Pacing, and Trajectory Phrasing

Assign: Exercise 1 - A Hospital Scene
Intro + Copy Footage

In Class Work: Editing Time

Week 3 01/31

Critique: Exercise 1

Week 4 02/07

Lecture: Tension, Release, and Synchronization

Assign: Exercise 2 - A Horror Scene
Intro + Copy Footage

In Class Work: Editing Time

Week 5 02/14

Critique: Exercise 2

Week 6 02/21

Lecture: Physical Rhythm

Assign: Exercise 3 - A Car Chase Scene
Intro + Copy Footage

In Class Work: Editing Time

Week 7 **02/28**

Critique: Exercise 3

Week 8 **03/07**

Lecture: Emotional Rhythm

Assign: Exercise 4: Found Footage Film
Intro + Find Footage

In Class Work: Editing Time

Week 9 **03/14**

SPRING BREAK

Week 10 **03/21**

Critique: Found Footage Film

Week 11 **03/28**

Lecture: Event Rhythm

Assign: Exercise 5 - Trailer
Intro + Copy Footage

In Class Work: Editing Time

Week 12 **04/04**

Critique: Trailers

Week 13 **04/11**

Lecture: Devices

Show footage of personal films

In Class Work: Editing Time

Week 14 **04/18**

Critique: Rough Cut of Personal Films

Week 15 **04/27**

Critique: Rough Cut of Personal Films

Week 16 05/02

Screening of Final Personal Films

**Finals
Week** TBA

Screening of Final Personal Films