

# ART 215\_1 – Introduction to Video Production

## Fall 2015

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**Instructor:** Jacob Richman

**Email:** [jacob\\_richman@uri.edu](mailto:jacob_richman@uri.edu)

**Meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am-1:45pm

**Locations:** Fine Arts Center Media Lab F102 and F208

**Office hours:** Weds 3-5pm FAC 202F

**Course Sakai handle:** 2159-ART2150001: Video and Filmmaking I

**Course blog site:** <https://art215blog1.wordpress.com/>

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an intensive hands-on introduction to video production. Students will acquire basic camera, lighting and video editing skills while planning, shooting, and editing several short and diverse video projects, culminating in an open-ended final video project to be presented at an end of the semester. Class time will consist of digital video editing workshops using Adobe's Premiere (CC 2015), technical and equipment demonstrations, work time for class projects, critiques of student work, film/video screenings, discussions of readings, art works and relevant themes. The central goal of the class is to introduce students to the techniques and language of video art, its history, and its many possibilities as an expressive tool.

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### GRADING

Attendance – 15%

In-Class Work, Participation, Collaboration – 10%

Project 1: Video Portrait – 15%

Project 2: Lighting/Narrative Scene Assignment – 15%

Project 3: Video Installation – 15%

Final Project – 30%

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### TEXTS

Readings will include excerpts from the following texts, as well as supplemental essays and writings from pertinent artists and theorists. All readings will be made available as PDFs on the class SAKAI resource page. Please bring digital or paper copies of the readings to class for discussion.

—Ascher, Steven and Edward Pincus. *The Filmmaker's Handbook*. London: Plume, 2012

—Cantine, John. *Shot by Shot: A Practical Guide to Filmmaking, Third Edition*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Filmmakers, 2000

—Sikov, Ed. *Film Studies: An Introduction*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

—Other misc. excerpts and worksheets

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## WORKING METHOD/SUPPLIES

Much of the class time will be devoted to working on individual or group projects, and students may work on their laptops or the Media Lab computers. If students are working on their laptops, they must bring them to every class. If students are using the Media Lab computers, they will need to save their work on an external hard drive (media cannot be saved to these shared computers and may be erased).

Students are required to purchase:

—**SD Card:** SDHC - 16GB - Class 10 (stores 4hrs HD video), ~\$9 at Amazon or bookstore

—**500GB External Hard Drive USB3 ONLY!!!** (if using the Media Lab computers), formatted for Mac, 7200rpm

Recommendations: LaCie Rugged Hard Disk Triple 500 GB 7200 rpm USB 3.0

Portable Hard Drive 301556, ~\$80 at Amazon

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## COURSE POLICIES

### Attendance

Attendance is of paramount importance to this course. Your participation in discussion with your peers about the complexities of the video media is as important as simply viewing/reading the material. Absences will be excused in cases of illness (with doctor's note) or legitimate emergency (family or otherwise) and students must contact me in advance. One unexcused absence will result in a halving of the attendance portion of your final grade (7.5%); two will result in a full docking of 15%. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a **FULL LETTER GRADE DROP** of your final grade per absence.

### Electronic Devices

*Use of cell phones, email, web browsing, and social media is not permitted during class.*

Laptops and tablets may only be used for note taking, or working on projects during in class work time.

*→Use of all electronic devices is prohibited during screenings of examples and student work.*

### Late Assignments

Unexcused late assignments will result in a loss of one half grade on that assignment each day it is late (e.g. if the assignment is graded a B, one day late = B-, two days, late = C+, etc.) Please contact me as soon as possible if you are struggling with a particular assignment.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is passing others' work off as your own. It includes copying work from a video, webpage, book, article, or another student's work without proper citation, as well as having another person do the work for you. I will check for plagiarism. **If you plagiarize, you will fail the assignment and I will report the activity to the Dean's office.**

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## OTHER RESOURCES

### Special Services

Please contact me if you have a documented disability or learning difference as early in the semester as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with Disability Services for Students Office at 302 Memorial Union, Phone 401-874-2098 (<http://www.uri.edu/disability/dss/>).

### Counseling Center (from URI CC Website):

The URI Counseling Center provides services to enhance the personal, academic, emotional, social, and life planning effectiveness of students. These services may include crisis intervention, individual counseling, group counseling, referrals for psychiatric assessment, and mental health screening. The Center also assists the University community in creating and maintaining a learning environment conducive to psychological and educational development. Students may seek counseling for a variety of concerns including but not limited to: anxiety and stress; test anxiety; relationship problems; acute crisis, including trauma; depression and suicidal thoughts; eating disorders; alcohol and other drug abuse problems; self-esteem; sexuality; improving academic performance; referral services. Call us at 401.874.2288 or to drop by our office at 217 Roosevelt Hall if we can be of assistance. <http://www.uri.edu/counseling/>

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## ASSIGNMENTS

**Detailed prompts for the assignments will be handed out in class**

### Project 1: Video Portrait

In groups of two, students will make a 3-5min video portrait of their partner. The style of representation in this project is open-ended: from “talking-head” narration to experimental abstraction. The goal will be to learn the basics of video shooting, video and audio editing, and exporting the video to Quicktime and compressing for web applications.

→ DUE September 29<sup>th</sup> (at the beginning of class)

### Project 2: Lighting Set-Up/Narrative Scene Assignment

Students will complete this two-part assignment in groups of three. The first part will involve an in-class demonstration of a basic, “3-point” lighting set-up. The second part will involve each group filming a brief scene using a 1-2 page script I will provide. The setting and direction of the scene is up to the group, but at least one shot must include a clear 3-point lighting set up. The scene should be between 3-10min in length. The goal is to learn the basics of controlled lighting set-ups for camera, developing a storyboard and plan for a brief narrative scene, and shooting, editing, and exporting that scene.

→ DUE October 20<sup>th</sup> (at the beginning of class)

### **Project 3: Video Installation Project**

Students will work individually, or in groups, on a video installation piece set in or around the Fine Arts Center or greater URI campus. Installations can involve projections, monitors, and audio in any configuration. The installations should engage the environment in which they are set. The goals will be to think “off the screen” and to explore broader creative uses of the video medium, and to learn the proper and safe use of audio/visual equipment in video installations.

→ DUE November 11<sup>th</sup> (at the beginning of class)

### **Final Project**

Students will present larger-scale video projects of their choice. Students may work individually or in groups of two. The instructor must approve the projects beforehand. The projects will be screened/presented at an event open to the public after the last day of class TBD.

→ DUE December 10<sup>th</sup> (at the beginning of class)

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## **CLASS/HOMEWORK SCHEDULE**

→ **Please Note:** The precise assignments and homework prompts will be handed out in class. **HW listed here is due the following class meeting.**

### **Thurs 9/10– Introductions and Project 1 Start**

Get to know ya. Introduction to equipment. Start shooting for Project 1. Upload and view footage. **HW:** Reading excerpts from *Filmmakers' Handbook* and Premiere How-Tos, send me bio info for blog.

### **Tues 9/15 – Frame Composition, Camera Technique, Basic Editing Techniques & Project 1**

Demonstrate techniques of composition, camera movement, basic editing using Premiere. Continue to work on Project 1. Field trips to video installation spaces and the Hub.

### **Thurs 9/17 – Further Video and Audio Editing Techniques & Project 1**

Introduce audio editing and discuss further topics in video editing using Premiere. Continue work on Project 1. Show work in progress at end of class.

### **Tues 9/22 – Adding Titles, Still Pictures, Music & Project 1**

Introduce technique of adding titles (credits), using still pics, and bringing in outside sound/music into your projects. Continue work on Project 1. Show work in progress at the end of class.

### **Thurs 9/24 – Finalize Project, Set up Vimeo and blog pages, Outputting/Compression**

View and discuss Project 1 cuts as they near completion. Set up individual and class Vimeo pages. Learn how to compress and output video for web applications.

### **Tues 9/29 → PORTRAIT PROJECT DUE**

View and discuss Project 1. Hand out script for Project 2. Lecture on lighting design.

**HW:** Reading from *Filmmakers' Handbook*. Analyze lighting design of a favorite photograph to present in next class.

**Thurs 10/1 – Lighting & Project 2: Pre-production**

Demonstration of 3-point lighting technique and in-class assignment recreating the set-up in teams of three.

**HW:** develop treatment for Project 2 scene (production team, storyboard, scene description, still images, etc.)

**Tues 10/6 – Sound Recording & Project 2: Production**

Review Project 2 treatments in class. Sound recording exercises using external mics to record clean dialogue. Work on production for Project 2.

**HW:** Reading excerpts from Cantine.

**Thurs 10/8 – Project 2: Production & Editing**

Work on production and editing for Project 2. Show work in progress at the end of class.

**Tues 10/13 – Project 2: Editing**

Work on editing for Project 2. Show rough cuts at the end of class.

**Thurs 10/15 – Project 2: Finalize**

Work on final edits of Project 2. Output to Quicktime and compress for Vimeo.

**Tues 10/20 – PROJECT 2 DUE**

View and discuss Project 2.

**Thurs 10/22 – Video Installation**

Watch representative work from video installation artists. Demonstrate video installation tools and techniques.

**HW:** Prepare a project proposal for Project 3: Video Installation, including a project description, location/site description, timeline, sample images, etc.

**Tues 10/27 – Project 3: Production**

Present Project 3 Proposals in class. Present Project 3 proposals in class. Begin production work on Project 3.

**Thurs 10/29 – Project 3: Production & Editing**

Continue production and editing Project 3. Present work in progress at end of class.

**Tues 11/3– Project 3: Editing & Installation Tools**

Finalize and output video to be used in installation. View the videos in class. Use the outputted video with installation tools (projectors, monitors, etc.) to test and practice.

**Thurs 11/5 – PROJECT 3 DUE**

Set up and present Video Installations during class. I will document video installations.

**HW:** Bring in ideas for Final Project.

**Tues 11/10 – Final Project: Pre-Production**

View/discuss documentation of video installations, present and discuss Final Project ideas.

**HW:** Create proposal of Final Project, including production team, visual aids (storyboards, still pics, etc.), production and editing schedule. Present at next class meeting.

**Thurs 11/12 – Final Projects: Pre-Production**

Present proposals for Final Project in class. Do pre-production work (scout locations, contact actors, recruit film crew among students), begin shooting. Present this work at end of class.

**Tues 11/17 – Final Project: Production and Editing**

One half of the class will give in depth progress reports (footage, assemblages of scenes, remaining schedule, etc.) of Final Projects. Shooting and editing work on Final Projects. Individual check-in.

**Thurs 11/19 – Final Project: Production and Editing**

Second half of the class will give in depth progress reports (footage, assemblages of scenes, remaining schedule, etc.) of Final Projects. Editing work on Final Projects. Individual check-in.

**Tues 11/24 – Final Project: Editing**

Continue editing work on Final Projects. Individual check-in.

**Thurs 11/26 – THANKSGIVING (gobble gobble)**

**Tues 12/1 – Final Project: Full Assemblage**

Students will present and discuss “assemblages” of their projects: edits of material that reasonably closely represent what the Final Projects will become. Continue editing work on Final Projects. Individual check-in.

**Thurs 12/3 – Final Project: Rough Cuts**

Present rough cuts of final project in class and discuss. Continue editing work on Final Projects. Individual check-in.

**Tues 12/8 Final Project: Last Work Day + Review**

Finalize projects. Full class check-in.

**Thurs 12/10 – Final Project:**

**→ FINAL PROJECTS DUE**

View and discuss final projects in class. Figure out logistics for Final Screening/Presentation

**FINAL SCREENING/PRESENTATION** (Weekend of Dec. 11-13, Time/Location TBD)

Open to the public. Bring friends and family! There will be snacks! SNACKS!!!!