

THFM-3310/6-001

FILMMAKING II: DIRECTING THE SHORT FILM

Fall/Winter: 2013/2014
Classes every Monday: 14:30-21:00
Rooms OT10 and OT14

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 13:00-14:00
Thursday, 13:00-14:00
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an advanced filmmaking course synthesizing the various elements of film grammar explored in Filmmaking I towards the creation of longer complex visual narratives. Emphasis will be on scene blocking and sequence-building within an extended narrative with special emphasis on directing actors for the camera, the dynamic between the director and the performer in casting, rehearsals, and on-set, and the subtleties of screen performance. The course will also look at the importance of lighting in visual storytelling.

TEXTS

Required

1. *Directing Actors* by Judith Weston

Recommended

2. *The Filmmaker's Handbook* by Ascher and Pincus

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

FIRST TERM

September 9 – Scriptwriting for longer dramas

1st Assignment – Students will write a 15-25 page script for their Major Film Project assignment. Scripts will be graded on narrative structure, character development, dialogue and correct screenplay format. **First Draft due November 4** (Note: Final Draft is due two (2) weeks prior to Day 1 of your assigned shooting dates) This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

September 16 – Sequential Perspective

2nd Assignment – Students will shoot a 1 to 2 minute film demonstrating sequential perspective (Assignment parameters TBA) **Due November 25**. This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade.

Shooting Schedule for Sequential Perspective Assignment

Date	Camera A	Camera B	Camera C
Monday Sept. 23 – Monday Sept. 30			
Monday Sept. 30 – Monday Oct. 7			
Monday Oct. 7 – Monday Oct. 15			

NOTE: You may sign-up any time for equipment for the 2nd term Major Film Project

September 23 – Scene Blocking/actor positioning

September 30 – Directing actors
– Character breakdown

October 7 – CASTING SESSION

October 14 – Thanksgiving Day – no classes

October 21 – script breakdown/shooting schedule
– Script read-through
– Wardrobe/make-up

October 28 – Rehearsals
– Pre-production meeting

LAB

Students will participate in a film shoot. The class will shoot a half-hour drama. Each student will be assigned crew positions during the shoot on a rotating basis: Director, Camera Operator, Gaffer, Assistant Camera, Boom Operator, and Craft Services. Students will also take on pre-production roles (Locations, Props, Wardrobe, and Production Manager) and post-production roles (Picture edit, sound edit and documentary edit).

All students must participate in the project.
The lab is worth 30% of your final grade.

SHOOTING DAYS FOR CLASS PROJECT

1. November 3 – Sunday
2. November 4 – Monday
3. November 10 – Sunday
4. November 11 – Monday
5. November 17 – Sunday
6. November 18 – Monday
7. November 24 – Sunday
8. November 25 – Monday
9. December 1 – Sunday
10. December 2 – Monday

NOTE: 1st three students shooting their Major Film Projects hand in their Final Draft scripts on Monday, January 6.

NOTE: Students should begin planning and prep for their Major Film Project shoots over the Christmas break.

SECOND TERM

In the second term students will focus on completing the lab film and on their individual Major Film Project assignment. The first shoots will begin January 20. Students will have 10 days to complete principal photography.

Students will be expected to crew on each other's films (students may participate as Actors in each other's films, but this does not count towards the crew assignment). Students who are shooting may incorporate class time into their shooting schedules. Students crewing on a shoot will be excused from class for the day of the shoot. Students not working on a shoot will be expected to attend class.

January 6 – Screening Sequential Perspective assignments
– Screening class shoot rushes

Note: 1st three students shooting their major film projects hand in their final draft scripts.

3rd Assignment – Final Draft script**DUE** two (2) weeks prior to assigned shoot datesThis assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.January 13 – Screening class shoot rushes

– Review scripts

Note: Next three students shooting their major film projects hand in their final draft scripts

Thursday, January 16.

4th Assignment – Major Film Project. Students will shoot a film based on their Assignment 3 script. The final length will be between 15 minutes and 25 minutes. Detailed assignment parameters TBA. This assignment is worth 30% of your final grade.

FINAL PROJECTS DUE April 7, 2014**MAJOR FILM PROJECT SCHEDULE**

SHOOTING DATES	CAMERA A Sony HVR-S270U	CAMERA B Sony HVR-S270U	CAMERA C Sony HVR-Z7U
Monday, January 20 to Thursday, January 30			
Thursday, January 30 to Monday, February 10			
Monday, February 10 to Thursday, February 20			

Note: The Final shooting dates cover part of Reading Week.January 20 – Screening class shoot rushes (cont'd.)– Begin post-production on class shoot
– Review scriptsJanuary 27 – Continue post-production on class shoot

– Review scripts

Note: Next 3 students shooting their major film projects hand in their final draft scripts

February 3 – Guest lecture -Film Training Manitoba– Review scripts
– Class time to Edit Major Film ProjectsFebruary 10 – Continue post-production on class shoot

– Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

February 16 to 22 – Reading week (No classes)February 24 – Guest Lecture - TBA

– Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 3 – Lecture: Film Budgeting

– Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 10 – Lecture: Grants and financing
 – Complete post-production on class shoot
 – Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 17 – Review class project

March 24 – View rough cuts

March 31 – View rough cuts

MARK BREAKDOWN

1st assignment: First Draft Script (Due Nov. 4)	10%
2nd assignment: sequential perspective exercise (Nov. 25)	15%
3rd assignment: Final Draft Script (Due 2 weeks prior to shoot dates)	10%
4th assignment: Major film Project (Due April 7).....	30%
Lab Evaluation (Class film shoot) (Post-production schedule TBA).....	30%
Class Participation/crew log (Crew Log due April 7)	5%
TOTAL	100%

Work not submitted will be graded as 0.
 There will be no final exam.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Late assignments: Because the assignments are based on availability of equipment and the logistics of scheduling film shoots within a limited time frame, there is no margin for flexibility. Extensions will be granted only if arrangements have been made with the instructor **PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE** and only under **EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. Work submitted late without prior arrangement will be graded at zero (0).

EVALUATION

Grade evaluation will be based on the 4 assignments (as outlined above), the lab assignment and class participation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Because the class meets only once every week for 6 hours, it is **ESSENTIAL** that students **ATTEND EVERY CLASS**. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and class exercises, and contribute to the set-up and break-down of equipment in class. Participation in the class film shoot is mandatory and students are expected to be on-set for the entire shoot. Students are also expected to participate in casting and rehearsal sessions and carry out their pre-production and post-production responsibilities for the class shoot.

Students are also **REQUIRED** to crew on their classmate's film shoots. Every student must participate in some crew capacity on at least **TWO** of their classmate's film shoots. Students must hand in a crew log

outlining the films they worked on, the dates they worked and their role in the production. (Students may participate as Actors in each other's films, but this does not count towards the crew assignment).

Crew log is due April 7.

IMPORTANT NOTE: READ THIS! All computer hard drives will be wiped clean as of APRIL 28, 2014. Make sure you are finished all your projects and have saved all of your files by this date. Hard Drives may also be wiped in January to make room for 2nd term projects.

NOTE: Cellular phones **MUST BE TURNED OFF** during classes, both in the lecture room AND in the editing room. Students discovered talking on their cell phones or texting during class time will be asked to leave the class. Ringing cell phones will be confiscated for the duration of the class.

COSTS

This is a practical hands-on course in filmmaking utilizing video and film equipment and students should take note of certain costs involved.

Students are required to buy the DV tapes they will be using for their projects. At a cost of approximately \$30.00 for each 120-minute tape, you may require 2-3 tapes, depending on the length of your projects.

There is a \$50.00 non-refundable Technology Fee to help defray the costs of regular equipment maintenance. You paid this fee with your tuition.

In addition to the non-refundable Technology Fee, students are required to pay a \$200 Damage Deposit for this class. In return, we will loan you our equipment for use on class projects. If you lose or damage equipment while it is in your care, the damage deposit will be applied to costs of repair or replacement, but note: you are responsible for the total value of the loss even if it is more than this deposit. Any unused portion of your Damage Deposit will be returned to you, usually by the end of June.

The deadline for payment of the Damage Deposit is **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you fail to pay in full by the deadline, a "hold" will be placed on your student file and you will not be permitted to sign out or use any equipment. In order to make payment, take the "Damage Deposit Ticket" handed out in class to Student Central by the deadline. Once you have paid, **bring your receipt to Patty Hawkins in Room 3T03.** You will be required to complete an *Equipment Loan Damage Deposit Agreement* which you must show to the Equipment Manager the first time you attempt to sign out equipment.

(NB: if you are taking more than one course requiring a damage deposit, you only pay the Damage Deposit once per academic year.)

Attendance and Class Participation: Attendance will be taken at each class and absenteeism will affect your grade. Also, students are expected to participate in class discussion.

Class etiquette: Be on time. It is very disruptive to the rest of the class if people are wandering in late, especially if films are being screened or workshops are being conducted.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW:** Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students; to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called **Access Card/Building Use Policy AND Room Booking Instructions**. The link to the electronic **Online Room Booking Form** is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2013 and end in April 2014 (2013/14 Fall/Winter Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.