

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Film Production at FAMU

Course Code / Title: (PR/FILM 420) Narrative Film: Post-Production and Final Product

Total Hours: 65

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Cross-Listings: Film Production / Film Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: For 16mm: previous experience in filmmaking, film theory, visual arts, or photography is highly recommended but not required. For 35mm: previous experience in 16mm is required.

Description

Offered exclusively to CET students - and serving as one of two integrated core courses for the *Film Production at FAMU* program - this course is run through FAMU, the Film and Television School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, and is administered and taught by FAMU staff and faculty. FAMU oversees the curriculum, professors, and grading. CET serves in a supportive role through onsite orientation, ongoing advising, and troubleshooting matters that might arise in the course of production. CET also supports the administration of the course and the *Film Production* program by liaising with faculty, administrators, and project managers at FAMU, and by funding the film budget.

This comprehensive, multi-faceted course is based on an academy approach that involves intensive mentoring by with a team of expert faculty. It takes students through the post-production process with a special focus on color-grading and color-correction, graphics, special effects, and sound mixing and design. The final product is given a formal screening with a jury review.

The class is composed of three modules, each of which is described in greater detail below:

1. Editing
2. Color Grading
3. Sound Design

The course also includes guest lecturers throughout the semester in which students view the works of and meet with established local filmmakers. In total, this course includes approximately 65 contact hours per semester, though the total number of contact hours may fluctuate slightly each semester. CET recommends granting 3 semester hours of credit for this course.

Methods of Evaluation

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Grades for each post-production module are determined by the faculty teaching them. The grade for the final product is determined after the final screening, according to the extent to which students successfully incorporate each module into their final film.

The final grade is calculated according to the following percentage:

- Post-Production Modules: 60%
 - Editing: 20%
 - Color Grading: 20%
 - Sound Design: 20%
- Final Product: 30%
 - Incorporation of Editing Modules into Film: 20%
 - Artistic Success (Jury Review): 10% (Evaluated by a panel of FAMU faculty, consisting of the above and others)
- Professionalism and Participation: 10%

This includes active and thoughtful participation, punctuality, and respectful and collegial attitude to fellow students, crew members, and faculty.

Students should be aware that their work is evaluated according to quality of both process and product, talent and discipline. As noted above, FAMU instruction follows an academy approach, where students work closely with faculty mentors, but structured, written feedback may be minimal. Last but not least, though artistic success is celebrated, the FAMU pedagogical approach also values learning from failures—learning what doesn't work. Students are expected to approach the course and the process with a willingness to learn both from success and from failure.

Because the course's academic content and evaluation is managed by FAMU faculty, any grade appeals are handled through FAMU.

Attendance Policy

Active participation and attendance in all components of this course are required as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Outline of Course Content

1. Editing

The aim of the editing module is to inspire students' analytical thinking with regard to the creation of emotion and its significance in film and to view the filmmaking process from various angles in order to understand the complexity of film, as well as to enable them to test their observations in practice.

Students learn how:

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- An individual shot is the basic block of film language
- An individual shot/take works within the structure of the film
- Various shots influence each other
- Emotion is expressed through film editing

2. Color Grading

The color-grading module focuses on post-production work with either DaVinci or Final Cut Pro Color Corrector, computer programs with functions for improving and/or radically changing the appearance of your film project. To complement the technical elements of the class, the professor shares experiences using different technologies to make 16mm or 35mm feature films and helps the students with the final color-grading of their films.

Content:

- Introduction. Basics of color systems, TV grading, film grading. Discussion of how color styles serve dramatic function in film.
- Postproduction technology: laboratory and grading
- Practical workshop on computer Macintosh G4(5) with DaVinci/Final Cut Pro – basics of DaVinci/Final Cut Pro. Professor shows examples from scenes.
- Practical workshop on computer with DaVinci/Final Cut Pro. Every student does a short correcting exercise.
- Projection of tests, touching upon problematics of grading film prints (Kodak prints, Premiere, Fuji), 16mm blow ups, DV/35mm tests, HDTV/35mm tests. Comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of the systems.
- Time for personal consultations or possible design of color correction for student projects.

3. Sound Design

This workshop provides a basic understanding of the filmic soundspace, how to work with recordists and mixers in developing a soundtrack, and ways to incorporate dialogue, foley/effects, music, and ambient sounds. In collaboration with a provided engineer, students will focus on the technical aspects of recording and editing their soundtracks in anticipation of the mixing and mastering of their film. This module also touches on recording in the case that students decide to gather sound themselves for incorporation into their projects beyond the audio resources provided by the assigned location/production sound recordist.

Students learn about:

- Audio file formats
- Dynamic and frequency range
- Eq, reverb and compression
- Setting up video sessions for audio creation
- Audio editing techniques
- Where to find sounds online

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- How to choose music
- How to transfer audio from video edit sessions to the final audio mix
- How to lay in the final stereo mixes into their projects