

BFA Filmmaking Course Descriptions

Introduction to Film Production I [07:211:191]

Through a series of film and sound exercises this introductory course puts basic film theory, language and dramatic structure for the screen into action. During the course students will study formal devices such as camera framing, lighting, sound, dialogue and editing choices.

Introduction to Film Production II [07:211:192]

In this course students will continue learning the basics of film language through a series of short film exercises. Each exercise will explore a specific genre, approach, or formal device. Using specific feedback exercises, students will learn to engage critically in each other's work.

Intermediate Film Production I [07:211:291]

In this course students will work in groups of four to produce, direct and edit three 3-5 minute exercises. Each exercise will be guided by a formal restriction. Through lectures, readings and screenings, students will engage in discussions regarding various formal approaches to cinema. The last exercise will be a free project film.

Intermediate Film Production II [07:211:392]

Students will work in groups of four to produce, direct and edit three 4-7 minute exercises. Each exercise will be guided by a thematic restriction. Students will learn to work in groups, and share the responsibilities in the filmmaking process. The last exercise will be a free project film.

Sound [07:211:111]

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of producing audio for the moving image. It explores emerging techniques and strategies of sonic practice while also emphasizing underlying principles that have defined the field for the past century. Students will learn the essentials of recording audio in the field, editing, mixing and sound design, with special emphasis on acquiring critical listening skills. Students produce a series of short skill-acquisition projects culminating with an ambitious final project.

Cinematography [07:211:120]

In this class students will work with digital cameras to learn composition, lighting, lenses and filters. Students will study the language of film with a focus on visual storytelling. Students will become proficient in technical aspects of shooting digital cinema, both for documentary and narrative scenarios.

Screenwriting (Short Film) [07:211:205]

This introductory screenwriting course allows students to use video technology to enhance the development of their short film 12-16 page screenplays that they will finish at the end of the semester. In this course, students will learn cinematic dramatic structure, the importance of character development and how to write dialogue.

Advanced Directing I [07:211:391]

This advanced course is designed to enable students to produce from conception to completion a 5-10 minute short fiction film. This course will give students hands-on experience as a director as they work to finish a short film through pre-production, production, and post-production.

Advanced Directing II [07:211:302]

In this advanced course, students will produce, direct and edit a short documentary film 7 -10 minutes long. The class will consist of continuous feedback sessions throughout the development of each student's script, rough cut, and final cut.

Image Post Production [07:211:300]

This course provides training in a wide array of post-production processes necessary for the final shaping of student digital films. Students will learn techniques to expand and compress time for narrative purposes, and how to create compelling sound tracks mixing dialogue, music, sound effects and production sound.

Senior Thesis I & II [07:211:491, 492]

This two semester culminating course provides the framework and opportunity for students to integrate three years' worth of filmmaking training in the RCDF program by producing, directing and editing a substantial (8-12 minutes) short film. Integral to this process, the students work one-on-one with a faculty member who will help guide the development of the project.

FILM ELECTIVES**Advanced Cinematography [07:211:220]**

Advanced Cinematography is an intensive hands-on production experience, intended to serve as a venue through which students will expand upon the skills they have acquired through Cinematography.

Advanced Sound [07:211:211]

This advanced audio course explores creative production and post-production techniques for sound design. Students work with Pro Tools digital audio workstations and field recorders to produce a range of short projects geared around a set of unique design challenges. By the end of the term, students will be confident mixing and designing sound for film in both stereo and surround environments.

Digital Field Production [07:211:212]

In this dynamic new course, the emphasis is placed on group field production and the individual responsibilities of a producer, director, cinematographer, lighting and sound technician in all stages of digital film production. Students will learn how to prepare for shoots collaboratively and how to produce assignments of high quality with limited resources.

Animation 2D [07:211:230]

This course introduces the basic terminology, concepts, and principles of 2D animation intended to illustrate or reinforce narrative concepts. This course covers three distinct techniques within 2D animation: animating for the web, stop motion animation, and 2D vector-based animation. While focusing on technical aspects of 2D animation, this course takes into consideration the historical perspective, current technologies, and applications of animation within documentary and fiction film.

Animation 3D [07:211:330]

This course introduces the basic terminology, concepts, and principles of 3D animation. It is designed to remove the complexities of modern digital 3D development tools by examining each segment individually and reinforcing it with in-class workshops and weekly assignments.

Web Series Filmmaking [07:211:306]

This course gives students hands-on experience as a producer, writer, director and editor of their own web-based serialized narrative. Students will learn how to conceptualize and structure a web series. By the end of the semester students will complete two episodes and gain confidence in multi-media expression by creating their own internet-based narrative series that can be viewed by the public.

Experimental Film [07:211:337]

This course is a production course based on an overview of key works and ideas that have informed "avant-garde" and "experimental" film, from their beginnings in the early years of cinema through the present day. While emphasis is placed on non-narrative works, which generally stress nonlinear and/or abstract expression via form, color, and

movement, the course also considers narrative and documentary films that utilize experimental form to challenge, question and problematize traditional kinds of cinematic storytelling. Students will produce three short film exercises and a cinematic journal.

Short Film Repurposed [07:211:300]

This is an intensive post-production course where students will explore the possibilities of moving images from multiple artistic and conceptual perspectives. The course will engage with the tradition of science documentary filmmaking, as well as with found footage/appropriated filmmaking. In the first part of the course students will complete short documentary films under the direction of a scientist from the School of Environmental and Biological sciences. For the second part, using the raw footage of their science short films, students have to make another film that is conceptually and artistically different. Students will be exposed to found/appropriated footage filmmaking and be expected to produce innovative and critical works from the images and obstructions presented in this course.

Screenwriting: Feature Films I & II [07:211:207]

In this advanced screenwriting course students will focus on writing one feature screenplay. Through a series of exercises students will be guided in the arts of character development, story arc, narrative progression, film structure and visual writing.

Horror Filmmaking

This production course is a deep consideration of horror as both subject and cinematic/artistic form. Horror has been dismissed for its "crude" aesthetics; criticized for the pleasures it takes in violence, misogyny, racism, escapism, etc; lauded as a potential vehicle for subversion and critique. Class viewings will include a wide array of narrative fiction ('canonical', Hollywood, B-movies, cult films, arthouse, foreign, etc.), experimental films, and documentary, as well as works of video art, performance, photography, and radio. Class readings draw from film studies, cultural studies, psychoanalysis, and fiction. Utilizing an interdisciplinary approach to filmmaking, students will produce one non-filmic work (audio, performance, or creative writing), a non-narrative "horror" short film, and one final film.

Sensory Ethnography

This course introduces students to the concept of ethnography from a filmmaker's standpoint. Students will produce a 5-minute film that falls under the tradition of sensory ethnographic film. The aim is for students to engage with

innovative combinations of aesthetics and ethnography.

Acting and Directing

This course focuses on the relationship between director and actor. Through various in-class exercises, film students will direct and act short scenes in front of their peers. Students will become familiar with various directing techniques to help them shape their actors' performances.

Writing for Alternative Cinema

In this course students will engage in the art of experimental screenwriting. Through a series of screenings and lectures students will become familiar with strategies filmmakers have developed over the course of film history in order to produce formally and thematically personal screenplays. Students will produce and alternative screenplay for a 5-10 minute short film.

Essay Filmmaking

Through lectures, in-class discussions and feedback sessions, students will develop a deep understanding of the essay film, its history, and the possibilities for its future practice. Students will produce two 4-7 minute essay film exercises.