

FILM 151: Film Directing

University of California Santa Cruz, Summer 2018

Comm. Studios A+B, Monday + Wednesday 1-4:30

Instructor: Kiki Loveday, office hours Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment

kikiloveday@gmail.com

Coffee hour: Thursdays 1-2 at Lulu's

**This syllabus is a working document and is subject to change*

Description

This course will approach the craft of film directing through conservatory-style studio practice. Through structured in-class exercises and out-of-class assignments we will develop and practice working methods including script and scene analysis, rehearsal techniques, and supporting performance through camera placement and movement. Through our scene-work we will explore story, dramatic structure, emotional relationships, and interpretation—within the visual framework of the moving image.

While the practice of direction involves close collaboration with many other creative artists, the focus of this course will be on the craft of directing actors and camera. The first half of the course will focus primarily on directing performance, while in the second half we will add the additional element of directing the camera and (minimally) working with crew. We will be developing the tried and true working methods that support *the realization of unique vision and voice—this requires collaborating and experimenting as we each develop the working methods that best suit our own practice.*

Please note: this is not a production class. The projects that structure this course are not intended to be produced as polished films, but as exercises in directing camera and actors. This is a process-oriented course where we will build skills and confidence in the craft of directing that will support your more ambitious projects elsewhere.

**Above all, this course will be a practice-based exploration of the art of direction in a collaborative and supportive environment that we will build together.*

Recommended Reading

The Film Director's Intuition, Judith Weston

**Come to coffee hour at Lulu's to discuss*

Requirements

*Students should come to class prepared, on-time (or early), in comfortable clothes, and ready to work.

- The participation of all students is an essential element to the success of this course
- More than two unexcused absence or excessive lateness will result in a no pass
- Assignments must be completed and turned in on time
- Students will perform and crew for classmate’s projects
- Students are encouraged to cast from outside the class; no outside crew please
- This is not a writing course, no original material
- Please, no screens in-class: this is our time for creative focus without distractions

Assignments + Grading (details follow on next page)

Participation	40% *includes scene work and collaboration
Observation Notebook	10% *weekly
Script Analysis	10% *due July 2
Mid-term project	20% *due July 9
Final project	20% *due July 25

Schedule

Monday	Wednesday
June 25 Introductions, Exposure, Orientation to Studio B, Image Theatre	June 27 The Prophet Monologues The Frankenstein Challenge
July 2 Frankenstein Challenge Scenes * Script Analysis due *Last day to drop the course.	July 4 No Class Today, Happy Long Weekend!
July 9 *Mid-term project performances and screenings	July 11 Directing the Camera A *Friday July 13=Last day to withdraw.
July 16 Directing the Camera B	July 18 Directing the Camera C
July 23 TBA possible guest speaker	July 25 Final Projects
<i>* Possible optional public screening Friday July 27th</i>	

