

THFM- 3310-001 (6 credit hours)
FILMMAKING II: DIRECTING THE SHORT FILM

Fall/Winter: 2014/2015
Classes every Monday: 14:30 - 21:00
Rooms 0T10 and 0T14

INSTRUCTOR (Fall): John Kozak
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 13:00-14:00
Thursday, 13:00-14:00
(and by appointment)

INSTRUCTOR (Winter): Rick Skene
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Office Hours: Monday, 12:00-2:00
(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 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.

FIRST TERM

September 8 – 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, dialogue, character development and correct screenplay format. **First Draft due November 3**. This assignment is worth **10% of your final grade**.

September 15 – Sequential Perspective

2nd Assignment – Students will shoot a 1 to 2 minute film demonstrating sequential perspective (Assignment parameters TBA) **Due October 27**. This assignment is worth **10% of your final grade**.

Shooting Schedule for Sequential Perspective Assignment

Date	Camera A	Camera B	Camera C
Monday Sept. 22 – Monday Sept. 29			
Monday Sept. 29 – Monday Oct. 6			
Monday Oct. 6 – Tuesday Oct. 14 (Holiday Mon.)			

NOTE: Sign-up for equipment for 2nd term Major Film Projects

September 22 – Scene Blocking/actor positioning

September 29 – Directing actors
– Character breakdown

October 6 – Casting session

October 13 – THANKSGIVING - NO CLASSES (Make-Up Date: Wednesday, November 26)

October 20 – Script breakdown/shooting schedule
– Script read-through

– Wardrobe/props/locations

October 27 – Rehearsals

– Pre-production meeting

ASSIGNMENT 2 – SEQUENTIAL PERSPECTIVE DUE

LAB

Students will participate in a film shoot. The class will shoot a ½-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 and sound edit).

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

SHOOTING DAYS FOR CLASS PROJECT

1. November 2 – Sunday
2. November 3 – Monday
3. November 9 – Sunday
4. November 10 – Monday
5. November 16 – Sunday
6. November 17 – Monday
7. November 23 – Sunday
8. November 24 – Monday
9. November 30 – Sunday
10. December 1 – Monday

3rd Assignment – Final Draft script

Scripts will be graded on the development of the narrative structure and character development from the 1st draft script, and correct screenplay format. Final Draft Script is due **January 5**. This assignment is worth **10% of your final grade**.

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 19. Students using school equipment will have 10 days to complete principal photography.

Rough Cut: Rough cuts are due approximately 3 ½ weeks after the end of principle photography (refer to sign-up schedule for specific dates).

NOTE: Even if you are not using school equipment, you must still sign up for a Rough-Cut-Due date. Failure ***to submit a rough cut on the due date will result in a grade penalty of 5% per week for late submission.***

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 12 – ***Shooting pick-up scenes for class project (if necessary)***

– If no pick-up scenes necessary, lighting demo and review and camera review

FINAL DRAFT SCRIPTS DUE

January 19 – Shooting pick-up scenes for class project (if necessary)

- If no pick-up scenes necessary, begin screening class shoot rushes
- Review scripts

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 6, 2015**Major Film Project Schedule**

SHOOTING DATES	CAMERA A Sony HVR-S270U	CAMERA B Sony HVR-S270U	CAMERA C Sony HVR-Z7U	CAMERA D Sony HVR-Z7U
Monday, January 19 to Thursday, January 29 ROUGH CUT DUE Feb. 23				
Thursday, January 29 to Monday, February 9 ROUGH CUT DUE March 9				
Monday, February 9 to Thursday, February 19 ROUGH CUT DUE March 16				

Note: The Final shooting dates cover part of Reading Week

January 26 – Screening class shoot rushes

- Begin post-production on class shoot
- Review scripts

February 2 – Continue post-production on class shoot

- Review scripts

February 9 – Continue post-production on class shoot

- Class time to edit student Major Film Projects

February 16 to 22 - READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)**February 23 – Complete picture edit on class shoot**

- Class time to edit student Major Film Projects

March 2 – Review rough cuts Group 1

- Begin sound edit work on class shoot
- Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 9 – Industry Lecture (Topic TBA)

- Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 16 – Industry Lecture (Topic TBA)

- Review rough cuts Group 2
- Continue sound edit work on class shoot
- Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 23 – Review rough cuts Group 3

- Complete sound edit work on class shoot
- Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

March 30 – Review fine cuts Groups 1 & 2
– Class time to Edit Major Film Projects

April 6 – Review fine cuts Group 3
– Review completed class shoot

ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION

1st assignment: First Draft Script (Due Nov. 3)	10%
2nd assignment: sequential perspective exercise (Oct. 27)	10%
3rd assignment: Final Draft Script (January 5)	10%
4th assignment: Major film Project (Due April 6).....	35%
Lab Evaluation (Class film shoot) (Post-production schedule TBA).....	30%
Class Participation/crew log (Crew Log due April 6)	5%
TOTAL	100%

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				

Work not submitted will be graded as 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 6.

IMPORTANT NOTE: READ THIS! All computer hard drives will be wiped clean as of APRIL 28/14. 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 during class time will be asked to leave the class. Ringing cell phones will be confiscated for the duration of the class.

TEXTS

Required

1. *Directing Actors* by Judith Weston

Recommended

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

COSTS

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

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 18, 2014. 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, **take 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 during the Fall/Winter term.)

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 17, Oct 22, Nov 12, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11. 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.

2014 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 10, 2014, 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.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am-5:30 pm weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm 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 *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *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.

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., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the UHREB before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/research-human-ethics> for submission requirements and deadlines."

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of 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.

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.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2014 and end in April 2015 (2014/15 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.