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Fall 2015

FTA 2510

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University of New Orleans

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Recommended Citation

Overton, Hamp, "FTA 2510" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 614.
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FTCA 2510-002 Beginning Film Production**Class time:** T & Th, 11:00am-12:15pm **Class location:** Rm. 319, PAC building**Text:** The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video, by Tom Schroepel (available at the UNO Bookstore)The Production Assistant's Pocket Handbook, 3rd ed., by Caleb Clark (available at www.lulu.com and UNO Bookstore)**Inst:** Hamp Overton **Office:** Rm 310, PAC Bldg. **Tel:** 504-280-7214 **email:** joverton@uno.edu

Office Hours: M: 11am-Noon, 2:30-3:30pm; T & Th: 3pm-5pm

Date	Topic	Reading
8/18	Syllabus Review, Equipment & Check-Out Procedures, Avid lab Screening 'The Hold Up'	
8/20	Shots & their functions	3 & 5
8/25	Shots & their functions, view clips	
8/27	Editing principles	4
9/01	Editing principles	6
9/03	AVID TEST View editing video clips & Montage/Mise en Scene	
9/08	Composition	2
9/10	Lens	1
9/15	View <u>The Hold Up</u> – FIRST CUTS DUE	
9/17	Camera Training – in class exercise (shots) <i>Bring SD Cards to class</i>	
9/22	Camera Training – in class exercise (review and reshoot)	
9/24	Screen 'Eyeball Eddie'	
9/29	Screenwriting – story analysis exercise	
10/01	MIDTERM EXAMINATION – Bring blue scantron and pencils	
10/06	Review midterm exam, discuss 5-shot exercise	
10/08	Planning your film – in class storyboard demo– view 2510 Exer. II examples	8
10/13	Shoot 5 shot exercises	
10/15	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
10/20	Screening: <u>Hold Up</u> – FINE CUTS DUE	
10/22	Screening: <u>Hold Up</u> – FINE CUTS DUE	
10/27	Present Storyboards – STORYBOARDS & TREATMENTS DUE	
10/29	Present Storyboards	
11/03	Directing	
11/05	Light	7
11/10	Location lighting	
11/12	Professional Production	
11/17	Professional Production	
11/19	EXERCISE 2 FIRST CUTS DUE	
11/24	Exercise 2 first cuts screenings continued	
11/26	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS	
12/01	EXERCISE 2 FINE CUTS DUE	
12/03	Cont. Screening Fine Cuts	

Final Exam: see final schedule on UNO website. Bring blue scantron and pencils

Learning objectives

This course is designed to acquaint you with the basic techniques of narrative film production and to provide you with practical opportunities for developing a sensitivity to cinematic expression. After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Shoot and edit a short silent narrative video
- Analyze and evaluate professional film production techniques such as directing, cinematography, and editing
- Identify the key personnel and their responsibilities on a professional motion picture production
- Understand and perform as a production assistant (PA) on a film set

Moodle

You must have internet access to www.uno.edu to be able to access the Moodle companion site for this class. All PowerPoint lectures, course handouts and other resource documents will be posted on the Moodle site. All email correspondence from the instructor will be posted in your UNO email address only. Help with Moodle can be accessed at www.uno.edu

UNO Film website

Film-related information is available on the UNO Film website (<http://www.uno.edu/cola/film-theatre-arts/>), including all UNO Film policies, production forms, and news about job opportunities, film festivals, and links to local and national film-related sites.

Text

The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video, 2nd ed., by Tom Schroepfel.

The Production Assistant's Pocket Handbook, 3rd ed., by Caleb Clark (available at www.lulu.com or the campus bookstore)

This book's material is not covered in class, but you are expected to know it for the final exam.

Supplies

You will need to purchase a 4 gig SDHC card for this class.

Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. No late assignment will be accepted. Written assignments can be emailed prior if you are going to miss class, after notifying the instructor. All work in this class must be prepared in a well, organized, stapled, clear and concise manner and presented in the format requested. Your name, the name of the assignment, date and course number is to be on the first page or a cover page. No hand written or improperly formatted work will be accepted. Papers without a name, unstapled or hand written will not be accepted.

Film Evaluation

After the screenplay lecture a short film will be screened in class and you will be asked to answer the following questions:

- Who's story is it?
- What is this person's goal and is it forced on them or do they choose the task?
- Give four conflicts to the protagonist.
- Are there uses of economy and if so how?
- Where are the three acts (parts)?
- Is there an epilogue?

You should type up your answers and turn them in the following class.

Exercise 1

The Hold Up. This is an editing exercise where you will be provided with raw footage of a bank robbery film. The film has no sound and sound is not required for the exercise. There will be training sessions on learning Avid (editing software) offered outside of class. You must pass this Avid training course as part of your grade for this exercise, even if you have taken FTCA 2565. You are to edit the film together using the techniques and principles discussed in class. A preliminary cut of your film will be screened in class to give you feedback on your work. Your final grade will be on your follow up cut of the exercise. Your grade will be determined by your effective use of the techniques shown and discussed in class and having your material in on time and in organized in Avid correctly. Specifically, you will be graded on the use of matching actions, avoiding jump cuts and overlapping action, use of POV shots, timing as it relates to parallel action and pacing as it relates to the buildup to the robbery and the robbery itself. Finally, does the story in the film make logical sense?

Exercise 2

This is your opportunity to shoot and edit a film of your choice. This film is to be based on your storyboard exercise. This is a silent film but you can include music and sound effects. You will be limited to 30 minutes of footage for this project so the finished film

should be a maximum of 3 minutes long. Your grade will be determined by effective use of the techniques on editing, story and directing covered in class. Do not act in your own film. Do not wait until the last weekend to shoot as technical issues do arise and will not be accepted as excuses.

Any late return of UNO equipment will result in a 10% to your Exercise 2 grade per day late.

If you choose to shoot your project inside a campus building always ask the building manager prior to shooting. The building manager for the PAC building is David Hoover, room 307.

If your script involves a weapon of any kind and you intend to make your film on campus, you must inform campus police of this fact at least one week prior to shooting your film. If you intend to film on campus you cannot use a real weapon regardless of informing the police.

Storyboards and Treatment

This exercise is for you to make a photographed storyboard presenting your Exercise II idea. The storyboard is a series of stills that represent each shot of your film in the order that you see the finished film. The class and instructor will give you feedback on your idea. Your grade will be determined by how clearly and professionally you present your idea and how feasible your idea is to execute. You should present your storyboards electronically in the class room using the class computer and projector. Each panel should including descriptions and shot numbers. You must also turn in a 2+ page typed treatment of your script.

Exams

Midterm

The midterm will cover all lecture and textbook reading up to the exam. If you cannot attend class the day of the midterm you can take the midterm early if you contact the instructor ahead of time. If you miss the midterm, you can make up the exam but each day past the exam you will have your grade reduced by 10%, starting the moment the midterm exam class is over.

Final

The final is cumulative of all text, lecture and training material, including the *Production Assistant's Pocket Handbook*. The final cannot be made up. If you feel you will miss the final you can take it ahead of time.

Avid

There is a self-study assignment on Avid ISIS in the Avid lab, room 320. You must past this test by the date noted above.

Avid Username: 251002

Avid Password:

Attendance

Attendance is required. It is also require for students to arrive on time. On time is being present when roll is called at the beginning of class. A student will be marked absent if they are not present when roll is called. Two absences are allowed. After two absences the student will lose 25 points per absence up to 100pts.

Grades:

Film Evaluation	50
Exercise 1	100
Exercise 2	100
Storyboards	100
Midterm	200
Final	300
Avid Test	50
Attendance	100
Total	1000

GRADING SCALE 100%-90% = A, 89%-80%=B, 79%-70%=C, 69%-60%=D, < 60% = F

Extra Credit

A student can earn up to 30 points of extra credit by working on a Graduate Thesis film or a FTA 5530 film. For each day worked the student will earn 10 points up to 30 points. Proof of work should be in either a Call Sheet with the students name on it or the student director or producer can contact the instructor of FTA2510.

UNO Filmmakers

All students are encouraged to join the UNO Filmmakers. Also all students are encouraged to submit their work for screening to the UNO Filmmakers' Film Festival in the spring.

Qualifying Exams

You will be qualified on the equipment used in this class during the in-class workshops. If you miss class on those days, you will need to go the equipment room (Rm 204) and get qualified on the equipment.

Equipment

Editing can be performed in the editing lab, PAC Rm 320 during regular lab hours. If you choose to edit with Avid at home, you must put your Avid edit on the departments Avid ISIS system so it can be viewed in class. DVD/CD thumb drives, etc are not accepted for viewing. Only projects on the dept. Avid ISIS will be viewed and graded. Camera equipment will be provided by the department on a 24-hour or weekend check-out basis. You will need a current student ID to check out departmental equipment.

Equipment Use

By taking this class you are accepting responsibility for all equipment you will be using in the course. The equipment room guidelines are available in the Equipment Checkout Room and on the Department's websites (Sharepoint).

Any student who damages or loses gear will be responsible for the repair or replacement of that equipment. The student's account in the Equipment Room will be locked to further equipment check out until the equipment is repaired, replaced or paid for. The student will have a hold placed on their UNO registration account until the equipment is repaired, replaced or paid for.

In addition, equipment returned late will be a reduction of 10% of the student's project grade (or every team member's grade) per day until the equipment is returned.

Copyright Information

Students in film production courses who wish to exhibit or distribute their course projects outside of class IN ANY MANNER, including, but not limited to, posting to web streaming sites such as *YouTube* and *Vimeo* and entering into film festivals (other than the UNO Film Festival), must obtain all "chain of title" rights for all material included. This means **written permission** for the right to use the script, performances, music, stills, stock footage and any copyrighted or trademarked material (underlying story, logos, etc.).

Festivals

All projects made in this class must include the full UNO animated film logo (on the Avid ISIS) at the head (first item) and the following statement after end credits:

This film was made in partial fulfillment of a degree at The University of New Orleans,
Department of Film and Theatre Arts.

All films entered in festivals must also include the above logo and statements.

Classroom Conduct

Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and responses are expected.

1. Be in class on time. Please do not come five, ten, or twenty minutes late. Distracting interruptions are inconsiderate, disrespectful, and time wasting. There is no excuse for repeatedly arriving late. Parking is often a hassle; allow enough time for it. Cell phones should be turned off before class begins.
2. Feel free to ask questions of the instructor during class. But please do not ask other students, as talking disturbs my concentration and the concentration of other class members.
3. Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. Any actions that purposefully and maliciously distract the class from the work at hand will not be allowed.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.