Policy Statement and Syllabus: Film 2730 Production for the Video Artist or FA 3730 (or 373) - Beginning Video Production

Film and Art – University of Utah
Semester: (Fall 2008)
Instructor: Kent Maxwell
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Office Hours: By appointment.

Online Information & Server Address: Class Web site: http://home.utah.edu/~klm6/3730/3730.html. Or go to home.utah.edu/~klm6 click on the FA 3730 Home Page link.

Server address: fileserver.artstech.utah.edu

Course Description: This is an introductory course in video art. A hands on approach to the fundamentals of videography, from an artist perspective, exploring a wide range of creative and technical possibilities of the digital video camera and non-linear editing. We will use Macintosh computers in this class.

Prerequisites: None. Experience with Mac Os X and Adobe Photoshop is helpful.

Textbook: There is no text for this class, but since we will be using Final Cut Express (and sometimes Final Cut Pro) you will find the Final Cut Owners manuals useful (which you can get a pdf copy of from the application- I'll show you). Also on reserve, or at the MultiMedia Center Reference Desk, and on-line at the Marriott Library are: Visual Quick Pro Guide: Final Cut Pro 6 on line at: http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com/9780321549853 (or Final Cut Express 4) on line at: http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com/9780321572905. They may be useful to you. You may buy one, but you probably won't need it that much.

Class Meets: Monday and Wednesdays mornings at 8:35 AM-10:30 AM, in Marriott Library 1745, August 25 through December 10, 2008, except Labor Day, Monday September 1, and Fall Break, October 13 & 15. (There is a scheduling problem with 1745. On the following Wednesdays we will meet in 1715 of the Marriott Library: Sept 10th, Sept 24th, Oct. 8th, Oct. 22nd, and Nov. 5th.)

Your Final Project (and all late work) will be due on Wednesday, 8:00 – 10:00 am December 17, 2008 in Marriott Library 1745.

Materials: You will need a video camcorder for this class and a fluid head tripod will be useful. There are several camcorders available for limited check out through the Film department. I will tell how to access these if necessary. If you are using a camcorder that uses tape you will probably need 4 or 5 tapes (at least) this semester. You will need a portable drive for the first couple of weeks (get one right away), a flash drive will work ok, the larger the better. They have inexpensive 2gb, 4gb, and 8gb at the bookstore. You also might consider a fire wire or ush hard drive. If you already have one you can use it, if not don't go out and buy one until I have talk about them.

You will also need several (4 or 5) DVD±Rs with jewel cases during the semester, I will tell you when.

Course Requirements
There will be at 7 assignments, occasional quizzes, and a final project. Students are expected to spend at least 10 hours outside of class each week working on assignments. This is a hands-on class, you learn by doing. The assignments and handouts will be posted on the class website shortly after they are given out in class. Each assignment will be a list of limitations. The challenge is to push the creativity while staying with-in the limitations. Turn in your assignments on time. This is especially important if you want feedback. Late work will be accepted but it will be docked.

There will be demonstrations every week. So come to class. Successful completion of this course will depend on good attendance. A great deal of technical information will be covered in class. If you are absent from class you will be responsible for following-up on missed work and obtaining any missed handouts or information. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions and assignment critiques. I grade each assignment on a 10 point scale: 10 is excellent; 7 is good, this is the average grade; 5 is fair, below 5 is poor, usually for really late assignments or work that has little to with the objective of the assignment. Each assignment will be assigned a value depending on difficulty: For example if assignments are one week assignments they will have a value 1X; if they take two weeks they will have a value of 2X (worth 2 times a 1X assignment); etc. I will post assignment grades on a page accessed from the class web page. Grades will be posted after we have critiqued each assignment. You may rework any on time assignment and turn it in to improve your grade. But, your time and grade may be better served by concentrating on the current assignment.

This course does not satisfy the FA or IE requirements for graduation. To find courses that will fit those requirements, please visit your university or departmental advisors.

Research Search Assistance & Finding Resources
If you would like assistance finding resources—images, videos, primary sources, etc—conducting research, please stop by the Fine Arts Reference Desk on level 2 of Marriott Library. For immediate assistance, call the Fine Arts Reference Desk at 801-581-8104, or IM chat via their website: www.lib.utah.edu > Department Directory > Fine Arts & Architecture. If you'd like to schedule a one-on-one consultation, you can contact the Art & Art History liaison, Dorothy Greenland, at dorothy.greenland@utah.edu.

Additional Information
The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that reasonable accommodation be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, or psychiatric disabilities. Students requiring such accommodation should speak with the professor at the beginning of the semester in order to make appropriate arrangements for this course. The Center for Disabled Student Services (Olpin Union, 581-5020) will also need to be informed. See the following link for more information: http://www.sa.utah.edu/ds/

The registrar cautions students that withdrawing from a course and other registration matters, including tuition, are the student's responsibility. See the following link for more information: http://www.sa.utah.edu/regist/pages/Fall2008.htm

In accordance with university policy (as articulated in the Student Code), academic misconduct—including cheating, fabrication of information, and plagiarism—is not tolerated in this course. A student found engaging in this behavior will receive a failing grade. If at any time you are unsure whether your actions constitute academic misconduct, please see the professor in order to clarify the matter. See the following link for more information: http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html

Activities and materials assigned for this class have been carefully scrutinized and selected. Some students may find some of the materials, presentations, lectures, or audio/visual materials controversial or in conflict with their core values. It is your responsibility to review the syllabus, readings, assignments, and materials to be sure that this is a course you wish to take. Should you have questions or concerns, please see me immediately.