**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

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:

b. traditional Japanese visual artwork (paintings, sculptures, calligraphy, etc.).
c. Spoken Japanese language (spoken on screen or off screen).

GRADES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown (100 points total)</th>
<th>Due on Week</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 01: Photo Portraits</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 02: Video Portraits</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 03: Video Portraits with Monologues</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 04: One Page Synopsys</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 05: Screenplay/Proposal/Treatment</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 06: Production Planning Binder</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation 01: Pitch your final film</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation 02: Production Planning and Q&amp;A</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project: A-Rough Edit</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project: B-Finished Edit</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>10</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Still Photography</th>
<th>Course overview &amp; 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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topics for lectures and discussions</td>
<td>Experiences Still Photos: portraits (classmates), interior spaces (classroom), exterior spaces (campus buildings, plants, etc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>

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

### 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**
- Location Scouting in Tokyo/Machida:
  - 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:

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.

### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venues of distribution on the internet.</td>
<td>Last day to submit all missing/late assignments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Festivals catered for mobile/smartphone films.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Film Schools Around the World.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Reflection.</td>
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This syllabus is subject to revision.