Beginning Filmmaking is a “hands on” class where small groups of students use DSLR cameras and their imagination to make four short films.

This class is forty minutes of lecture or demonstration and two hours of group-work each class day writing, directing, acting, crewing, operating cameras, editing, and releasing the final product...your assigned film.

The skill levels of students in this class vary greatly.

Some students have been making films since childhood.

Some students have only a passing interest in the study of films.

Some of you are simply taking an elective to round out your college career.

ALL OF YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Collaboration: Getting along with each other.

Deadlines: Turn it in when it’s due.

Respect: Respect yourself, fellow students, and me.
The objectives of this class are:

1. To tell stories with images and sound.
2. To understand how to shoot those images and manipulate your audience’s emotions through editing techniques.
3. To possibly find you a life-long career in film.
4. To learn to collaborate.

Students will work in groups.

Working in this manner, the student will experience the multiple jobs of film production and develop their skills of working with people.

**Four video production projects will be assigned: Each film project is worth 10% of your grade.**

1. **Art Film**
   This is an opportunity to shoot the “subconscious” of the members of your film group while learning about cameras, images, and collaboration.

2. **Documentary**
   This is about real people doing real things to make the world a better (or sometimes worse) place. Pick a project that you believe in...informing the uninformed, raising awareness to the problem and taking a stand for or against.

3. **A Narrative Short Film**
   A person with a problem and how he/she solves it.

4. **Free Choice**
   You and your group can make the kind of film you choose

Through these student productions and through lectures and film screenings the students will learn basic production skills, be informed about professional techniques, have a basic knowledge of the job market, and learn a short history of the film profession.

**Time: 2:00 – 4:40 pm Monday/Wednesday.** Students are expected to attend all classes and work with their groups in both pre-production and post-production activities **in and out of class time.**
Class Attendance: Absences will be recorded. Three un-excused absences will lower a student’s grade one letter. Four un-excused absences can result in a failing grade. A late class arrival of over fifteen minutes will be regarded as an absence. Leaving class early is also regarded as an absence.

Grades: Grades are based on:

1. Attendance (10% of your grade subject to the above University policy regarding absences).
2. Test Scores 20% of your grade).
3. Participation in class and group projects is 20%.
4. Completion of projects and meeting of deadlines is 10%.
5. Art Film is 10%.
6. Documentary is 10%.
7. Narrative Film is 10%.
8. Free Choice is 10%.

You can have a perfect score on the test and still not make an A in this class if you do not show up and work on your assigned group film projects in a professional and courteous manner.

Cell phones are to be turned off during class unless during an emergency with permission of the instructor.

The School of Art’s Desired Learning Outcomes:

Program – STUDIO ART BA AND BFA PLO’s

1. Undergraduate students will demonstrate proficiency in studio foundation skills as they relate to the elements and principles of design.
2. Undergraduate students will exhibit a high level of proficiency in the use of materials, techniques, and media.
3. Undergraduate students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary art issues through exploration of synthesis of content, problem solving, and creativity.
4. Undergraduate students will define and state knowledge of Art Historical precedents.

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S.F.A. Class Attendance and Excused Absence Policies

Class Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Attendance policies shall be stated in the syllabus. For those classes where attendance is a factor in the course grade, an accurate record of attendance shall be maintained. Regardless of attendance, the student is responsible for course content and assignments.

Excused Absences: Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Students are responsible for providing satisfactory documentation in a timely manner to the instructor for each absence. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for a maximum of three weeks’ worth of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence in accordance with the course syllabus. In the case of absences caused by participation in university-sponsored events, announcement via my SFA will constitute official notification. Faculty members sponsoring activities that require their students to be absent from other classes must submit to the provost and vice president for academic affairs an explanation of the absence, including the date, time and an alphabetical listing of all attending students. If approved by the provost and vice president for academic affairs, this information will be posted on my SFA.

S.F.A. Academic Integrity Policy

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: 1. Using or attempting to use
unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class: 2. Falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or: 3. Helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: 1. Submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another: 2. Submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source: 3. Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

Procedure for Addressing Student Academic Dishonesty: A faculty member who has evidence and/or suspects that academic dishonesty has occurred shall gather all pertinent information, approach the student(s) involved, and initiate the following procedure: 1. The faculty member shall review all evidence of cheating or plagiarism and discuss it directly with the student(s) involved. The faculty member shall inform the student(s) of the procedure for addressing academic dishonesty, as well as the appeals process: 2. After hearing the student(s)’ explanation or defense, the faculty member will determine whether or not academic dishonesty has occurred and will inform the student(s) what action will be taken. Penalties may include reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, or failure of the course. The faculty member may consult with the academic unit chair/director and dean in making these decisions: 3. After a determination of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall notify the office of the dean of the student’s major by submitting a Report of Academic Dishonesty, along with supporting documentation as noted on the form. This report shall be made part of the student’s record and shall remain on file with the dean’s office for at least four years: 4. Upon second or subsequent offenses, the dean of the student’s major will determine a course of action, which may include dismissal from the university. The dean may refer the case to the college council for review and recommendations before making this determination. A student’s record of academic dishonesty will not be available to faculty members. The purpose of the record is for the dean to track a pattern of academic dishonesty during a student’s academic career at Stephen F. Austin State University. Students who are found to have demonstrated academic dishonesty and have withdrawn prior to the award of a grade will continue to have the determination of the infraction within their student records.

Student Appeals: A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic integrity should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals of Students (A-2). To see the complete policy go to: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

S.F.A. Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in
future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**S.F.A. Policy for Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 1 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to: http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices

Safety: Filmmaking is a profession where people have been injured and killed; therefore, safety is an issue that must be addressed. Film students must always be aware of the dangers of the equipment being used and the inherent dangers of some locations. Anything for the shot must not be accepted! The uses of real firearms, explosives, fire bombs, or electrical tie-ins are prohibited and will result in a failing grade and explosion from the film program. * the use of toy guns or prop guns may be used, but must be stored and used off-campus. When using toy guns or prop guns, the people who live in that location must be informed and if the shooting is done in a public area, the authorities must also be informed. All stunts including those using vehicles must be presented by the students to their teacher and approved prior to being performed.

* When shooting a summer feature with professional support, this ruling may be rescinded.