

UH Mānoa SP 2024 Study Abroad in Machida, Japan



J.F. OBERLIN UNIVERSITY

ACM210 INTRODUCTION TO CINEMATIC DIGITAL PRODUCTION: **SMARTPHONE** FILMMAKING

Instructor: **GEORGE CHUN HAN WANG**, Professor, ACM: School of Cinematic Arts

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Course Alpha: ACM
Course number: 210
Credits: 3
Prerequisite: none

Office Hours: TBA
Classroom: TBA
Meetings: TBA

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is an introductory-level film production course with specific emphasis in using smartphone/mobile devices (consumer-level smartphone, tablets, mini action cameras, etc.) for filming, and using accessible digital editing software on your laptops to finish your projects.

Hands-on themed workshops will cover the fundamentals of photography, cinematography, sound recording, screenwriting, producing, directing and editing. You will learn how to use images in conjunction with sound, text and narrative structure as a basis for communicating ideas and telling stories on film. You will become familiar with the ideas, materials and technical skills needed for creative expression through smartphone filmmaking.

Your final project is a 5-minute short film (fiction or non-fiction) that you will write, direct and edit. You are required to include **experiential elements** in your film, and must feature **sight and scenes** of your host city **Machida** and/or the Greater **Tokyo** Metropolis areas (see **Assignments: Final Project** for further details). Completed student films will be suitable to be posted on the internet and entered into mobile/smartphone film festivals worldwide.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand the basic building blocks of the cinematic language.
2. Develop basic skills to operate and shoot a short film with a mobile camera device.
3. Develop basic skills in cinematography, sound recording, producing and directing.
4. Develop basic skills in film editing using Adobe Premiere Pro.
5. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups (cast, crew & classmates).
6. Develop, write, produce, direct and edit a 5-minute short film shot in Japan.





REQUIRED TECH

Any mobile device (smartphone, tablets, mini action cameras) capable of recording videos (minimum resolution: 1980x1080 High Definition).

Adobe Premiere Pro editing software (available for MacOS and Windows)
(Adobe Creative Cloud: student subscription @ \$19.99 per month for first year).



RECOMMENDED TEXT

David Irving & Peter Rea

Producing and Directing the Short Film and Video, 5th Edition. 2015.

ISBN: 9780415732550, Available Online @ University of Hawaii Library eBook Central

Florent Chavouet

Tokyo on Foot: Travels in the City's Most Colorful Neighborhoods, 2011.

ISBN: 4805311371, Tuttle Publishing (available on Kindle and paperback)

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Every unexcused absence will impact your final grade. Not participating in exercises, discussions and team collaborations is a form of absence. It is your responsibility to secure any missed notes, instructions, and/or handouts from your classmates.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Assignments:** There are **six** assignments due throughout the first half of the semester (Weeks 1 to 7). Please see weekly schedule for assignment details and due dates.
- **Presentations:** There are **two** presentations (Weeks 5 & 7), one is to pitch your final project ideas, one is to present your production planning. Please see weekly schedule for assignment details and due dates.
- **Final Film Project:** For the final project, you will submit a short film (**5 min max**) written, produced, directed and edited by you. The film should be location-themed... think *Paris, je t'aime* (2006) and *New York, I Love You* (2008) where filmmakers tell location-specific stories in short film segments.

GENRE/EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- I. Your final film must tell a story (fiction or non-fiction), but you can choose one or a combination of the following genres/styles to execute your film:
 - a. **Narrative/fiction** (drama, comedy, adventure, romance, horror, science fiction, historical, crime, fantasy, mockumentary, etc.)
 - b. **Non-fiction** (documentary, video essays, video journalism, video journals, dance/music videos, experimental film, etc.)
- II. Your final film must incorporate **sights and scenes** featuring the host city you live in:
 - a. The story must take place in **Machida/Tokyo**.
 - b. At least 3 different exterior locations in **Machida** and/or **Tokyo area** must be prominently seen in your film, each lasting at least 5 seconds (or more) on screen.



- III. Your final film must feature **all** of the following **experiential elements**, each lasting for at least 5 seconds (or more) on screen:
- Japanese cuisine**/local food.
 - traditional **Japanese visual artwork** (paintings, sculptures, calligraphy, etc.).
 - Spoken **Japanese language** (spoken on screen or off screen).



GRADES

Grade Breakdown (100 points total)		
Assignment 01: Photo Portraits	Due on Week 2	5 points
Assignment 02: Video Portraits	Due on Week 3	10 points
Assignment 03: Video Portraits with Monologues	Due on Week 4	10 points
Assignment 04: One Page Synopsys	Due on Week 5	5 points
Assignment 05: Screenplay/Proposal/Treatment	Due on Week 6	10 points
Assignment 06: Production Planning Binder	Due on Week 7	10 points
Presentation 01: Pitch your final film	Due on Week 5	10 points
Presentation 02: Production Planning and Q&A	Due on Week 7	10 points
Final Project: A-Rough Edit	Due on Week 12	10 points
Final Project: B-Finished Edit	Due on Week 14	10 points
Attendance/Participation	Weeks 1-15	10 points
Visit the “Gradebook” section in Laulima for updated grading information.		

GRADE SCALE:

A (94-100), A- (90-93),
 B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82),
 C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72),
 D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62),
 F (0-59)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Still Photography	
Topics for lectures and discussions	Course overview & introduction. Explanation of course assignments and expectations. Still Photography on smartphone/mobile devices Understanding Framing, Composition and Lighting basics Shot sizes: Extreme Wide to Extreme Close-ups
Exercises	Still Photos: portraits (classmates), interior spaces (classroom), exterior spaces (campus buildings, plants, etc).
Teams	Multiple Teams will be formed, at least 3 students per team. Teams will collaborate on exercises and individual projects for the entire duration of the semester.



Portraits: exterior spaces, close up.



Portraits: exterior, in movement.

Week 2: Videography

Topics	Basics of mobile-device videography Understanding Frame rates, aperture Optical zoom vs. Digital zoom Landscape mode vs. Portrait mode Camera movement. Camera support: tripods and gimbals. Lighting.
Exercises	Short videos of a teammate in movement (writing, walking, dancing, etc.) indoors/interior and outdoors/exterior at various shot sizes.
Assignment 01 Due	Submit FOUR still photo portraits of ONE teammate in movement : 1) interior: close up 2) interior: wide shot 3) exterior: close up 4) exterior: wide shot



Portraits: exterior, wide shot.

Week 3: Audio Recording

Topics	Basics of audio recordings on a smartphone Microphone basics Signal vs. Noise and S/N Ratio Location Sound vs. Post Sound
Exercises	Short videos of a teammate talking (indoors and outdoors) at various distances to the camera.
Assignment 02 Due	Submit TWO video portraits of ONE teammate in motion: 1) interior 2) exterior (all videos must be in landscape mode, length: 20 seconds max, continuous recording)

Week 4: Screenwriting

Topics	Synopsis vs. Treatment Writing in the Hollywood screenplay format Storytelling: Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
Exercises	Write a one-page screenplay involving two-characters.
Assignment 03 Due	Submit TWO video portraits of ONE teammate's monologue (talking/making self-introduction), voice must be clearly recorded with low noise: 1) interior 2) exterior (landscape mode, 20 seconds max, continuous recording)

Week 5: Pitching

Topics	Today you will "pitch" your ideas for the final project. Projects can be all genres of film/television: narrative short films, mini-documentaries, experimental films, music videos, dance videos, instructional videos, vlogs for social media, etc.
Presentation 01	Presenters will "pitch" their 5-minute video projects to classmates (3 min) and receive feedback during/after Q&A (5 min).
Assignment 04 Due	Submit a one-page synopsis (brief outline) of your final video project. Length of video should be 3 to 5 minutes. Your final project must feature interior and exterior locations throughout Machida and/or Greater Tokyo areas.



Week 6: Producing

Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing Essentials: Scheduling. Breakdowns. Budget. Permits. Releases. Location Scouting in Tokyo/Machida: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the geographic, historic or cultural significance of your proposed locations. sensitivity concerns when filming at certain locations in a different country. Crew Calls and Talent Casting, and how to work with local/international talent/crew and classmates of diverse cultures. Safety protocols when filming in Tokyo/Machida. Ethical issues of filming/creative-content creation in a foreign country.
Exercises	Breaking down your script/project and creating a schedule and budget for your project.
Assignment 05 Due	Based on the feedbacks for your pitch - submit ONE of the following for your final project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fiction/Narrative Short Film: submit a properly formatted screenplay (5 pages max for a 5-min short film). b) Non-Fiction Film (Documentary, experimental, etc.): submit a proposal/treatment combo (3 pages max) with visual/audio samples/support such as photos/drawings/artworks.

Week 7: Directing

Topics	Pre-visualization. Blocking and Mis-en-Scene. Film Set Protocols. Continuity and Script Supervision. Directing actors and non-actors. Interview basics for documentaries. Planning and cast/crew designations for Class Project filming (the following week)
Presentation 02	Production Planning Presentation (5 min) and Q&A (3 min).
Assignment 06 Due	Submit your Production Planning Presentation's Binder (PowerPoint Slides, PDF files, etc.) including final shooting schedules, estimated budget, cast/crew information, location photos/maps.

Zack Snyder filming *Snow Steam Iron* with an iPhoneRadium Cheung filming *Tangerine* with an iPhone**Week 8: Class Project Production**

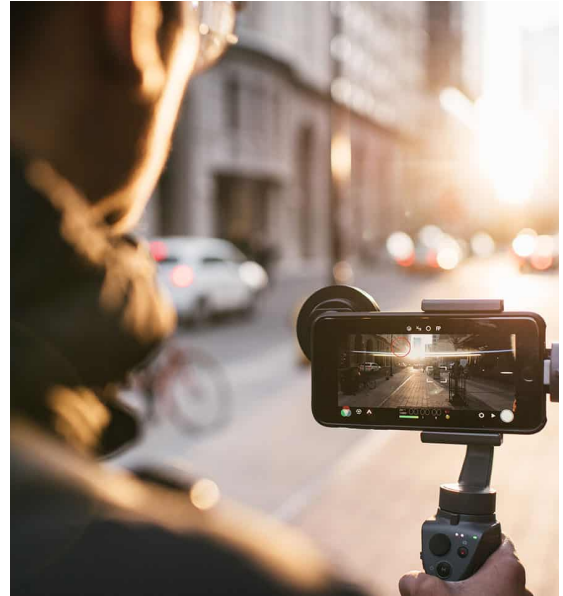
Topics	This week the class will film a narrative short film exercise. The entire film will be mainly shot inside the classroom (exterior shots throughout campus can be considered). Students enrolled in this class will serve as cast and/or crew members. All students will participate in this hands-on exercise.
Reminder	Final Video: All individuals should begin filming their final videos.

Week 9: Editing I

Topics	Video Editing Basics on Adobe Premiere Pro. Importing Videos from Smartphone/Mobile Devices. Project settings. Trimming Basics.
Equipment	Laptop with Adobe Premiere Pro installed (Software: Monthly Adobe Subscription required)
Footage	From Class Project.

Week 10: Editing II

Topics	Advanced Trimming: Ripple, Roll, Slide and Slip Edits. Titles, Graphics and Rolling Credits. Dialogue Editing. Clip and Track Levels.
Equipment	Laptop with Adobe Premiere Pro installed (Software: Monthly Adobe Subscription required)
Footage	From Class Project.

**Week 11: Post Production Sound**

Topics	Sound Effects. Foley Recording. Dialogue Replacement (ADR). Music Editing. Sound Mixing.
Equipment	Laptop with Adobe Premiere Pro installed (Software: Monthly Adobe Subscription required)
Footage	From Class Project.

Week 12: Screening Work-in-Progress

Topics	Present the rough edits of your final video followed by class discussions, Q&A and feedbacks.
Final Project A Due	Submit the Rough Edits of your Final Video to the designated cloud storage drive (TBA).

Week 13: Video Effects and Finishing

Topics	Transitions and Filter Effects. Compositing: Blue/Green Screen Keying. Color Correction and Color Grading. Adding Subtitles. Exporting to various formats (Youtube, Vimeo, Twitter, etc.)
Equipment	Laptop with Adobe Premiere Pro installed (Software: Monthly Adobe Subscription required)
Footage	From Class Project.

Week 14: Final Screenings

Topics	Present the finished version of your final video followed by class discussions, Q&A and feedbacks.
Final Project B Due	Submit the finished version of your Final Video to the designated cloud storage drive (TBA).

Week 15: Distributions and Festivals

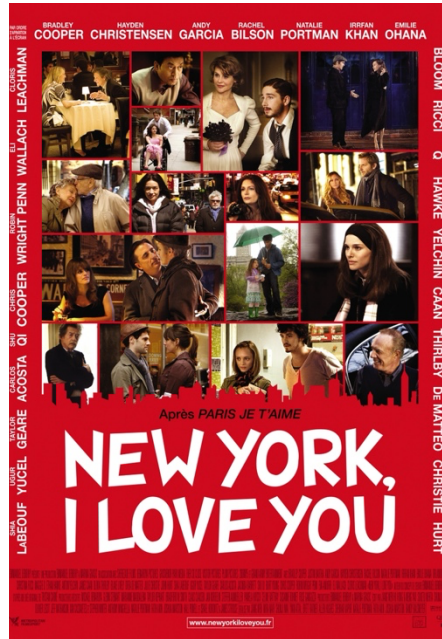
Topics	Venues of distribution on the internet. Film Festivals catered for mobile/smartphone films. Introduction to Film Schools Around the World. Course Reflection.
Assignments	Last day to submit all missing/late assignments.

This syllabus is subject to revision.

Paris, 2006



New York, 2008



Machida, 2024

