BFA: Digital Filmmaking
Film Elective Course Descriptions

ALL FILM COURSES REQUIRE AN SP# FOR NON BFA STUDENTS, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT WE MUST ALLOW OUR 211 STUDENTS TO REGISTER FIRST BEFORE ANY SP#'S ARE HANDED OUT.

Cinematography [07:211:120] - OPEN TO NON BFA STUDENTS IN FALL SEMESTERS ONLY! – VERY LIMITED ROOM IN SPRING SEMESTERS
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) or Script to Screen [07:211:205] – OPEN TO NON BFA STUDENTS IN SPRING SEMESTERS ONLY!
This introductory screenwriting course allows students to use video technology to enhance the development of their short film 18-22 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 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.

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 [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.

Sensory Ethnography [07:211:345]
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 [07:211:317]
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 [07:211:315]**
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 [07:211:215]**
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.