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Fall 2015

FTA 4580

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University of New Orleans

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**FTA 4580 – FILM DIRECTING
FALL 2015 SYLLABUS**

Classroom: PAC 313 Days/Time: Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 – 4:45P

Professor: Laura Medina

Email: lmolina@uno.edu Office: PAC 311

Fall 2015 Office hours: T & TH 1:30-3:30P, W 2:30-4:30P (Graduate Advising Only)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to provide an understanding of the creative and technical skills and overall job functions of the film director and training in directing techniques, with an emphasis on narrative film direction.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Define and identify the creative and technical skills of narrative film directing
- Analyze and interpret narrative material from the director’s perspective
- Develop visual storytelling skills

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS:

Making Movies by Sydney Lumet

Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film and Television by Judith Weston

Film Directing Fundamentals: See Your Film Before Shooting, 3rd Edition by Nicholas T. Proferes

Additional mandatory readings will be made available through Moodle and/or handouts in class.

Students are required to provide a notebook specific to this course (for note-taking).

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE: This class is taught in a highly interactive manner, making participation and attendance critical to the course. Class participation represents 10% of the final grade. Participation means students arrive on time, complete and demonstrate familiarity with the assigned reading and materials, and participate in discussions, exercises and critiques in an informed and respectful manner. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of class. For each absence exceeding two, your participation grade will automatically be decreased by one full grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will be required to attend each class session, read the assigned textbook and handout readings, complete assignments, take two quizzes and participate in class discussions and exercises. Students must come to class having completed the assigned readings for that week, be prepared to ask and answer questions about the material and to take notes.

CRITIQUE: Filmmaking is a highly collaborative medium in which informed critique is an essential learning tool. Students must be prepared to have their work discussed in class during critiques.

GRADES: Grading scale (percentage): A 91-100; B 81-90; C 71-80; D 61-70; F 0-60

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Assignments & Exercises	70%
Quizzes	20%
Participation	10%

QUIZZES: Quizzes will be short answer and multiple choice and will cover the readings, lecture material, presentations (including guest speakers) and clips or films screened for the course. Quizzes are open-notes; students may consult their own notes in the required notebook designated for this purpose. **No makeups will be given for quizzes unless they are arranged for in advance of the quiz day, or the student contact me and takes the quiz the same day as it is given.**

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ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments, including reading assignments, are due at the beginning of class. **Written assignments must be submitted as a hard copy and properly formatted. In-class presentations due at any time during the semester or written assignments due during the last week of the semester will not be accepted late.** No written assignment will be accepted more than one week late. The penalty for late assignments will be a 20% deduction. An absence from class does not constitute an extension of the due date. If you are going to miss class, you may email the assignment prior to the class as proof of completion. However, you must still deliver a hard copy at the earliest possible time. No improperly formatted work will be accepted. Assignments, including due dates, are detailed in the document *FTA 4580 Fall 2015 Assignments*, which will be reviewed in class at the start of the semester.

MOODLE & EMAIL: Students must have Internet access to www.uno.edu and the Moodle portion of this course. Course syllabus, handouts and other resource documents may be posted on the Moodle site. Help with Moodle can be accessed at <http://www.uno.edu/moodle>. Students are responsible for regularly checking for email communications from the instructor to their UNO email address. All communications from students to the instructor must be from a UNO email account.

NETIQUETTE: All email communications from students **MUST** be from their UNO email address and be formatted as professional correspondence. This means having a subject line which references the course name and number, using a salutation and a signature (student FULL NAME). Proper salutations include: Dear Mr., Ms., Mrs., or Dr. (as appropriate) or Professor and the LASTNAME of the person. “Hey” is not acceptable. Emails not formatted in this way will not be responded to and will be deleted.

FTA DEPARTMENT WEBSITE: Important department and film-related information is available on the Department website and Intranet including policies, production forms, news about job opportunities, film festivals, and links to local and national film-related sites.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is essential. Students may not agree with everything that is expressed, but their response must be courteous. Cell phones must be silenced before class begins. There will be no eating, text messaging or non-class related web-browsing. Use of electronic devices during class is not allowed. Late arrival to class is disrespectful to fellow class members and faculty.

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 on UNO’s website for further information: <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: It is 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 first, and then their instructors, to discuss individual needs for accommodations. More information is available online at <http://ods.uno.edu/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS FALL 2015 SYLLABUS ATTACHEMENT DOCUMENT APPENDED TO THIS SYLLABUS.

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Topics and schedule are subject to change.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	DUE
1	TH 8/20	Course Overview: What is a director?	
2	TUE 8/25	Director's Preparation: Understanding the script	
	TH 8/27		
3	TU 9/1	Understanding the script	
	TH 9/3		
4	TU 9/8	Methodology: Telling the story with the camera	<i>Script Analysis Due</i>
	TH 9/10		
5	TU 9/15	Telling the story with the camera	
	TH 9/17		
6	TU 9/22	Telling the story with the camera	<i>Placement & Blocking Assignment Due</i>
	TH 9/24	QUIZ #1	
7	TU 9/29	Directors & Actors	
	TH 10/1		
8	TU 10/6	Directors and Actors	
	TH 10/8		
9	TU 10/13	Directors preparation – pre-production	<i>Character Analysis Due</i>
	TH 10/15	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
10	TU 10/20	Directors preparation – pre-production	
	TH 10/22		<i>Cast Breakdown Due</i>
11	TU 10/27	Directors in production: directing the shoot	
	TH 10/29		
12	TU 11/3	Directors and editing, sound, music, post-production	
	TH 11/5	QUIZ #2	
13	TU 11/10	Directors' Profiles & Scene Analysis Presentations	Group 1
	TH 11/12		Group 2
14	TU 11/17	Directors' Profiles & Scene Analysis Presentations:	Group 3
	TH 11/19		Group 4
15	TU 11/24	Directors' Profiles & Scene Analysis Presentations:	Group 5
	TH 11/26	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
16	TU 12/1	Directing Careers	
	12/3		
17	FINAL EXAM WEEK	<i>There is no written final exam in this class.</i>	