PITTSBURGH FILMMAKERS SPRING ‘18 SCHEDULE

Classes begin on January 5, 2018 and run through April 23, 2018
No class on Jan.15 (MLK Day), March 5-10 (Spring Break), March 30-31 (Easter)

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FILM, DIGITAL, AND VIDEO

Motion Picture Fundamentals (FM101)
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

- A  Mon 6:00 - 9:00 Smith
- B  Mon 2:00 - 5:00 Bonev
- C  Tue 6:00 - 9:00 Abrams
- D  Thur 2:00 - 5:00 Zavala
- E  Fri 10:00 - 1:00 Bugaj
- F  Sat 10:00 - 1:00 Zavala

Motion Picture Fundamentals is a hands-on introduction to key photographic concepts and the core concepts of self-expression with moving images. Students shoot digital video, photographs and motion picture film to learn the basic principles and techniques of light, composition, camerawork, editing and storytelling. All equipment is provided, including HD camcorders, 16mm film cameras and digital editing stations. Grading is based on student projects and written exams. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Video Production I (FM215)
Prerequisite: Motion Picture Fundamentals. 42 classroom hours

- A  Thur 6:00 - 9:00 Koleck
- B  Wed 2:00 - 5:00 Wormsley

In this hands-on course students acquire the skills required to design, shoot and edit high-definition video. The class combines demonstrations, lectures, exercises, projects and critiques. Students are given several shooting and editing assignments. Emphasis is placed on visual and aural expression through technical mastery of the video medium. Topics include digital camera operation, lighting, audio recording, scripting, and non-linear editing with Adobe Premiere CC. Grading is based on the quality of work produced and on written exams. All necessary equipment is provided. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.
Video Production 2 (FM317)
Prerequisite: Video Production 1. 42 classroom hours

A Wed 6:00 - 9:00 Cantine

This course challenges students to explore video language while producing a more ambitious work through improved technical skills. It integrates hands-on demonstrations, lecture, exercises, projects and critiques. Students use digital video cameras along with Adobe Premiere CC to produce a final project. Topics include advanced lighting and audio recording, non-linear editing, color correction, and audio mixing. Grading is based on the quality of work produced and written exams. All necessary equipment is provided. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Writing and Producing the Short Script (FM303)
Prerequisite: Video Production 2. 42 classroom hours

A Tue 6:00 - 9:00 Cantine

This is a capstone course in motion picture production. Students should arrive with a script for a short film that they will work on throughout the semester. The finished film should meet high standards of technical and aesthetic quality, and represent the culmination of the student’s course of study in filmmaking. Through script workshops, pre-production reviews, and critique of rough cuts, the student will be mentored through the making of the film. Grading is based on the quality of work produced, the quality and timeliness of intermediate stages, and a written production journal. All necessary equipment is provided. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Introduction to Digital Editing (FM167)
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

A Mon 6:00 - 9:00 Hosking

This course is designed to familiarize students with the possibilities that digital technology offers for the manipulation of still images, sound, and motion pictures. After introducing beginners to the Macintosh Operating System, students learn to use Adobe Premiere to edit video and sound and Adobe Photoshop to manipulate still images and text. Access to Apple computers with the necessary software is provided. Grading is based on assignments, a written exam and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.
Technical Directing (FM315)
Prerequisite: Motion Picture Fundamentals. 42 classroom hours

A Tue 6:00 - 9:00 Watt

The basics of designing and directing scenes for motion pictures are addressed in this course. Some of the issues discussed include the relationship of film to reality, the meaning of cinematic techniques, continuity, shot selection, cut selection and visualization techniques. The format is a combination of lectures, screenings and interactive group exercises. Students participate in analyzing and reworking scenes from well-known films. Extensive outside work is necessary, including attending current films to discuss directorial issues. In addition to tuition a $35 course fee is charged.

Introduction to Digital Editing (FM167)
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

A Mon 6:00-9:00 Hosking

This course is designed to familiarize students with the possibilities that digital technology offers for the manipulation of still images, sound, and motion pictures. After introducing beginners to the Macintosh Operating System, students learn to use Adobe Premiere to edit video and sound and Adobe Photoshop to manipulate still images and text. Access to Apple computers with the necessary software is provided. Grading is based on assignments, a written exam and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Technical Directing (FM315)
Prerequisite: Motion Picture Fundamentals. 42 classroom hours

A Tue 6:00-9:00 Watt

The basics of designing and directing scenes for motion pictures are addressed in this course. Some of the issues discussed include the relationship of film to reality, the meaning of cinematic techniques, continuity, shot selection, cut selection and visualization techniques. The format is a combination of lectures, screenings and interactive group exercises. Students participate in analyzing and reworking scenes from well-known films. Extensive outside work is necessary, including attending current films to discuss directorial issues. In addition to tuition a $35 course fee is charged.
Drones for Photo & Video (FM177)
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

A Thur 6:00-9:00 Garman

UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) or “drone” technology is radically expanding the range and mobility of the camera for photography and video. In this course, the student will learn how to assemble and set up a UAV for flight, learn how to fly a multicopter type UAV, and practice shooting effective moving and still images. Topics covered will include: specific components of the UAV, cameras and camera stabilization systems. In addition to the equipment used, subject matter will include legal requirements and ramifications, flying to get the shot, and proper protocol for flying in public. Safety will be stressed throughout the semester. It is recommended but not required that students be prepared to purchase a ready-to-fly UAV early in the semester; the instructor will suggest specific models on the first class session. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Documentary Production (FM200)
Prerequisite: Motion Picture Fundamentals. 42 classroom hours

A Tues 6:00-9:00 Zavala

This course guides students through the planning, shooting, and editing of a documentary. The course builds on production skills common to all video and filmmaking by introducing techniques unique to non-fiction film, such as vérité (observational) shooting, interviewing, and using archival material. The class will confront the ethical issues that arise when real people are presented on screen. Throughout the course, we will view and analyze recent documentaries, with the aim of understanding how reality can be captured and shaped in cinematically powerful ways. Grading is based on practical exercises, writing, a final project, and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Digital Effects and Compositing (FM345)
Prerequisite: Video Production 1. 42 classroom hours

A Thur 6:00-9:00 Mougianis

This course covers digital methods of combining video, photographs, graphics, text & other visual elements and manipulation of those elements to tell a story. Most work will be done using Adobe AfterEffects CC, but the course will include other software such as Adobe Photoshop CC and Illustrator CC. Topics include gaining an understanding of the structure of digital images, transparency and masking, chroma keying, using layers and depth, keyframe animation, image
processing, effects and their use, formats, input and output of imagery and workflow methods. Grading is based on assignments, exams and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

**Electronic Cinematography (FM319)**
Prerequisite: Video Production 1. 42 classroom hours

A  Thur 6:00-9:00 Caloiiero

This course will cover advanced video technology and professional techniques of videography. Emphasis will be placed on image quality, meeting broadcast specifications for video and audio, and double-system audio recording. Professional-quality video cameras will be covered extensively. Grading will be based on written exams, in-class production exercises, and an oral presentation. Though students will be asked to shoot video in class, this is not a production course; the cost of materials will be included in the $70 course fee.

**Introduction to Screenwriting (FM169)**
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

A  Tue 2:00-5:00 Heidekat
B  Wed 6:00-9:00 Heidekat

As an introduction to writing for film and video, this course combines theory, analysis and practical exercise. Screenwriting basics are covered including story, structure, scene, character, dialogue and action. Students develop stories, scenes, and characters and examine the ways in which these elements can be combined in a screenplay. Writing for documentaries is also discussed. Considerable outside work is necessary. Grading is based on the quality of the writing assignments, homework and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $35 course fee is charged.

**Write-Act-Produce-Direct (FM164)**
Prerequisite: None

A  Tues 6:00-9:00 Monahan

No matter what your goals are in film, you'll work in a collaborative art form. Understanding inter-related disciplines is crucial to making a successful film. Writers need to know what it takes to produce a particular sequence; directors need to know how to talk to actors; producers need to be able to stay true to a script while maintaining their budget; actors must be able to read scripts for action, and they need to understand the psychology of directors. Students will experience a little bit of every discipline in this course, spending three weeks
dedicated to each area and the final two weeks of the term pulling it all together. Grading is based on assignments and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $35 course fee is charged.

**Script Analysis (FM308)**
Prerequisite: Introduction to Screenwriting

A Wed 6:00 - 9:00 Monahan

For screenwriters to work effectively they must be aware of the narrative structures and plot devices used to create satisfying film stories. Through the process of viewing and discussing films Script Analysis will teach students to break down a complex screenplay into its structural elements in order to examine plot development, characterization, theme and sub-plots. The transition of a story from script to screen will also be covered. Each student will analyze a number of scripts throughout the semester, focusing each week on a different element of narrative development. The final project will be an in-depth written analysis of a script and film, highlighting all major areas of the narrative. Considerable outside work is necessary. Grading is based on written analysis and class participation. In addition to tuition, a $35 course fee is charged.

**Storyboarding and Animatics (FM176)**
Prerequisite: Motion Picture Fundamentals or Introduction to Digital Editing.
42 classroom hours

A Tue 6:00-9:00 Patton

In this course students will explore the art of cameraless image creation for film, videogames and animation. Utilizing stock imagery, 3d models, and drawings students will create dynamic storyboards, and learn how to use Adobe Creative Cloud software to compile those boards into animatics. Animatics function as moving storyboards, giving the creative team the ability to work through complex, possibly dangerous shots with no risk. Animatics also enable animators to get timing in shots and scenes down while being able to easily make changes. Drawing skills are not required in order to succeed. Students may collaborate or work individually. Considerable outside work is necessary. All equipment is provided but students pay for their own art supplies and media expenses. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.
Video Thesis 2 (FM408)
Prerequisite: Video Thesis 1. 42 classroom hours

A By Appointment Staff

This course is a continuation of Video Thesis I. Students edit and do all post-production for the video that was shot during Thesis I. In order to complete this course the student must have an exhibition-quality digital video master, and show a copy in an approved Pittsburgh Filmmakers Thesis Screening. Grading is based on the quality of the student's finished work and the ability to meet deadlines. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Basic Digital Photography (FM168)
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

A Wed 6:00 - 9:00 Sambrick

This class introduces students to the fundamentals of photographic art using digital imaging techniques. Working with digital cameras, Apple computers and Epson inkjet printers students will complete a number of assignments that emphasize camera controls, print quality, composition and subject matter. Class lectures and demonstrations will cover exposure, quality of light, the use of Adobe Lightroom for digital file management, image manipulation and digital printing. The class will also be exposed to the work of contemporary and historical photographers. Students should have their own camera; a few digital SLRs will be available for use during the semester. Grading is based on assignments, written exams and a final portfolio. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Black and White Photography 1 (FM161)
Prerequisite: None. 42 classroom hours

A Wed 6:00 - 9:00 Tohara
B Sat 10:00 - 1:00 Kelly

Designed to give an awareness and understanding of the technical and aesthetic aspects of film photography as a fine art, this is a practical and theoretical course. Through a series of lectures and labs, students learn the process of seeing
(making an exposure) and craftsmanship (making a photographic print in the darkroom). Some shooting assignments include using depth of field, light as subject, the self portrait and portraiture. 35mm cameras for this class are available for checkout at the equipment office. Students are expected to purchase their own film and photographic paper. Grading is based on assignments, written exams and a final portfolio. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

**Advanced Digital Photography (FM311)**
Prerequisite: Intermediate Digital Photography or permission. 42 classroom hours

A Thur 6:00-9:00 Vitone

Building on methods and tools explored in Intermediate Digital Photography, this course offers advanced photographic concepts needed to expand each student’s process of building an exhibition quality portfolio. Through regular shooting assignments and group critiques, the class focuses on the development and exploration of a personal vision. Editing and sequencing work is a large part of class discussions. Using Adobe Photoshop CC, students learn to make complex selection and color corrections, advanced layering and masking principles. The class will also learn more about the world of inkjet papers and the essentials of digital color management. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

**Studio Lighting (FM210)**
Prerequisite: Black and White Photography 2 or Intermediate Digital Photography or permission. 42 classroom hours

A Wed 6:00-9:00 Kelly

This production course in studio photography will emphasize artificial lighting techniques, using both hot lights and electronic flash units. Both film and digital capture will be discussed in class along with other topics such as painting with light, lighting ratios and character studies. Assignments include white background portraiture, environmental portraiture and a variety of still life/tabletop set-ups. Considerable outside work is required to complete assignments. Grading is based on attendance, assignments and the final portfolio. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.
Non-silver Printing (FM173)
Prerequisite: Black and White Photography 2. 42 classroom hours

A Tue 6:00 - 9:00 Staff

An introduction to non-silver printing, this course explores photographic processes that were first introduced in the 19th century and continue to be popular in the 21st century. Lectures will cover the numerous artists working today as well as their historical counterparts. Processes examined are cyanotype, Gum Bichromate, Van Dyke brown printing and Palladium printing. Students will learn to make enlarged digital negatives, mix chemicals from original formulas and hand-coat the light sensitive emulsions on a variety of watercolor papers. Class discussions cover the combination of emulsions, images and papers that best represent individual photographic ideas. Choices result in differences in color, image resolution, texture and mood. After using all of the required processes, students choose one technique for their final project. Grading is based on attendance, the quality of completed assignments and the final portfolio. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.

Sequence and Series: The Photobook (FM275)
Prerequisite: Intermediate Digital Photography or Portrait Photography or permission. 42 classroom hours

A Wed 6:00-9:00 Spradlin

For photographers who have completed a collection of photographs or are working on a new series, this class covers the essentials of sequencing and organizing photographs for a finished photo book. Using both traditional bookbinding techniques and on-demand printing sources, students create a minimum of two books, one that is a unique work of art and another that can be produced in greater numbers. A significant part of the class covers the principles of sequencing and visual storytelling. Other topics covered include layout, design, digital image workflow for reproduction and basic bookmaking skills. Contemporary photography books will be studied for concept, content, style and structure. Grading is based on attendance, participation and completed projects. In addition to tuition, a $70 course fee is charged.