ART 4352-621
Advanced Filmmaking
Fall 2021

Class: Tuesday-Thursday 8:00am –10:40am, 318 E Starr Ave (Film Bldg.)
Instructor: Sherwood Jones, (Sherwood1138@gmail.com)
Phone: (818) 694-0448
Office Hours: M 3-5pm; TWTh 10:30am-12:30pm, Also meetings can be scheduled by appointment in person or zoom, Room 208, Film Bldg.

Course Description: Advanced Filmmaking is a repeatable class where advanced creative and technical production techniques and storytelling are taught. The course will also cover basic film business, distribution, and the latest technologies.

Required Software/Hardware: External Hard drive, 500GB(minimum), 7200rpm, USB 3.0 or USB-C or Thunderbolt. Editing computers are available for student use, but if desired, students may have editing software on their home computers, such as Adobe Premiere Pro, Da Vinci Resolve, Avid Media Composer, or Apple Final Cut Pro, as long as their computer can run the software smoothly.

Grades: Grades are determined on the following breakdown:

Individual Film Project: 50%
Midterm exam & final: 25%
Bi-weekly quizzes: 25%

In addition to the breakdown illustrated above, the number of times a student has taken the class, as well as the student's professional growth shown through his or her films is considered when formulating a student's final grades.

Failure of the student to deliver a final version of their Individual Film Project on the allotted due date (per the calendar) will result in a failing grade.

Class attendance: Attendance/participation in this class is mandatory and will be recorded. Three (3) absences will result in a student's final grade lowered by one letter grade.

Class Periods: Filmmaking is a time-consuming major. In addition to the class periods reflected above, the student should also be prepared to spend between 10-20 hours a week outside of class participating in the preparation, production, and post-production of film projects - theirs, as well as those of their fellow students.
Projects: All 4352 A-level students (i.e. students who are taking this class for the first time) will write, direct, and a short film. The short film should be a minimum of 8 minutes in length, including credits, but can be as long as necessary. If taking this course for a second time, and the student has a specific specialization other than directing that he/she wants to pursue, the student has the option to – rather than directing one film – serve in the chosen specialization on two other films made by students in the class.

Students can work in groups or by themselves, but each student is responsible for writing, directing, and editing their own film project. In a group situation, scheduling is vital. If the group decides to shoot one film first, then another afterwards, etc., it is vital that the first film does not go over schedule and hurt the schedule of the subsequent films.

Throughout the semester, the student will show various iterations of their short film for instructor (and in some cases) class member critique. This consists of the following:

**SCREENPLAY.** Regardless of when your film is scheduled to shoot, the script needs to be submitted in proper screenplay format to the instructor. ALL SCRIPTS ARE DUE THE WEEK OF SEPT 13. Shooting can begin prior to that time, and if so, it's recommended to submit the script prior to the start of shooting.

**SAMPLE DAILIES.** Each project must show at least one scene worth of unedited dailies in class. This should be a scene that has at least four camera setups. Sound must be already sunk up for these unless the film contains no sync sound. This screening can happen at any time BUT MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8.

**ROUGH CUT** of film. The rough cut is just that – a rough, edited compiling of the film story as scripted that includes all the scenes shot with synced sound. Suggestions will be made by the instructor and fellow students pertaining to the editing and if additional scenes or reshoots need to take place. Student should take note of the suggestions offered and apply them where they feel necessary.

**LOCKED CUT** of the film. This is the proposed final edit. Suggestions are made for possible trims or sound design, but the object is to have a true PICTURE LOCK, with no additional scenes shot, added, or removed. Picture editing is done, and it's off to sound editing, mixing, and color.

**FINISHED FILM.** The finished product will be submitted to the instructor by the week of November 29 at the latest; however, completed films can be presented to the class earlier if the films are completed earlier.

**BINDER:** In addition to the film, the student must also turn in a film production binder/folder containing the following items: script breakdown, camera log, location release, actor releases, and, where applicable, music releases and artwork releases. Sound reports, shot lists, and script supervisor paperwork are not required. The binder is on or before the date you present your final film.
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Film projects must be either a narrative short film (live action, animation, experimental) or a documentary short. Music videos and film trailers will not be accepted. No constraint will be given to the crew members chosen (i.e. they DO NOT have to come from within this class), but it’s recommended that they do.

STUDENTS MUST SHOOT THEIR PROJECTS USING THE BLACKMAGIC CAMERAS. No phones or DSLRs unless used as a second camera or for special purposes. The use of light meters is encouraged.

Audio students from the Sound Recording Technology - as opposed to being responsible for a film of their own - will participate in the on-set recording and post-production mix of no less than two short films made by students in this class.

Exams/Quizzes:

Two exams (one exams & a comprehensive final) will be given. In addition, brief in-class quizzes will be given approximately bi-weekly. As a refresher, most of these questions will be on the midterm and final.

Safety:

Filmmaking can be a dangerous profession. On set injuries and, in some cases, death has occurred due to negligence and ignorance of basic safety protocol. Students should be aware of the dangers of the equipment being used and take steps to protect themselves and their cast and crew. The use of real firearms, explosives, fireworks, and electrical tie-ins are strictly prohibited and will result in a failing grade for this class and expulsion from the film program. The use of prop/toy guns may be used, but they must be stored and used off campus. If you’re using the prop gun in a public area the local authorities must be informed. All stunts including, but not limited to, vehicle stunts, fight scenes, and drug use must be presented to the instructor for approval prior to the stunt being performed. In some cases, the University safety officer may need to be present during the scene to ensure cast and crew safety.

COVID 19 PROTOCOLS

Masks (cloth face coverings) are not required but are accepted if the student is more comfortable wearing one. Please avoid coming to class if you are showing distinct symptoms of the virus, and please let the instructor know of any symptoms.

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. 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 mySFA.

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, and: 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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp).

**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/disabilityservicesSpring2020](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservicesSpring2020).

**Desired Learning Outcomes:**
1. Students are expected to learn proficiency in filming techniques and film/video terms.
2. Student will produce a short video and will learn pre-production, production and post-production techniques.
3. Students will learn about the latest industry practices in shooting, postproduction, film business, and film distribution.
4. Students will learn to work in a professional manner as a crew member for other students.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. Students through short films will demonstrate their proficiency in shooting and editing.
2. Students through class lectures and presentations will learn current industry trends.
3. Student will be able to collaborate with fellow students with a minimum amount of friction.
4. Students through will learn professional work habits and the film/video language.
SCHOOL OF ART ART 4352 Advanced Filmmaking, Fall 2021 FILM/VIDEO EQUIPMENT POLICIES:

All equipment issued to students will be checked-out by the graduate assistant assigned to the check-out room. There are no exceptions to this rule. Check-out times and procedures will be posted. Equipment when checked-out will be entered in the equipment room’s computer. All cinematography equipment, with the exception of light tripods, HMIs, the jib-arm, c-stands and light stands, will be checked out in cases. The 2500 HMI, 4K HMI, 9 Light, Tulip Crane and the senior light fixture can be checked-out only through special permission. The School of Art will do its utmost to see that all equipment is in good working condition, but it is advised that students checking-out equipment, inspect their equipment. When a student completes the checkout process, they testify that they have the equipment, they have inspected the equipment, and that it is in complete and/or working condition. The cost to replace or repair lost, broken or damaged equipment (including lamps) will be charged to the student to whom the equipment was issued. Notification of broken or damaged equipment will be made in the presence of the student at the time the equipment is returned or within 48 hours. The cost will be made by a cinematographic teacher. In regard to the Blackmagic URSA and the corresponding Rokinon cinema lenses – student agrees that if any of the lenses and/or cameras are lost, stolen, or damage while in the student’s possession, they are fully responsible for the replacement of the equipment. Issued equipment will be returned on the date specified on the checkout form. A student who has not returned a camera, sound kit or HMI fixture on the due date will be fined five (5) dollars per day per unit. Grip, gaff, electric or supporting equipment not returned on the due date will be fined one (1) dollar per day per unit. Failure to pay a fine will result in a hold on the student’s transcript and will prevent that student from future S.F.A. registration or graduation. When a student is issued equipment, they are responsible for that equipment until it has been returned to the School’s equipment room. Lending equipment to another student or film group does not change that responsibility. There are no exceptions to this rule.

STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE Fall 2021: _______________________________ (print name) hereby proclaim by my signature that I have read and understand the Film/Video Equipment Policies and agree to all terms outlined including the late per day fines and the replacement/repair assessment fines that could be assessed to me. I understand that failure to pay a fine or replacement/repair assessment will result in a hold on my transcript and will prevent me from future S.F.A. registration or graduation.

Signature: ___________________ Student ID #: ___________________ Date: ___________________