

TMP 8: Video

Syllabus and Assignment Descriptions

Fall 2006–2nd Half Term
Section 1, Mon/Wed 8:30-11:30am, rm. 2114

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Office Hours by request most days of the week @ Multimedia Room 4,
Duderstadt Center

Course objectives: Learn the basics of the video medium. This includes shooting; editing using the Final Cut Pro (FCP) software; adding and editing sound; and exporting your finished project to DVD and the web. Students will also be asked to think of video beyond the screen—in mediums such as installation, site-specific projection, and even performance—and will be challenged to incorporate the tools they learn into their own creative work.

Grading Policies:

Assignment 1—20%
Assignment 2—15%
Assignment 3—30%
Daily Homework—25%
Attendance/Class Participation—10%

Texts:

Exploring Digital Video, Lisa Rysinger (available at Shaman Drum and at Art, Architecture and Engineering Library, in the Duderstadt Center 2nd floor, on reserves).

The Filmmaker's Handbook, Steven Ascher and Edward Pincus (available at AAE reserves, and reading selections are also scanned and on MIRLYN).

→ **Please Note:** two Saturday meetings 11/4 and 12/16 for Duderstadt Multimedia Room Orientation, and Final Screening.

Major Assignment Descriptions:

Assignment 1—Portrait of a Classmate

Students will pair off into groups of two per camera and shoot and edit together a 1-minute video, which will be a brief portrait of the student's partner. Each student will work on their own project with their partner as the subject of the video. Students in the same group will switch off using their designated camera and will coordinate when to shoot amongst themselves. The portrait will be a free-form setting with the only creative conditions being that the student's partner will be the subject of the video. He/she could be videoed talking, moving, sitting still or gesturing in any way. Focus on the interaction of your subject and the visual environment around them.

Objectives: To learn the basics of video camera shooting technique, editing using Final Cut Pro (FCP) software program, and exporting of finished project to a DVD using iDVD, and to make a brief, simple, yet visually compelling portrait of your subject.

Requirements: -1 min long video, edited, including some sort of titling/credits, video effects and transitions
-turn in uncompressed copy on a mini dv tape
-turn in DVD copy of iDVD project, including a simple menu

DUE WED 11/15 at the beginning of class.

Assignment 2—Three-point lighting set up.

Students will perform this exercise in class, in groups of three or four. The assignment will be to creatively use a three-light set up to light and videotape a shot involving two subjects in the frame, one in the foreground, one in the background. The groups will be given 1 hour to set up three lights (key, fill, and backlight), camera (including manually setting the white balance), and film the short scene three times. The entire group will set up the lights and camera together, and each member will alternate shooting the scene while the other two stand in as subjects in the shot. Functional use of the lighting and accurate camera work will be key.

Objectives: To learn and demonstrate basic and functional understanding of a three-point lighting set up, and basic use of manual camera controls in filming a brief scene. Also, for the students to demonstrate an ability to collaborate, and accomplish these tasks within a group.

Requirements: -set up a functional lighting scheme with the group in a timely and cooperative manner, using a key, fill, and backlight. The specifics

- of where these lights are to be placed will be the collective decision of the group.
- properly set white balance
 - film scene, making designated focus pull

DUE: IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT WED 11/22

Assignment 3—Final Project, TMP Video

Use the skills learned in class to shoot, edit, and output a final video project. This project can take the form of a simple one-channel video, but taking the video off the screen and using it in an installation, performance piece with video, or other setting is welcome. The video component of the project should last between 1-3 minutes. This means that if the project is a looping video projection, or an installation, performance piece, etc., the video used will be 1-3 minutes in length if it were played through once.

Objectives: to use the shooting and editing tools learned in the class to complete a creative video project of your choosing.

Requirements:

- projects must include edited video with 1 or more video transitions (cross fades); 1 or more other video/motion effects; titles; and more than two audio tracks from different sources (exa. camera audio + music, voice over + sound effects, etc.)
- turn in a mini dv tape, and a DVD authored on iDVD of the video (or the video component if the piece is an installation or other type of mixed media)
- screen or display video project at our end-of-the-course screening/show the **weekend of Saturday 12/16 (exact day/time/location TBA)**
- LABEL your projects. Label on the dv tape, on the cassette sleeve, on the DVD case, on the DVD disc, and on the DVD menu: **Name, Date, Class, Assignment 3, Project Title, Length.**
- Be present and involved with the class discussion of the works in progress. Since there is little time remaining in the course, and since we will not be able to have a critique after the screening, your attendance and attention in class will be very important, and will count substantially towards your final grade.

DUE WEDS 12/13

Syllabus

Mon 10/30

Objectives: Introduce class and studio set up. Sign up for camera check out. Learn the basics of the cameras we will be using. Start shooting and screening/evaluating footage for Assignment 1.

→ **Homework** (due next class meeting):

1. Read *Filmmaker's Handbook* pp. 1-2, 6, 16-39, 43-44, 188-191, 199- 207.
Reading topics: basic concepts of video imaging, and of digital recording.
2. Read Video Studio Handout pp. 1-30 to gain card access to the Video Studio. Handout is located at the A&D studio page: http://www.art-design.umich.edu/fa_labs_all.php?aud=e&menucat=fa
-scroll down to Video Studio, click on "Policies and Procedures" pdf.

Weds 11/1

Objectives: Look at and evaluate more Portrait video. Make connections between compelling or not compelling images and the manner in which they were shot (camera position, TRIPOD USE lens length/zoom, framing, etc). Quick intro to Final Cut Pro (fcp); digitizing video; 3-point edit; storing and backing up material.

→ **Homework:**

1. Take cameras home, shoot more footage of partner's portrait for Assignment 1. Students will coordinate when they will shoot over the weekend with their partners.
2. Digitize all your Portrait video to your work drive. Back up copy of fcp file.
3. Experiment with editing footage in the timeline.

Sat 11/4 → Duderstadt Multimedia Room FCP Workshop

1-5pm, Duderstadt Center Advanced Graphics Classroom, Macintosh. Third floor.

Objectives: Solidify knowledge of FCP, and once workshop is complete, students will also be able to use the Multimedia Room editing suites and the checkout facilities of the Duderstadt Center—VERY valuable resources.

Mon 11/6

Objectives: Expand basic knowledge of Final Cut Pro (FCP), including video effects and transitions and audio tracks. Use the program's tools to edit Portrait footage.

→ Homework:

1. Shoot and edit together footage of Portrait Assignment 1.

Weds 11/8

Objectives: View and discuss Assignment 1 edits. Learn more FCP techniques, and basics of sound editing in FCP. Continue work on projects.

→ Homework:

1. Edit together rough cut of Portrait. Include: edits, at least one instance of titling or subtitling, at least three different video effects or transition (fades, image control, image motion control, etc).

Mon 11/13

Objectives: View and discuss Assignment 1 rough cuts. Go over outputting timeline to tape and iDVD, authoring a simple iDVD menu and burning a DVD.

→ Homework:

1. Finish + output Assignment 1.
2. Read *Filmmaker's Handbook* pp. 76-92, 97-98, 110, 151-158, 168-175.
Optional: page 92 + Appendices B+C.
Topics: camera lens, focal length, perspective, exposure, depth of field, color, color temperature and white balance.

Weds 11/15—Assignment 1 DUE + Viewing and Critique

Objectives: Turn in Portrait Assignment, view, and critique in class. Then learn manual controls of the Canon ZR cameras (manual focus, exposure set, and white balance).

→ Homework:

1. Videotape a 30sec tripod shot, clearly demonstrating at least one manual focus rack. Use a longer (zoomed in) lens to more easily distinguish manual focus rack. Before you shoot, set manual white balance, and set manual exposure.
2. Read *Filmmaker's Handbook*, 304-311, 327-339. Skim 311-327, 339-345.
Topic: Basics of lighting, 3-light set up.
3. Bring in a photograph from a book, magazine, internet, or personal collection, and describe aspects of the lighting as listed in the five questions on page 305.

Mon 11/20

Objectives: Have students demonstrate a basic knowledge of photographic topics discussed in readings. Watch focus rack shots. Discuss lighting and demonstrate three point light set up.

→ Homework:

1. Students will be divided into groups of three to four to prepare for Assignment 2 on Wednesday.

Wed 11/22–Assignment 2 Done in Class

The groups will perform Assignment 2, one hour each per group.

Objectives: Perform lighting, camera, and filming of Assignment 2.

→ Homework:

1. Thanksgiving.
2. Think of ideas for Assignment 3.

Mon 11/27

Objectives: Look at experimental video/installation works by Nam June Paik, Bill Viola, and excerpts of my recent mixed media music/video piece, *Three Yiddish Lullabies*.

Develop ideas for Assignment 3. Learn to compress video for the web, and put video clips online.

→ Homework:

1. Bring in visual material/sketches in the form of video, still images, Installation materials, etc. developing students' ideas for Assignment 3.
2. Up load video from Assignment 1 to the Ctools website.

Wed 11/29

Objectives: Further develop ideas for Assignment 3, and begin gathering new material. Tie up any other remaining loose ends with FCP and other stuff.

→ Homework:

1. Shoot/edit material for Assignment 3.

Mon 12/4

Objectives: Work on Assignment 3. Focus on integrating material and previous material, as well as bringing extra audio tracks (ambient audio, sound effects, music) and working them into the project.

→ Homework:

1. Continue work on Assignment 3.
2. Prepare rough assemblage of video for Assignment 3 (assemblage = rough cut of the video material in same general order it will be in the end product), to be viewed at the second half of the next class.

Wed 12/6

Objectives: Work on, view, and discuss Assignment 3 material.

→ Homework:

1. Prepare a close-to-finished rough cut of Assignment 3.

Mon 12/11

Objectives: View and discuss rough cuts, and review how to output video. Work towards completing Assignment 3.

→ Homework:

1. Finish Assignment 3. On Weds, turn in a mini dv tape copy of the uncompressed video, and an iDVD of the video. Also, compress the video for the internet streaming and post the video on the course Ctools site before class on Wednesday.

(Note: I'll have office hours on Tuesday to help with any last minute difficulties)

Wed 12/13—Assignment 3 due + Viewing and Critique

Objectives: View and discuss final videos, discuss the plan for Saturday Screening.

Sat 12/16 Time/location TBA. Screening/exhibition of final projects.