Syllabus: ACM-372: Editing

FALL 2009

Class Meets: Thursday 1:30–4:15pm, WEB 113
Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: ACM 310 or ACM 316. Restricted to Majors

Instructor: George Chun Han Wang
Phone: 956-0753
Email: wangch@hawaii.edu
Office: 2350 Dole St. #215 (KHET/PBS building)
Office Hours: Monday: 12:30 pm—2:15 pm
Thursday: 4:30 pm—6:00 pm
Friday: 12:30 pm—2:15 pm

Course Description:

A comprehensive course examining the theory, procedures, and practices of motion picture editing. Students edit dramatic scenes to learn the tools and techniques of the editor’s craft. The language of cinematic montage and issues of continuity, movement, sound and effects are studied as they relate to the essentials of visual story telling.

Course Objectives:

• To appreciate editing as creative element for storytelling in motion pictures
• To understand procedures, techniques, and standard practices in motion picture editing
• To acquire practical knowledge and hands-on experience of motion picture editing and post production workflow

Academy For Creative Media Student Learning Objectives:

ACM stresses the interdisciplinary nature of media production and study within an Arts & Sciences foundation that reflects the development of academic, technical, creative and critical thinking skills. All ACM courses reflect a combination of our Student Learning Objectives across the curriculum. They include: Critical Thinking, Writing, History & Aesthetics, Professional Skills, Creativity, Responsibility and Student-Centered Learning.

This course will emphasize the skills of Critical Thinking, History & Aesthetics, Professional Skills, Creativity, Responsibility and Student-Centered Learning through lectures, discussions, in-class exercises, assigned projects, and tests.
Textbooks, required readings:

Although there are NO Required Texts for this class, these readings are recommended:
- *On Film Editing* by Edward Dmytryk
- *In The Blink of An Eye* by Walter Murch
- *Apple Pro Training Series: Final Cut Pro 7* by Diana Weynand

Grading and Student Evaluation:

Students will earn up to 100 points throughout the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>Creative Editing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>Narrative Editing: A</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>Narrative Editing: B</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
<td>Portfolio DVD</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam and/or Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>Attendance, Participation</td>
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Grading scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-96</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-85</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>66-69</td>
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Grade Inquiries:
Email the instructor any time during the semester to inquire about your existing/available grades. Please specify your name, course/section, and student ID number for verification purposes.
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 receive 2-point deduction.
- 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, texting, tweeting, social-networking & e-mail activities are prohibited in class, unless authorized by instructor under special circumstances. Violations will affect your “professionalism” grades.

Hardware Requirements
This course is taught in a regular classroom. Students are responsible to provide/bring their own MacBook Pro laptops with Final Cut Studio (versions 2 or above) installed. Please refer to the ACM Required Hardware and Software for majors, listed on ACM website (http://acm.hawaii.edu/computer/index.shtml).

Also recommended is a dedicated External FireWire drive for media playback, storage and backup. The drive should be 7200 rpm with at least 200 gigabites of storage capability. It must have the FireWire 800 (6-pin) interface to be compatible with the aluminum unibody MacBook Pros. (Considering the demanding speed and storage requirement for High Definition media, if your budget allows, it is recommended that the FireWire drive is at least 500GB, and requires AC power converter and power cable. Bus-powered “slim” drives and/or iPods, while portable and convenient, are mostly for storage and backup. They can be too slow for instant video playback and real-time editing.

You must also bring your own set of headphones to each class session. You’re also required to provide your own media for presentations, projects and archival purposes, such as Mini DV tapes, CD-R, DVD-R and flash thumb drives.

Course Website: http://www2.hawaii.edu/~wangch/
Students are required to check the teaching website regularly (at least the night before each class meeting) for updates and announcements.
Weekly Schedule: (subject to revision)

Week 01 (08/27)
• Intro to course requirements and general overview
• Final Cut Pro Topics:
  o Setting Scratch Disk
  o Import Audio Files
  o Reconnect Off-Line Media
  o Basic Editing

Week 02 (09/03)
• Creative Editing Topics:
  o Marking on the Fly
  o Jump Cuts
  o Flash Frames
  o Transitions
  o Speed Modifications
  o Sepia, Black & White
  o Creating Basic Titles
• Assignment 1 media/rules available

Week 03 (09/10)
• History of Motion Pictures Editing
• DVD Workshops (bring your own blank DVD-Rs to class)
  o Creating DVD Menu & Sub-menus.
  o Authoring & Programming using DVD Studio Pro.

Week 04 (9/17)
• Keyframe animation: Titles & Credits
• Motion:
  o Text Animation, Live Fonts
  o Lower Thirds
  o Slates & Countdown Sequences
• Theory:
  o Rule of Thirds
  o 180 Degree Rule/Line Crossing

Week 05 (09/24)
• Assignment 1 DUE at beginning of class
• Screening of Assignment 1
• Final Cut Pro Topics (if schedule allows):
  o Log and Capture/Transfer Media:
  o Batch Capture
  o Device Control
  o Print to Video:
    ▪ Color Bars and Tone
Week 06 (10/01)

- Montage Theory:
  - Dmytryk’s Rules 1 to 3
  - Use of Close-Ups and Distractions
- Final Cut Pro Topics:
  - Audio Splits (J/L-Cuts)
  - Slip and Slide
  - Ripple and Roll
  - Roomtone and Wild Sound
- **Assignment 2** media/rules available

Week 07 (10/08)

- Editing Lab Time: Assignment 2 in class (bring your laptops)

Week 08 (10/15)

- Montage Theory:
  - Dmytryk’s Rules 4 to 7
  - POV, Reactions and Empty Frames
- Final Cut Pro Topics:
  - Adding Sound Effects
  - Adjusting Audio Levels
  - Applying Audio Filters
  - Pen Tool and Key Frames

Week 09 (10/22)

- Final Cut Pro topics:
  - Subclips
  - Storyboard Editing
  - Swapping Clips
- Montage Theory
  - Kuleshov Effect
  - Eisenstein’s *Odessa Steps* Sequence
- Final Cut Pro topics:
  - Media Management

Week 10 (10/29)

- **Assignment 2 DUE** at beginning of class
- Screening of Assignment 2
- **Assignment 3** rules available.
- **Midterm Exam**

Week 11 (11/05)

- Theory:
  - Additive Color
  - Subtractive Color
• **Final Cut Pro Topics:**
  o **Color Correction Basics:**
    ▪ Waveform monitor and Vector Scope
    ▪ Contrast & Hue
  o **Color Correction Advanced:**
    ▪ Match Color with FCP Color Corrector
    ▪ Limit Effects: Color Isolation

**Week 12 (11/12)**
- **Assignment 3 DUE** at beginning of class
- Screening of **Assignment 3**
- **Assignment 4** rules available

**Week 13 (11/19)**
- **Final Cut Pro Topics:**
  o User Preferences, Sequence Preset, Autosave Vault
  o Solo / Nesting Selected Items
  o Compositing
    ▪ Chroma Key
    ▪ Color Key
    ▪ Effects: Mask Shape, Image Masks, Garbage Matte, Lens Flare & Line Arts
  o Compressor
    ▪ Media Compression Process

**Week 14 (11/26): Thanksgiving** (class will not meet)

**Week 15 (12/03)**
- Advanced DVD Studio Pro workshop
- Special Topic: Motion (only if time allows)
  o Behaviors, Filters, Particles
  o Stabilizer, Motion Tracker,
  o 3D Space, Motion Path*
- Special Topic: COLOR (only if time allows)
  o Primary, Secondary, Color FX, Vignettes

**Week 16 (12/10): Last Day of Instruction**
- **Assignment 4 DUE** at beginning of class
- Viewing Assignment 4.
- Course Review

**Week 17 (12/17): Final Exams Week (class will not meet)**
Copyright Guidelines:
All assignment materials are provided and 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 3rd 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.
• 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.