

FILM 20P: Introduction to Production Technique

UCSC Department of Film & Digital Media, Summer 2015

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 12:30pm, J Baskin 165

Instructor: kerrie welsch

kawelsh@ucsc.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 1-2 or by appointment

Cameras do not make films; filmmakers make films not by adding more equipment or personnel but by using what you have to the fullest capacity. The most important equipment is yourself, your mobile body, your imaginative mind and your freedom to use both.

~ Maya Deren



This class is designed to introduce students to the production process with emphasis on low-budget, independent film and video making. We will explore the conceptualization, planning, shooting, and editing of documentary, personal essay, experimental, and/or narrative works. Emphasis is on visualization, shooting style, and screenwriting, but not hands-on editing. Students will work on numerous creative projects: performed, written, photographed and created digitally. Assignments emphasize creativity, visualization, collaboration, research, and production organization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To demystify the creative process and help you develop your own voice
- To develop skills to design and execute visual works with excellence
- To advance a sophisticated level of artistic literacy in creating and viewing
- To foster a constructive process for giving and receiving meaningful feedback
- To foster the collaborative spirit necessary for the production of crew-based work
- To expand our understanding and appreciation of production aesthetics, techniques, and technologies

Texts:

You will read TWO books for 20P this summer: *The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video* by Tom Schroepel is required and available at the Bay Tree Bookstore. You will be tested on the material in this book on **August 4th in class**. The second book is your choice related to your personal filmmaking goals. Each student will give a short but *amazing* presentation or workshop on the book they chose. Sign up to present on **August 6, 11, or 13**. Some recommended readings are available on ecommons.

Equipment:

You are responsible for providing your own camera, image processing, and digital media storage as well as signing up for equipment access via SLUGFILM: <http://slugfilm.ucsc.edu>. You will need to read the slugfilm use policy and pass the online Cable Wrapping Test before you can check out equipment. Equipment available for check-out is listed on the back of this syllabus. Equipment and facilities should be treated carefully and conscientiously.

Check-out time: Thursday 12:30 – 3:30

Check-in time: Tuesday 12:30 – 3:30

*** The first day to check out equipment is July 30 *The last day to return equipment is August 27.**

Projects & Evaluation:

Participation (20pts)

Bare Bones Test (10pts)

Reading Presentation/Workshop (10pts)

Final Project (20pts)

Exercises (40pts)

----->

Exercises: 5pts each

1. Self-portrait
2. Portrait: Image and Text
3. Logline for your life
4. Study of a Space
5. Sound and Image
6. Directing and Performing
7. Writing a Treatment
8. Storyboard and shotlist

- Evaluation of creative assignments will be based on: originality, craftsmanship /technical proficiency, aesthetics, structure, and whether or not the assignment follows project guidelines.
- Students must complete each of the assignments in order to pass the class.
- Late assignments will not be accepted; missed exams will not be rescheduled, so please plan your time and commitments carefully. Any emergency situation or special condition should be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible.
- Incompletes for the course are NOT routinely given. Please assess your time commitments early in the term. An Incomplete will make you ineligible to proceed into another FILM production class until the "I" has been cleared the following quarter.

Schedule:

TU July 28

Introductions & Operations visit, *What Can An Image Do?*

Screening: *La Jatee* (Chris Marker, 1962, 30:00)

TH July 30 *Self-Portrait due

Critical Response Process!

Screening: *Our Trip* (Barbara Hammer, 1980, 5:00)

First day to check-out equipment

TU August 4 *Portrait: Image and Text due & Bare Bones Test in class!

Screening: *TBA*

TH August 6 *Logline for Your Life due

Student reading presentations / workshops:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

TU August 11 *Study of a Space due

Student reading presentations / workshops:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

TH August 13 *Sound/Image due

Student reading presentations / workshops:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

TU August 18 *Writing a Scene due

TH August 20 *Storyboard and Shotlist due

TU August 25 *Final Project Presentations & Discussion

TH August 27 *Final Project Presentations & Discussion & Wrap-up.

Self-portrait

How do you see yourself? How do you want to represent yourself at this moment in time? What can you express about your values, desires, or sense of the world through image alone?

In this project you can be whoever you want to be and you don't need anyone other than yourself, so you can take as much time as you want to experiment and explore.

Experiment with types of shots (Wide Shot, Medium Shot, Close-up, etc), camera angles, light sources, texture, color, contrast, and form. Think about how you can use reflections, diffusion, shadows, props and costume, and the history of other images, etc. If you want to use text, think about how you can incorporate it into the image itself (ie. hold up a piece of paper, write on a mirror in the background, etc.) Plan on shooting at least 30 images. Remember that you do not need to be physically in the shot.

You will turn in 1-3 images, **uploaded to the appropriate 20P google slides project**. If using multiple images, think about the sequence of the images and make deliberate choices about how the images compliment or contrast with each other, or progress in terms of mood, self-revelation, etc. Be as creative and deliberate in how you compose the frame of the page as you were with each individual image: Landscape or portrait orientation? Frames within the frame? Scale?

*Verbal introduction: You will re-introduce yourself verbally to the class as you present your work, your experience, your goals, whatever you think is important, relevant, thought provoking to share! Think about Form: Do you want to introduce yourself through a story, poem, letter, list? You can be casual or performative, up to you. How/does the form you choose reflect something about you that might not be communicated otherwise? How/does it compliment or contrast with your self-representation through images?

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT AND RESOURCES:

Checkout: Communications Building, Room 123

fdmcheckout@ucsc.edu; 831-459-4062; SLUG FILM: <http://slugfilm.ucsc.edu/>

The following equipment is available on a first come first served basis:

(3) Nikon D3300 DSLRs

(1) Canon Rebel T3I

(1) Canon Rebel T4I

(8) GoPro Cameras

(8) Sony PCM-D50 Audio Recorders

(5) Lightweight Tripod-VT350

*Ask about available guidebooks.

COMPUTER LAB ACCESS:

Communications Computer Lab, rm 11

* You should have 24 hour access through the back loading doc door with your cruz ID.

There is a student lounge, rm 201, you may also access with your ID.

TECH FACILITIES AND SUPPORT:

fdmoperations@ucsc.edu

Angie & Chris, rm 155

Accessibility

I encourage any student with particular needs or anyone seeking disability accommodations to contact the Disability Resource Center: 831-459-2089; drc@ucsc.edu; <http://drc.ucsc.edu>, and to speak to me directly as soon as possible.

Email

I will be using ecommons and google groups to send course related emails. If you regularly use another email account, please make sure to set your UCSC account to forward messages to it.

Classroom courtesy

I reserve the right to prohibit use of electronic devices (except as arranged through the Disability Resource Center and used to accommodate particular needs) temporarily or permanently.

Academic Integrity

"Bad artists copy, good artists steal." ~ Pablo Picasso

"It's not where you take things from—it's where you take them to."~ Jean-Luc Godard

This course is about developing your own creative voice. Believe in your own voice—if you are overwhelmed or uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism in an artistic context, consult your TA and/or the Instructor. It is always better to err on the side of acknowledging other people than to fail to do so! You can read UCSC's policies here: http://undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd_integrity.