

COMM 338 – Narrative Production
Tuesdays 1:00-3:45 p.m. SOC Room 002
Professor Aaron Greer

Course Description & Objectives

Applying the media production and narrative filmmaking skills acquired in previous courses, students work as a team to create short-subject narrative films, taking their projects from pre-production to exhibition. At the conclusion of the course, students will:

1. Understand and experience the five phases of the narrative production process: development, pre-production, production, post-production and exhibition;
2. Experience working as a part of a film production crew and be exposed to a variety of production jobs;
3. Produce polished, original, short-subject films and arrange for their exhibition.

Required Texts

- *Producing and Directing the Short Film and Video, Fourth Edition* by Peter Rea and David Irving.
- Materials on Sakai or LUC Box

Assignments and Evaluation

There will be two production cycles during the class. During each cycle, every student will be assigned a specific role (director, producer, production designer, etc.) in the production of a short film, switching roles during the second cycle. Each role comes with specific responsibilities and assignments that will be due during each phase of the production, and on which each student will be evaluated.

The student will also be evaluated based on their participation and work as a member of the group, an evaluation that will be based in part on attendance, in part on class participation, in part on the instructor's evaluation of an individual's accountability to the group, and in part on the group's evaluation of the individual's performance and accountability.

Finally, each student will share responsibility for the quality of the final products (the shorts).

Accordingly, the assignments and evaluation for the class breakdown as follows:

Project 1: Pre-production-Development Work: 10%

Project 1: Production Work: 10%

Project 1: Post-production and Exhibition Work 10%

Project 1: Participation, Attendance and Group Work: 10%

Project 1: Final Product Quality and Impact: 10%

Project 2: Pre-production-Development Work: 10%

Project 2: Production Work: 10%

Project 2: Post-production and Exhibition Work 10%

Project 2: Participation, Attendance and Group Work: 10%

Project 2: Final Product Quality and Impact: 10%

Course Schedule and Assignment Deadlines

- Week 1**
1/14 Course Introduction and Schedule Review. Pre-production and Development: identifying stories and scripts. Project selection & crew assignment
Reading for Week 2: Rea & Irving, chapters 1, 2 & 6.
Assignment for Week 2: Script analyses: challenges, ideas, expectations.
- Week 2**
1/21 Review script analyses. Pre-production: Script Breakdowns, budgets and Pre-Viz.
Reading for Week 3: Rea & Irving, chapters 3, 4, 5, 8, & 11.
Assignment for Week 3: breakdowns, shooting script, and prelim design plans.
- Week 3**
1/28 Review breakdowns and design plans. Audition prep.
Pre-production: Casting, Locations & Production Design
Reading for Week 4: Rea & Irving, chapter 7, 9 & 13.
Assignment for Week 4: audition prep, director pre-viz, locations, revised design plans and tests, music/fx and art lists.
- Week 4**
2/4 Auditions & Casting. Pre-production: Scheduling, Releases & Auditions.
Reading for Week 5: Rea & Irving, chapters 10 & 12.
Assignment for Week 5: releases, scheduling, art procurement, title design, etc.
- Week 5**
2/11 Filmed rehearsals. Production Meetings. Prop/Wardrobe Review.
Production: Rehearsal and Set Protocol.
Reading for Week 6: Rea & Irving, chapters 14 & 15.
- Week 6**
2/18 Production: Principle Photography, Media Management, etc.
Reading for Week 7: Rea & Irving, chapter 16-19.
Assignment for Week 7: Selects, logs, media management, production stills.
- Week 7**
2/25 Review selects. Production post-mortem (group eval). Exhibition plan
Post: Pick-ups, sound design, color correction and rough-cut
Assignment for Week 8: Fine cut, DVD, & Exhibition plan.
- ***** *Spring Break* *******
- Week 8**
3/11 Review Fine-cuts and exhibition plan.
Project #2 review and crew assignments
Assignment for Week 9: Script analyses.
- Week 9**
3/18 Review fine-cuts. Review script analyses.
Pre-production: Script Breakdowns, budgets and Pre-Viz.
Assignment for Week 10: breakdowns, shot lists, design plans.
- Week 10**
3/25 Review breakdowns and design plans. Audition prep.
Pre-production: Casting, Locations & Production Design
Assignment for Week 11: sides, story-boards, location stills, design plan II.

Week 11 Auditions. Production Meetings.
4/1 Pre-production: Scheduling, Releases & Auditions.
Assignment for Week 12: cast list, shoot schedule, props and wardrobe.

Week 12 Filmed rehearsals. Production Meetings. Prop/Wardrobe Review.
4/8 Production: Rehearsal and Set Protocol.

Week 13 Production: Principle Photography, Media Management, etc.
4/15 Assignment for Week 14: Selects.

Week 14 Review selects. Production post-mortem (group eval). Exhibition plan
4/22 Post: Pick-ups, rough-cut, sound design, and color correction.
Assignment for Final Exam: Fine Cut, DVDs and Exhibition Plan

Final Exam Final Screening: review fine cuts and exhibition plan. Distribute DVDs.
4/29

*** Note: project 1's shooting period is 2/14-2/24. Please reserve the weekends of 2/15 and 2/22. Project 2's shooting period is 4/11-21. Please block out the weekend of 4/11.**

**** This syllabus and schedule are subject to revision as deemed necessary by the instructor. Any significant changes will be announced and posted to Blackboard.**

**Production Roles
Weekly Assignments**

Role	Project I	Project I	wk1:scripts	wk2:Script Analyses	wk3:pre-viz	wk4:pre-pro
Producer	Briar	Kevin	pick scripts	production challenges	budget & locations	locations,sched,breakdown2
AD	Nilson	Shauna	pick scripts		breakdown, cast call	audition prep
Director	Abriani	Amr	pick scripts	script interpretation	shooting script,sides	boards, shot lists, floor plan
Sound	Darcy	Matt G.	pick scripts	brainstorm/challenges	music & fx search	music/fx2, work-flow, tests
Editor	Mitchell	Filer	pick scripts	fx brainstorm/challenges	titles, fx search	tests, titles2
DP	Turley	Conner	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	look book	look book2, camera tests
Designer	Amanda	Morgan	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	look book	look book2, art lists
Art Drctr	Nilson	Shauna	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	look book	look book2, art lists
SwingG&E	Nilson	Shauna	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	Eqt. Review	camera tests, location skills

Role	Project I	Project I	wk5:procurement	wk6:shoot	wk7:post	wk8:finish
Producer	Briar	Kevin	schedule, releases	location & cast mang't	receipts, accounting	exhibition plan
AD	Nilson	Shauna	shooting sched,call sheet	AD & script sup	script notes	real budget
Director	Abriani	Amr	rehearsal plan	direct		edit feedback
Sound	Darcy	Matt G.	location scout, eqt. Res	audio	sound design	sound mix
Editor	Mitchell	Filer	credits	media mang't & DVD prep	rough-cut, selects	fine cut
DP	Turley	Conner	light plot/plan	operate & stills	eqt. Returns	supervise color correction
Designer	Amanda	Morgan	wardrobe/make-up tests	stylist	poster design	returns
Art Drctr	Nilson	Shauna	props, location scout	set dress & prop master	poster design	returns
SwingG&E	Nilson	Shauna	eqt. List/res	light & prod still	production skills	marketing skills

Note: each column lists the tasks to be completed by that week for each job (e.g. director must complete shooting script by week 3) This is not a definitive or complete list (i.e. tasks may be added/fleshed out). Please refer to the text and the instructor for more information and details on what's required to successfully complete each task.

**Production Roles
Weekly Assignments**

Role	Project II	Project II	wk1:scripts	wk9:Script Analyses	wk10:pre-viz	wk11:pre-pro
Producer	Turley	Morgan	pick scripts	production challenges	budget & locations	locations,sched,breakdown2
AD	Mitchell	Filer	pick scripts		breakdown, cast call	audition prep
Director	Nilson	Conner	pick scripts	script interpretation	shooting script,sides	boards, shot lists, floor plan
Sound	Briar	Amr	pick scripts	brainstorm/challenges	music & fx search	music/fx2, work-flow, tests
Editor	Darcy	Kevin	pick scripts	fx brainstorm/challenges	titles, fx search	tests, titles2
DP	Amanda	Matt G.	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	look book	look book2, camera tests
Designer	Abriani	Shauna	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	look book	look book2, art lists
Art Drctr	Mitchell	Filer	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	look book	look book2, art lists
SwingG&E	Mitchell	Filer	pick scripts	brainstorm challenges	Eqt. Review	camera tests, location skills

Role	Project II	Project II	wk12:procurement	wk13:shoot	wk14:post	wk15:finish
Producer	Turley	Morgan	schedule, releases	location & cast mang't	receipts, accounting	exhibition plan
AD	Filer	Filer	shooting sched,call sheet	AD & script sup	script notes	real budget
Director	Nilson	Conner	rehearsal plan	direct		edit feedback
Sound	Briar	Amr	location scout, eqt. Res	audio	sound design	sound mix
Editor	Darcy	Kevin	credits	media mang't & DVD prep	rough-cut, selects	fine cut
DP	Amanda	Matt G.	light plot/plan	operate & stills	eqt. Returns	supervise color correction
Designer	Abriani	Shauna	wardrobe/make-up tests	stylist	poster design	returns
Art Drctr	Mitchell	Filer	props, location scout	set dress & prop master	poster design	returns
SwingG&E	Mitchell	Filer	eqt. List/res	light & prod still	production stills	marketing stills

Note: each column lists the tasks to be completed by that week for each job (e.g. director must complete shooting script by week 10)