

## **DIGITAL MEDIA**

# SYLLABUS

### **2015-2016 Syllabus**

Digital Media

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Room 105

### **I. Course Description**

Digital media combines theory and actual practice, with a stronger emphasis on theory and skill building. In this class, filmmaking is approached as the art of visual story telling. You will learn the step-by-step procedures for taking the written words from the script to the visual images on the screen. This course is structured to teach you the basic fundamentals and technical skills of single camera digital cinema production. This will include script analysis and shooting breakdown, the master shot cinema language, directing actors, camera technique, the use of light, color, and sound, and the technique of putting it all together in the editing room. This course will also offer opportunities to perform assignments through the use of animation.

### **II. Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Distinguish and describe the effects of important simultaneous elements of visual narratives (lighting, photographic elements, editing, sound, color).
- Understand short and feature length film structures and identify devices employed to keep visual plots moving.
- Visualize a concept, collaborate effectively to meet deadlines and assume the responsibilities of roles such as director, camera operator, editor, writer and talent.
- Operate the digital camcorder / Canon DSLR and build a strong understanding of the cameras manual settings.
- Use Final Cut, iMovie, and Adobe Premiere to edit and experience post-production workflow.

- Utilize a variety of structures to brainstorm short film narratives and take them from visualization to proper screenwriting format.

### III. Recommended Materials

- Portable Hard Drive
  - o USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt
  - o Minimum 1 TB preferred
  - o Should be formatted for a Mac
- Film Journal or Sketchbook

### IV. Class Policies, Expectations and Rules

**RESTROOM VISITS:** I will allow students, one at a time, to leave the classroom to go to the restroom. Whether you are just walking across the hall or thwarting a gorilla invasion, you will be required to ask my permission before leaving the room during class time.

**FOOD/DRINK:** Because the Mac Lab is carpeted... and covered in expensive electronics, there is a no tolerance ban on all food or drinks in the class. If you must have a drink or snack during class time, you must place it on the table near the entrance to the room. It must have a lid or cap. Other food or drink must remain in your bag, outside the room, in your locker, or in your stomach.

**CELL PHONES:** Cell phones are only okay when I give special permission. They can be useful. But in the case of teenagers- are more likely a distraction to learning. If your phone is being used, or makes a noise without permission, I will confiscate it. If it becomes a chronic offense, it will most likely end up in the principals office... where no phone has ever returned.

**START OF CLASS:** When I say "Class, let's get started", or something similar to that, it means that we are going to begin. That is your cue to focus your attention on me and remind those next to you to do the same. Please help me with this. Turn to the person next to you and politely say, "Hey, please shut up- class is about to begin".

**SIDE CONVERSATIONS:** Side conversations are not allowed during lessons, student presentations, film screenings, class discussions, or when I am instructing the class.

This really helps me to be efficient with my time and to get the students the information they need to get started on the assignment.

**BEHAVIOR/ATTITUDE:** A professional attitude is expected in class and around campus, during class time or when operating as part of a student project.

**DNS (DOING NOTHING SYNDROME):** Please work hard to "Create something" so that you don't get struck with DNS. Students who come down with a bad case of DNS might

be asked to withdrawal from the class. SENIORS beware... don't let this be you.

**DESKS:** Everything must be off the desks at the beginning of class and during lessons/class discussion, tests, etc. Pen/pencil, paper, and laptops are okay as directed. Backpacks should be placed under the desk or along the side wall.

**FILM CONTENT:** The following rules pertain to the content of student projects:

1. Profanity: The use of profanity in any student projects is not allowed.

There will be no exceptions. We are after all... a school, so we have to operate like one, but... we are also a very creative group of people, so we can figure out other alternatives.

2. Violence: I would like to stay away from excessive violence. I fully support the artistic vision of all genres, but there is a point where we have to ask ourselves... "Can we portray this in another way?". I welcome these conversations.

3. Drug Use: Any explicit drug use will not be allowed.

4. Risqué Business: No.

5. Overall: Whether it is written in a script or displayed on video it is the teacher that decides what material is acceptable. "Passion beats everything"... so if you have an idea that you are passionate about... let's discuss it. BE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE!

**HOMEWORK:** All homework assignments will be posted on the class website. If you are absent or late to class, or you have simply misplaced your brain stem, always check with the class website to see what you are responsible for. Never use a preposition to end a sentence with.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** Some assignments can be hand written and others will need to be typed. Typed papers should be single spaced and written in accordance with the instructions of the particular assignment. Instructions will be posted along with the assignment.

## V. Assessments and Grading Policy

### Participation (20%):

Daily and complete participation is expected of all students. This includes:

- Getting in-class work turned in on time
- Staying focused and on task

- Using time in class to prepare for production
- Actively engaging in class discussions
- Students will need to rely on each other for production. Points will be taken away from this category when students do not show up when they are expected to in support of other student projects, or for class presentations.

**Progress, improvement and growth (10%):**

All students should progress to a higher level of storytelling, learn to better prepare for production, and continually improve above and beyond their last project. After every project each student will write a reflection essay covering the valuable lessons learned with a strong emphasis on what will be done next time to improve the work.

**Assessments (60%):**

- Homework assignments
- Smaller production assignments
- Quizzes/Tests
- Completed film projects

**Screenings (10%):**

Putting the work up on display is the ultimate assessment of a student’s progress. All showcases are mandatory. Any student that fails to complete the major projects risks a 10% drop of their current letter grade.

**VI. Grading Scale:**

A 100%-90% | B 89%-80% | C 79%-70% | D 69%-60% | F 59% and below

**VII. Attendance and Unexcused Absences on Grade**

If you are not able to be present to learn or complete assignments, **you** are the one responsible for finding time to make it up. If you have poor attendance it could negatively effect all categories of your grade.

**VIII. Equipment Agreement**

We are extremely fortunate to be able to use top-of-the-line tools at Corvallis High School. There are barely a handful of public high schools with similar facilities. The equipment here is the professional standard and is expensive. By signing below, you understand reckless or careless behavior that leads to damage of the equipment is the financial responsibility of the student and their guardian.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_