

PLEASE NOTE: THIS ADVANCE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
PLEASE CONSULT THE SYLLABUS DISTRIBUTED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES.

Course Number: MCOM 534 - VIDEO PRODUCTION EDITING  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Instructor: Daniel Nearing  
Trimester: Fall 2005  
Office: E2561  
Class time: Designated Wednesdays at 4:30 pm  
Class location: E2526 / ends in Media Lab -E1570  
MCOM Lab/Equipment Room Hours: 40 hours per week; consult media lab door or class notes  
Graduate Assistants: Seth McClellan, John Nantz  
Media Lab Telephone: (708) 534-4990 ext. 5277  
Instructor Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 pm and 3:30 4:30pm, Wednesdays, 2:00 -4:30 pm, and by appointment  
Instructor Telephone: (708) 534-4085  
E-mail: d-nearing@govst.edu

Course Description:  
Lab-based instruction and application of the theories and techniques of non-linear digital video editing. Students conduct FireWire-based editing with DV CAM and Mini-DV source footage on Final Cut Pro platforms.

Course Prerequisite:  
MCOM 440 or permission of the instructor. MCOM 440 may be taken concurrently.

Rationale:  
Any student with an interest in filmmaking will benefit from exposure to the process of storytelling through editing. Editing is an advanced multimedia skill that will benefit students across disciplines.

Intended Audience:  
Students in Media Communication with strong personal or professional interest in filmmaking in general or editing in particular.

Expected Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:  
Successfully complete a range of non-linear tutorials required to operate Final Cut Pro, the editing software on our Media Lab platforms, with emphasis on:  
Video editing operations  
Audio editing operations  
Compositing and Effects

Comprehend terminology and apply concepts of the craft of editing, including:  
continuity editing,  
relational editing,  
"expanding time" and  
"collapsing time."

Upon mastering the tutorial assignments, students will be provided multiple takes of source foot and will undertake the more complex assembly of a short documentary sequence. The independent



completion of the assembly consists of five steps:

- Evaluation of the source material
- Selection of useable takes
- Integration of takes into a timeline "rough cut"
- Revision of the assembly to "fine cut" standards
- Application of transitions and effects to the final assembly

**Instructional Modalities and Activities:**

The lecture component will explain concepts related to editing aesthetics and will often include guided instruction in the operation of editing platforms. Independent editing assignments may be carried out in the Media Lab both during and outside class hours.

**Recommended Text:**

Weynand, Diana. Apple Pro Training Series: Final Cut Pro 4. Berkeley, California: Peachpit Press, 2003.

Please consult the course outline for a guide to the weeks in which you should read and work on the chapters of the text. The text will be needed for the course - you may wish to share costs of purchasing it with one of your fellow students. Discounted texts can be purchased from half.com. If buying online, you should do so as soon as possible.

Relevant course reading will be made available throughout the course at webct.govst.edu. Visit the page for further information regarding your personal log-in procedure.

□

Optional materials: Students must provide tape stock for any exported video --you will not be required to export to tape in this course, but may choose to have your own tape copies of assignments.

**Course Outline:**

Please note: the Course Outline is subject to change during the trimester. Each scheduled meeting will begin with an exploration of an aspect of editing aesthetics or of Final Cut Pro. You may also complete a further, not-for-credit editing exercise if you wish to have more experience with the platform - see instructor. The Lessons identified below refer to chapters in the text - most lessons should be completed on the computer, though you may choose to simply read and review some of them.

**Class 1 - September 7/05**

Discuss syllabus, course outline, Media Lab rules, editing systems, assignments, linear vs. non-linear technology  
Introducing Final Cut Pro (FCP)

**Class 2 - September 14**

Seminar / discussion -the non-linear revolution in contemporary editing  
Exploring the FCP4 interface and functions (continued)  
Basic Editing in FCP4

**Class 3 - September 21**

Lab night

**Class 4 - September 28**

Seminar / Discussion --First Principles: Editing Concepts

Compositing and Effects & Audio Editing in FCP / assignment  
Acquiring Media - The Log and Capture process

Class 5 - October

5

SEE ON-LINE Critical Viewing Assignment

Attendance at 2004 Chicago International Film Festival is suggested  
(optional)

Class 6 - October 12 FCP Editing Tips

Class 7 -October 19 Midterm review

Class 8 - October 26 Midterm exam

Class 9 - November 2 Lab Seminar / Discussion: Audio and Soundtrack

Class 10 - November 9 Editing documentary - hand-out assignment provided

Class 11 - November 16 Lab Seminar / Discussion: Generators, LiveType; lower thirds, head

and tail credits / titles

Class 12 - November 23 Lab night

Class 13 - November 30 Final Exam review

Class 14 - December 7 Final Exam / Documentary assembly due

Class 15 - December 14 Office and/or lab meetings with instructor

[]

Evaluation: Grade Percentages

The tutorial assemblies from the text are not graded, but the students' knowledge of the tutorials and FCP interface will be rigorously tested in the midterm and final and on the graded documentary assembly --is to read the text and undertake all of its tutorial assignments.

On-Line Critical Viewing Assignment 10%

Scheduled to coincide with the Chicago International Film Festival, and to encourage festival attendance, the critical viewing assignment calls for a short written interpretation of the editing of one of the festival's films OR of a widely-available film to be identified later.

Short documentary assembly 25%

You will be evaluated on the basis of your ability to articulate your edit decisions as well as on the technical and aesthetic qualities of the assemblies.

Mid-term Exam 25%

Final Exam 30%

The examinations each consist of 40 to 75 questions, covering content from lectures and the tutorials/text. The majority of the questions call for short written responses.

Attendance and Participation 10%

See note below.

Advisory for graduate students enrolled in MCOM 534: you are expected to meet a higher quantitative and qualitative standard than the undergraduates enrolled in this course. You are required to achieve an above average performance (see Grading Policy, below) with respect to assignments, examinations, and participation.

Grading Policy

A Superior Performance 90-100  
B Above average performance 80-89  
C Average performance 70-79  
D Marginal performance 66-69  
F Failure 64 and below

[]  
Attendance and Participation:

Employment in the film and television production industries requires reliability and the full participation of all involved: we want to underscore this professionalism in the academic context should go without saying that this encompasses all personal conduct and the respectful treatment your fellow students. Please notify the instructor at your soonest convenience after attending an emergency that has necessitated an absence. Attendance is otherwise required in all classes. Students are allowed 2 (two) absences or late appearances (15+ minutes). With the exception of emergencies, each absence or lateness thereafter will result in the drop of one letter grade. In special circumstances, a student may make arrangements to miss class by calling the instructor at least one week in advance. A student who misses a class is expected, regardless, to turn in projects that are due on or before the due date. Any missed assignments or tests cannot be made up. Your mark for participation is linked to your attendance. If you're not here, you're not participating and your grade is affected even if an absence is excused.

Disability Statement:

Students who have a disability or special needs and require accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom must register with the designated staff member in the Division of Student Development. Please go to Room B1201 or call (708) 534-4090 and ask for the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students will be required to provide documentation of any disability when an accommodation is requested.

[]