

Syllabus:
ACM-310 Cinematic and Digital Narrative Production
SPRING 2011

Class Meets: Wednesday 0230-0630p, GRG 215
Credit Hours: 4 / Prerequisite: ACM 255 / Restriction: Major

Instructor: George Chun Han Wang

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Office Hours: Monday: 3:00 pm—4:15 pm
Wednesday: 12:30 pm—2:15 pm
Friday: 4:00 pm—6:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Cinematic & Narrative Digital Production is designed to introduce you to cinematic storytelling through your creation of DV (digital video) productions. A second focus will be narrative development and script preparation of a short screenplay. This class is designed to encourage an organic exploration of storytelling, to strengthen trust in your own ideas and instincts, and heighten your curiosity about human nature and the world at large. It is an opportunity to develop a clearer sense of what you as a media-maker wish to communicate and the skills necessary to express those ideas effectively.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To explore the creative process of defining one's voice as a filmmaker, in terms of both style and focus of content.
- To investigate the aesthetics and techniques of visual and aural communication and the creative possibilities of the filmic language.
- To understand more about writing, producing, directing, cinematography, editing, sound, and acting.
- To become responsibly aware of the cultural and personal values and criteria that exist in films and the relationship between filmmakers and society.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Academy for Creative Media embraces Student Learning Outcomes in the areas of Critical Thinking, Writing, History & Aesthetics, Professional Skills & Creativity, and Ethics & Responsibility.

ACM 310 will emphasize, and evaluate each student on Student Learning Outcomes in Professional Skills & Creativity. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Create a visual narrative through application of appropriate principles and production skills.

- Understand the essential collaborative nature of creative productions by working as a team member.

RECOMMENDED READING:

You are strongly encouraged to read some of the following recommended material. There are many approaches to the subject and by studying a variety you will appreciate the broad spectrum of knowledge that film and video-making encompasses.

- *Cinematic Motion (Film Directing; Shot by Shot)* by Stephen Katz (Michael Wiese Productions)
- *Cinematic Storytelling* by Jennifer Van Sijill (Michael Wiese Productions)

GRADING AND STUDENT EVALUATION:

Students will earn up to 100 points throughout the course:

POINTS	PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION
20 points	Assignment 1	Video Project (presentation, final edit)
20 points	Assignment 2	Writing Project (pitch, draft, final script)
30 points	Assignment 3	Final Project (preproduction presentation, first cut, final edit)
20 points	Exam	Mid Term Exam and/or Quizzes
10 points	Professionalism	Attendance

Grading scale:

A+	97-100 points	4.0
A	94-96	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	86-89	3.3
B	83-85	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	76-79	2.3
C	73-75	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	66-69	1.3
D	63-65	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **ATTENDANCE** is mandatory. Active class/group participation is expected.
 - **Tardiness/Early Leave** of more than **1/3** of daily class hours will result in the deduction of **0.5 point** from total points earned.

- **Tardiness/Early Leave** of more than $2/3$ of daily class hours will result in a **1 point** deduction.
 - **Unexcused Absence** will result in the deduction of **2 points**.
 - **Acknowledged Absence** may be granted but requires convincing reasons and supporting evidences for pre-approval. Each acknowledged absence will result in a **0.5 point** deduction.
 - **Excused Absence** (medical emergency, jury-summoned or military duty, bereavement): to avoid any grade deductions, supporting evidence must be presented before or immediately following the absence.
- **ASSIGNMENTS** submitted after due deadlines will have a grade penalty assessed and will be screened at the instructor's discretion.
 - Being on time is part of the craft of producing films and you are encouraged to work on your organization skills if you have trouble meeting deadlines.
 - If you have not completed your project on the due date, it is still better in terms of grading, that you show up for class without your project and participate in your peer's screenings and feedback, than to not show up at all.
 - No make-up exams/quizzes will be given, except for excused absence situations.
 - Personal entertainment and communication devices are to be turned off in class. Music listening, web-browsing, cell phone use, text-message, tweeting, social-networking & e-mail activities are prohibited in class, unless authorized by instructor under special circumstances. Violations will affect your "professionalism" grades.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

This course is taught in a regular classroom. You are required to provide your own Mac laptop & software according to the policy posted at <http://acm.hawaii.edu/computer/index.shtml>

The required software for this course is the current version of **Final Cut Studio** (Final Cut Pro and Soundtrack Pro).

The ACM curriculum is based on Macintosh hardware and software. Technical support and instruction for other platforms will not be provided.

Since the laptop and software is required, you can ask the Financial Aid office to include it in your "cost of attendance." Contact financial aid at <http://www.hawaii.edu/fas/>

You must supply your own External **FireWire drive** for media playback, storage and backup. USB Flash drives, thumb drives, iPods and many bus-powered "slim" portable drives, while okay for storage and backup purposes, are usually too slow for instant video playback and editing. Your FireWire drive should be 7200 rpm (unless it's SolidState). Considering the demanding speed and storage requirement for High Definition media, if your budget allows, it is recommended that your hard drive is at least 500GB and has multiple interface including both FireWire 400 and FireWire800.

You are responsible to provide your own gears (such as headphones, cables and power supplies). You're also required to provide your own media and/or archive materials such as CD-R, DVD-R and flash thumb drives.

(ACM-310) Cinematic and Digital Narrative Production
(Subject to revision during the semester)

Jan. 12

- Introduction and overview

Jan. 19

- Narrative Short Scriptwriting Workshop
- Class Project preproduction planning I

Jan. 26

- 2:30pm Camera Workshop (Studio B at KHET. Shoes required! Dress Warm!)

Feb. 2

- Cinematography
- Lighting Workshop
- Sound Recording Workshop
- Class Project preproduction planning II

Feb. 9

- **Deadline for Camera Certification**
- Class Project: Principal Photography

Feb. 16

- Sound Recording: Signal to Noise Ratio
- Picture Editing
- Sound Editing
- **Assignment 1 preproduction presentations**

Feb. 23

- DVD authoring
- Scriptwriting: formats and tips
- Class Project screening

Mar. 2

- Overview: Preproduction
- **Assignment 2: Pitch** your story ideas (for Final Project)

Mar. 9

- **Assignment 1 DUE** at beginning of class
- Screening of Assignment 1

Mar. 16

- **Assignment 2 draft DUE** at beginning of class
- **Midterm Exam**

Mar. 23

- SPRING BREAK (class will not meet)

Mar. 30

- **Assignment 2 final script DUE**
- **Assignment 3: Preproduction Presentations**

Apr. 6

- Production Meeting Workshop
- Directing & Mise en Scène

Apr. 13

- **Assignment 3** Principal Photography or Post-Production Week (class will not meet)

Apr. 20

- **Assignment 3 (first cut)**: screening
- Q&A: Assignment 3 Post Production Issues
- Sound Design

Apr. 27

- **Assignment 3 (final edit) DUE**
- Screening of Assignment 3

May 4

- Course review
- Festivals and Distribution
- **Final revised edit** dvds and mov files (or DV tapes) of ALL projects due

May 11

- FINAL EXAM WEEK (class will not meet)

FORMS TO SIGN:

Copyright Agreement Form

http://acm.hawaii.edu/studres/release_forms/acm_copyright.pdf

It is mandatory for students in this class to sign a copyright agreement form which secures copyright of projects made in class to ACM for distribution. However, students are free to submit to festivals, given clearance on their films, (see Gregg Ambrosius at the ACM Production Center). All materials with sensitive copyright issues such as music, archival footage and stills, will have to be cleared in order for the final project to be signed off by ACM for distribution. Projects with non-cleared items will be required to have "Not for Broadcast" stamped throughout the whole of the project and can not be screened or distributed publicly.

Assumption of Risk and Release

http://www2.hawaii.edu/~wangch/courses/Enroll/ACM_risk.pdf

Access Policy and Procedures (ACM Media Center)

http://www2.hawaii.edu/~wangch/courses/Enroll/acm_access_policy.pdf

Student Project Form (Project Completion Form)

http://acm.hawaii.edu/studres/release_forms/acm_project_completion_form.pdf

Release Forms and more - visit ACM Media Center website:

<http://acm.hawaii.edu/studres/releases.shtml>

Copyright Guidelines:

Some assignment/practice materials are provided and/or used only for the purpose of education and learning during this particular course. Do not use course materials and completed assignment for any other purposes, whether personal, for-profit or non-profit. None of the course materials/completed assignment may be included in any personal reels or competition/festival submissions. Absolutely no uploading, showcasing, podcasting, file exchange of any of the course materials via the internet, radio, broadcast or any form of public distribution. Sharing of the raw or edited course material to any person not enrolled in this course is prohibited. Any violation will result in severe grade reduction. For Copyright and Fair Use guidelines, visit: <http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/copyright/fairuse.htm> .

For ACM Copyright Policies, visit: www.hawaii.edu/acm/studres/releases.shtml

Privacy Guidelines:

To provide the class an opportunity to offer non-biased open critiques during the screenings of your works, and to provide anonymity for privacy protection, for certain assignments, exams and/or quizzes, you are required to use an alias (nickname) that will not easily suggest or reveal your real identity. The instructor may provide further guidelines in assigning your alias, but in principal, your alias must be appropriate and not offend anyone in the class. It is your responsibility not to discuss and/or reveal your alias to anybody in any way. If your alias is somehow revealed, you may contact the instructor any time during the semester to change your alias.

KOKUA:

If you have a documented disability that may require accommodation, please inform the instructor privately before the end of the 2nd class session, or the instructor may not have time to make adjustments in the course to accommodate. The instructor would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in the course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Policy on Incompletes:

Under rare circumstances will the instructor assign an incomplete. You will have to meet ALL of the following conditions:

- You have completed the bulk (70% plus) of course assignments.
- You have completed the mid-term exam and all quizzes.
- You are passing the class.

The instructor can make no exceptions to this policy even if it affects your financial aid. Only if you have emergency and/or long term life altering situations will your request be considered.