

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE

MOPA 306 DIRECTING

Fall 2016

Division	School of Motion Picture Arts		
Course Name	MOPA 306 – Directing	Credits: 3	
Instructor		x@capilanou.ca	604.986.1911 local xxxx

VISION STATEMENT

The School of Motion Picture Arts is dedicated to inspiring a new generation of independent Canadian filmmakers through the fostering and mentoring of emerging talent utilizing progressive learning environments and authentic production experiences, such that graduates make valued contributions to the global media culture.

COURSE FORMAT

Four lecture hours per week, for fifteen weeks.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

28.5 credits of 200 level MOPA.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

General

Students will be provided with practical opportunities to explore and develop techniques of visual storytelling, narrative judgment, and personal voice. Each student directs three short film projects, and takes key creative and technical roles on films made by their classmates.

Instructional

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Understand the role of the writer and director in the screenplay development process;
- Understand techniques of working with actors to direct and realize an effective screen performance (in collaboration with Acting for Stage and Screen);
- Understand the importance of finding and developing a unique cinematic voice through the process of writing, directing, shooting and editing three short films;
- Demonstrate fluency with historical, conceptual and technical elements of film/media visual aesthetics; and
- Work creatively, technically and collaboratively in exploring cinematic aesthetics and subtext.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
Program Mission
To provide the encouragement, equipment, training and setting for a vital experience of creation and collaboration. Student filmmakers will expand and refine their practical, professional, artistic and social skills in order to acquire craft excellence and successfully integrate into the increasingly complex and diverse industries of filmed entertainment, digital communications and new media.
Program Goals
<p>Knowledge:</p> <p>To enable students to articulate and apply their knowledge of story and visual story development to documentary and narrative projects on all platforms; to combine and apply both practical and theoretical knowledge; to investigate and interpret a broad range of theoretical perspectives.</p> <p>Skills:</p> <p>To orchestrate a detailed industrial process; to manage time and budget on large projects over extended periods of time; to use technology as a tool to create innovative and authentic stories; to develop a convergent approach to creative content; to collaborate creatively.</p> <p>Value:</p> <p>To conceptualize, research, develop and produce projects from initial idea through to final product; to market and distribute projects; to develop innovative business models and strategies to build sustainable companies; to understand the role of film and the film industry in Canada’s culture and economy; to identify potential areas/sectors of employment; to identify opportunities for further study; to articulate and pursue a unique and personal voice and vision through the artistic and technical means of filmmaking and visual communication, and, in particular, to use the tools and resources at their disposal with clarity, intelligence, resourcefulness and professionalism.</p>

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
<p>Students successfully completing this program will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze historical, technological, philosophical and theoretical trends in the national and global cinemas; 2. Acquire a range of skills and applications of visual communication in order to expand their potential to realize and create meaningful career opportunities; 3. Contribute their technical skills, creative skills, and personal vision to the art of filmmaking; 4. Consult, liaise and negotiate in a professional manner in all aspects of the filmmaking process; 5. Develop industry relationships and create authentic learning environments in order to provide opportunities to expand their potential as independent filmmakers.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Resource material will be supplied by the instructor.

WEEKS 1-15
WEEK 1: Course overview and introduction to first assignment. Meet with 3 rd Year Acting for Stage and Screen (ASAS) Class. Teams assigned for Assignment #1 (Monologue Project).
WEEK 2: Production teams assigned for Assignments #2 & #3 Read through of monologue projects with 3 rd year Acting class ASSIGNMENT#1: Monologue Project – due for in-class shooting weeks 4,5,6. Final versions due week 11 ASSIGNMENT #2: Development Project Short Film – due start of class, Week 8
WEEK 3: In-class rehearsals and coaching on monologues in teams with 3 rd year ASAS class ASSIGNMENT#3: Non-Dialogue Short Film – due start of class, Week 10
WEEK 4: In-class shooting of Assignment #1 (Monologue Project) in teams with 3 rd year ASAS class – <i>Part 1</i> <i>Production week #1 for Development Project Short Film</i>
WEEK 5: In-class shooting of Assignment #1 (Monologue Project) - <i>Part 2</i> <i>Production week #2 for Development Project Short Film</i>
WEEK 6: In-class shooting of Assignment #1 (Monologue Project) - <i>Part 3</i> DEADLINE: “Best Take” of Monologues due for Screening Week 7 <i>Production week #3 for Development Project Short Film</i>
WEEK 7: Screening and critique of “Best Take” of Monologue Projects with ASAS class ASSIGNMENT#1 (Monologue Project) – Final Edited Version due start of Class, Week 11 <i>Production week #1 for Non Dialogue Short Film</i>
WEEK 8: DEADLINE: Assignment #2 (Development Project Short Film) – Completed projects due at beginning of class Presentation, screening and critique of completed Development Project Short Films. <i>Part 1</i> <i>Production week #2 for Non Dialogue Short Film</i>
WEEK 9: Presentation, screening and critique of completed Development Project Short Films. <i>Part 2</i> <i>Production week #3 for Non Dialogue Short Film</i>
WEEK 10: Presentation, screening and critique of completed Non-Dialogue Films. <i>Part 1</i> DEADLINE: Assignment #3: Completed Non-Dialogue Short Films due
WEEK 11: Screening and critique of completed non-dialogue films. <i>Part 2</i> DEADLINE: Completed Final Edit of Assignment #1 (Monologue Project) due
WEEK 12: Practice Director Pitches Director’s Pitch Packages for Week 13 MOPA 310 pitches due
WEEK 13: Director pitches for MOPA 310 short-listed films to whole class and Faculty Panel

WEEK 14:

MOPA 310 project scheduling and crew-up

WEEK 15:

Course review and project preparation

 Fourth hour: may include screenings, project meetings/mentoring and project work.

ASSIGNMENTS*	
Assignment #1 - Monologue Project	30%
Assignment #2 - Development Project Short Film	30%
Assignment #3 - Non-dialogue Short Film	30%
Total	90%

EVALUATION PROFILE	
Assignments (30%+30%+30%)*	90%
Professionalism (see BMPA Standards for Professional Behaviour)	10%
Total	100%

Grading Profile			
A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 77-79%	C+ = 67-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B = 73-76%	C = 63-66%	F = 00-49%
A- = 80-84%	B- = 70-72%	C- = 60-62%	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:
Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.
ATTENDANCE:
Attendance will be taken daily and will form part of the final grade (See Evaluation Profile). When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence, including announcements, assigned readings and hand-outs.
PUNCTUALITY:
Punctuality is essential and forms part of the participation grade. Late attendance will be reflected in the student's final grade.
LATE ASSIGNMENTS:
All assignments must be delivered at the place and time specified by the instructor. Late assignments will only be accepted if prior approval for a late submission date has been given by the instructor.
MISSED EXAMS AND QUIZZES:
Missed exams and quizzes will be assigned a grade of zero. Students will be allowed to make up exams and quizzes only under the following conditions: if a doctor's certificate of illness is provided; if, in the case of the death of a close family member, a death certificate is provided; if prior approval of the instructor has been obtained.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM:
Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's work or ideas as if they were one's own. Plagiarism is both dishonest and a rejection of the principles of scholarship. All students should familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism (See the University Website) as such behaviour can result in suspension from the University.
INCOMPLETE GRADES:
Grades of Incomplete "I" will be granted only if there is a valid reason for extending the evaluation deadline and if students have a reasonable chance of improving their grade to pass the course.
ENGLISH USAGE:
All written work submitted must use good academic English and follow the guidelines provided in the Capilano University Guide to Writing Assignments (available from the University Bookstore). It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all their writing for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors.
STUDIO/FILMING DISCIPLINE:
Students must be dressed appropriately. Wet and cold weather requires waterproof and warm clothing. Students are required to wear work clothes for technical and production sessions. Clothing may be subjected to dirt, paint and dust. Sturdy shoes are a must. No food or beverages are allowed on set during production activities and during technical classes. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.
COMPUTER COURSE REQUIREMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:
You are expected to abide by the Statement of Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services in any use of computers at the University. This statement can be obtained from your department, the Library, Computer Services or on the University website.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES/LAPTOPS:
Use of electronic devices is not allowed during class time, except at the discretion of the instructor.
COMPUTER LAB USAGE:
No food or beverages are allowed in the University's computer labs at any time. Students must not abuse internet privileges by visiting inappropriate or illegal websites. Intentionally opening and/or altering other students' projects will not be tolerated. Respect for other students' work is of utmost importance. Offences regarding the above will result in the "0" mark in the participation grade, and restricted access to facilities.
PARTICIPATION/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR:
The grade for class participation is based on both the frequency and the quality of students' comments, questions and observations, with the emphasis on quality. The quality is determined by, among other things, the relevance, insight and clarity of remarks. Students are expected to demonstrate a professional attitude and behaviour towards their work, fellow-students, and their instructor. Students should demonstrate reliability, respect for and co-operation with colleagues. A willingness to work calmly and courteously under difficult conditions as well as a determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines is necessary in this course. Students should have respect for equipment and systems, and a constructive response to criticism.
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:
Students should familiarize themselves with emergency procedures posted in the classroom.