

FLPA 331 – Directing Film and Video

Kade Mendelowitz

Film and Performing Arts 331, 3 Credits, **University of Alaska Fairbanks.**

Meets: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm & Fridays, 10:30am-2:00pm in Fine Arts Theatre 101 (and often KUAC TV studio)

Office Hour: Tuesdays 1:05 - 1:50 or by appointment. Office: 223 (by KUAC) or in the shop.

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Course Description:

Introduction to the history, theory and basic concepts of film direction. Includes interpretative script analysis, creative visualization, conceptualization, use of space, working with actors and designers, and direction of short scenes and videos.

Special fees apply. Prerequisites:

ART/FLPA 172; FLPA 271 or FLPA 280; FLPA 290 Recommended: FLPA 217;

FLPA F121; or permission of instructor. (1+4)

***Non-linear video editing skills required for full success in this course.**

Required Media:

Reading as assigned; none you need to purchase. Articles will be shared.

Required Materials:

- **SDHC card Class 6** or better – **16GB Class 10** recommended, **8GB** minimum required, and the cameras we'll be using **don't like cards over 32GB.** Having your own SD card will enable you to back up your own footage and have copies of your original material.
- **1.5" 3-ring binder.** *Get a good one!*
- USB "Jump Drive" at least 8GB or external

Methods:

This course will be taught by lecture and demonstration, with students meeting outside of class as required to fulfill the course requirements. Course information, assignments, and updates will be posted on Blackboard. Each student is responsible for communications and assignments on blackboard: <http://www.classes.uaf.edu>.

Vimeo: Students will also be required to join Vimeo.com and join the group: <https://vimeo.com/groups/uafscr/ckbe7jimeo>

Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes or exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
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D	The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below average quality and performance.	Sloppy or lazy work. May address most elements of an assignment, but often reflects inattention to details resulting in poor edits, rough takes, out-of-sync audio, and the like. No sound track, credits, or fades typical.
F	Indicates failure to meet lowest standards.	Unacceptable. Work meets so few assignment elements, or meets them so poorly, it is unwatchable.

a. Grading Written and Production Assignments:

The ability to communicate ideas clearly is the cornerstone of a great director. To demonstrate good directing, you should plan to organize your ideas clearly, use correct grammar, spell words and names correctly, and demonstrate that you've thoroughly conceptualized and edited your work.

Effort put in to the pre-production will make up for problems during production and post.

All production assignments should be turned in with accompanying pre-production material; screenplays, shooting scripts, storyboards, production schedules, contact sheets, etc. It is the director's responsibility to provide this information along with their final cut of the film.

It's not "cheating" to ask for opinions and editing skills of others. Instead, the discussion is positive and can bring new insights to your work. The Writing Center (<http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/>) is available for students to develop their writing skills. Please visit or contact them for assistance, Gruening 801 or 474-5314. For assistance with video production, please consult me, or your production-team members.

I generally evaluate video quality based on the following characteristics:

"A" Production:

- Demonstrates a high level of insight about the story – a director's concept is clear.
- Exhibits creativity in both concept and approach to the story. Technique matches intention.
- Well organized production with complete supporting materials (screenplay, storyboard, production schedule, etc)
- Displays awareness of the audience and the kind of production suitable for that audience.
- Is virtually free from errors in mechanics: Shots and edits "work" without dropped frames, gaps, audio inconsistencies, continuity errors.
- Addresses the task set by the assignment.

"B" Production:

- Demonstrates great skill in one or more area of production.
- Exhibits competence in both approach to the assigned problem and use of cinematic language.
- Features good organization of pre-production, although it may have minor flaws in organization.
- Displays awareness of the audience and the kind of production suitable for that audience.
- Is generally free from errors in mechanics. May have some editing or filming errors.
- Addresses the task set by the assignment.

"C" Production:

- Story conveys general understanding of video production skills.
- Production is adequately developed and organized.
- Displays some awareness of the audience and the kind of production suitable for that audience.
- May display some errors in mechanics, on multiple levels.
- Addresses the task set by the assignment.

"D" Production:

- Demonstrates a weak concept of director – unclear story structure or concept.
- Displays weaknesses in development or organization, or
- Reveals the director's unawareness of the kind of production suitable for the audience, or
- Reveals a pattern of errors in mechanics

- Suggests a lack of understanding of the assignment.

"F" Production:

- Work is incomplete, unedited, or
- Unorganized for production
- Reveals the director's unawareness of the kind of production suitable for the audience, or
- Reveals a pattern of errors in mechanics on multiple levels
- Complete lack of understanding or disregard of the assignment.

Student Protections and Services Statement:

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disabilities services, veteran's services, rural student services, etc to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/

Support Services:

- Disability Services: <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>
- Student Support Services <https://uaf.edu/sss/>
- Rural Student Services <https://uaf.edu/ruralss/>
- Military and Veteran Services: <https://uaf.edu/veterans/>
- UAF Writing Center <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/>

Wed. 1/30 Discussion

Fri.