



SUMMER FILMMAKING BOOTCAMPS

CAREER CLUSTER: ARTS/AUDIO/VIDEO/FILM TECH & COMMUNICATIONS

LOCATION: EATONTOWN, NJ

LENGTH OF CLASS PERIOD: 3-6 HOURS / DAY

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS: STAND ALONE

CREDITS: 0

ARTICULATIONS: NONE

REVISION DATE: JUNE 2006

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: JUNE 2006

REVISED BY: NEAL BENNETT

Course Philosophy

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to industry standards of filmmaking. A solid foundation in the core concepts and principles of filmmaking will be stressed. Focusing on the importance of organization and experimentation within the filmmaking process will allow students to expand their creativity while giving them a solid foundation and a working knowledge of project management. This curriculum gives the students lessons that are currently applied in today's industry and will continue to apply even as the technology associated with filmmaking is upgraded. Technologies will change and progress through time, this curriculum will give students the tools they need to navigate the changes in the industry as they occur. This curriculum encompasses film studies through the pre-production to post-production process including writing, directing, shooting, editing, and hands-on-exercises geared towards industry production standards.

Methodology and Instruction

This course is designed to create a pre to post production experience for the filmmaking student. In addition to writing, shooting and directing short films, the student will explore various techniques using lighting, camera movements, continuity, lens choices, and composing for depth. The workflow from pre to post production for the filmmaking process is aided by camera equipment, grip gear, lighting and computer workstations. This will enable the student's freedom and creativity to develop the interpretive art of filmmaking.

A creative and educational environment will encourage the students to think creatively to solve problems, experiment with new ideas, learn from mistakes and develop a process that works with their style of filmmaking. Often there will be criticisms from a group or individuals that will be vital to the progression of a project. This constructive criticism is encouraged since filmmakers usually work as a team and need to keep an open line of communication for a successful project.

The nature of this filmmaking course requires direct instruction with the camera, lighting and grip equipment as well as instruction with planning, organizing and directing, but should also allow students the time to figure out answers to their own questions. These troubleshooting skills will be useful when adapting to future technologies and production situations.

Discussions about the industry and opinions from the students will aid in analyzing the world around them. The success of the student is measured not only by how well they can produce a film, but how well they can apply their skills learned in this class to academic and other real life situations.

Course Description and Materials

The summer filmmaking boot camp process will be explored in the conceptual process as well as the fundamental process of planning, executing and completing a production for final delivery. The students will concentrate on producing a single short film once a month as a production crew. Conducting various screen tests with locations, setups and actors, students will collaborate on a single project once a month. The following month will consist of creating a new short film while editing the previous short film. The conceptual process will focus on developing a story and creating a script from an original idea. The fundamentals of planning, executing and completing a production will utilize images, storyboards, scripts, budgets, contracts and schedules. The executing phase will consist of hands on production experiences using equipment and students as crew members. The completing phase will consist of editing, sound mixing, and distribution methods for independent filmmakers. The course consists of mainly hands-on filmmaking projects produced by a group of emerging filmmakers. Observation of industry standards and critique will be an integral part of this course.

Materials:

Digital Cameras (Canon, Sony and Panasonic)

Sync-Sound Audio Packages

Grip Gear

Lighting Packages

Apple Mac G5

Final Cut Pro and AVID

Course Goals

Students will:

1. Understand how to organize a film project.
2. Develop a screenplay for a short film.
3. Understand techniques used for filmmaking using only available light.
4. Understand techniques used for controlling artificial light to create depth.
5. Operate cameras, lighting and grip equipment.
6. Record and mix sound on location.
7. Build confidence in their directing decisions.
8. Developing and directing an actor's performance.
9. Understand the various non-technical elements involved in the Production phase.
10. Perform various tasks as required from a film crew.
11. Work as a production crew to produce a single project.
12. Analyze and discuss other films in the mainstream media.
13. Create a film using creative lighting and camera angles.
14. Develop professional work habits.
15. Understand contracts and the distribution process.

Evaluative Measures

The Filmmaking Technique student's performance can be assessed through use of the following:

1. Projects
2. Tests
3. Teacher observation
4. Discussions
5. Questions and answers
6. Student oral presentations
7. Following instructions
8. Evaluations
9. Portfolios

Course Proficiencies

Filmmaking students will:

1. Identify and apply the principals of filmmaking to their group's short film.
2. Develop project goals and assessments during production.
3. Create an original short film and storyboard.
4. Demonstrate organizational techniques used on a set during production.
5. Demonstrate an introductory level of knowledge with cameras, lights, grip and editing equipment.
6. Apply filters to lenses to create a desired effect in-camera.
7. Apply lighting techniques to create a mood for a scene.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of composing a shot.
9. Demonstrate understanding of camera movement.
10. Understand the logistical aspects of working with actors, crew and the public.
11. Identify terminology in the production process.
12. Understand timing in relation to directing and editing a scene.
13. Incorporate sound effects in post-production.
14. Produce an original short film with the appropriate materials.

Sequence and Integration of Topics

A. Summer Filmmaking Boot Camps

1. Producing
2. Screenwriting
3. Directing
4. Digital Cinematography
5. Sound Recording
6. Lighting
7. Editing
8. Distribution

Objectives: Upon completion of this unit the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of key elements involved with production
2. Develop a screenplay
3. Direct an actors performance
4. Understand and explain camera operation and functions
5. Identify proper sound levels for recording audio
6. Create a well lit scene with only available light or basic light kit
7. Understand the principles of capturing and editing video footage
8. Identify outlets for possible distribution

Suggested Activities

1. Write a screenplay for a short film
2. Breakdown the script for shooting
3. Identify key elements and locations required in the script
4. Schedule actors
5. Rehearsals
6. Shoot short film
7. Edit short film