The objective of the graduate program in Filmmaking at Stephen F. Austin State University is to teach students to be professional Filmmakers or Cinematographers, Screenwriters or Production Designers. Filmmaking is a difficult field and extremely competitive. The course of study will push a graduate student hard, require them to take 12 credit hours of ART 5352 where they will learn production procedures, and complete three short films, 12 credit hours of graduate art history classes, 12 credit hours, of graduate interdisciplinary classes, 12 credit hours of Summer feature, 6 credit hours of graduate Art studio and 6 credit hours of thesis (ART 5396). The MFA course of study will take a minimal of three years and is a terminal degree equivalent to a Doctor’s degree. By making the MFA degree comprehensive and strenuous it is the goal of Stephen F. Austin University State University to create alumni who are professional.

Recommended Book:  Set Lighting Technician’s Handbook  Harry C. Box  Focal Press

This book is a book that many of the lectures come from and is also a filmmaker’s reference book. It can be bought from: Amazon.com, Ebay.com or alibris.com. Older editions are fine, but the third edition is recommended since the enclosed lecture page numbers match this edition. The used book price for this edition should be anywhere from $5 to $15.

Class:  All graduate film students are required to take ART 5352 for four semesters. If a student’s emphasis is filmmaking they are required to make three short films, if at the complication of their third film their work is not at the standard to move on they will make a fourth film. If a student’s emphasis, while taking 5352, is Art Direction, or Screenwriting or Cinematography, they will work with filmmakers working on their short films. Failure to complete a short film or to work on them will result in a “C” or a failing grade for that semester. Student enrolled as an Art Director, Screenwriter or Cinematographer must declare that specialty no later than the end of their first semester. All completed films must have no copyright infringements. Scripts for a film may be written by another person but the graduate student using that script must have the writer’s written release.

ART 5352 students will meet Monday 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Monday class will consist of advance lectures and testing on film techniques. At the end of taking four semesters of 5352 a student must have at least three tests that have a grade of 80% or higher. (This is a SFA Graduate School requirement) The Wednesday class will be held to discuss scheduling, locations, critiquing scripts and critiquing student’s current films. Comments given in these critiques are not binding but are given as suggestions concerning a script, a film’s technical aspects, and editing, and/or post-production procedures. While working on their third short film a graduate student needs to established their thesis committee and may submit their thesis film treatment for approval. A graduate student’s thesis film, if a narrative film, must be at least seventy minutes long and if a documentary at least forty minutes long. A graduate student may submit their thesis script for consideration to be a summer feature movie. All scripts considered for a summer feature movie will be approved by the Director of the School of Art. If a graduate student’s script is selected for a summer feature the major of the funding for that movie will come from the School of Art, and the student will be the film’s Director. All summer feature movies will be done in a collaborative manner with the assigned faculty. If a graduate student’s thesis is not a summer feature movie then the graduate student will shoot their movie at their expense and are not required to do the movie in a collaborative manner.

Expense:  All expenses incurred by a graduate student, except those incurred within a summer feature, will be the student’s responsibility.

Grades:  Grades are based on a graduate student’s creative work and their tests scores, but other factors such as leadership, professional work habits and their ability to collaboration with their peers will be taken in consideration.

Safety:  Filmmaking is a profession where people have been injured and killed; therefore safety is an issue that must be addressed. The uses of real firearms, explosives, fire bombs or electrical tie-ins are prohibited and will result in not only a failing grade but also expulsion from the film program. The use of toy guns and/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 to their teacher and approved prior to being performed.
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

The School of Art’s Desired Learning Outcomes: ART 5352
1. Graduate filmmaking students will demonstrate proficiency in the skills of their declared filmmaking emphases.
2. Graduate filmmaking students will exhibit a high level of proficiency in the use of materials and the skills of their declared emphases.
3. Graduate filmmaking students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary movie issues and its’ problems.
4. Graduate filmmaking students will understand Art and the history of movies.

Student Learning Outcomes: ART 5352
1. Graduate filmmaking students through 3 short films will demonstrate their proficiency in their declared emphases.
2. Graduate filmmaking students through class lectures and viewing films will learn the skills of their declared emphases.
3. Graduate filmmaking student through art classes and interdisciplinary classes will learn contemporary movie issues and its’ problems.
4. Graduate filmmaking student through art history and cinema history classes will learn the history of movies and how it relates to them.