University of Memphis

Department of Communication and Film

Comm 3823

This is currently a hybrid course with one or possibly two on campus classes. The remainder of the course will be online. Students will need to complete assignments using their cell phones since checking out 16mm film cameras and editing in 16mm film editing rooms is not possible this semester. The class will be divided into three groups for the on campus classes. I’ll email everyone information regarding group assignments before the first day of class. Please, email me if you have questions.

**Date** **Day** **Class Activity**

8/18 T Course Introduction

Discussion - Composition

The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film & Video – Chapter 2

8/20 R Create a Storyboard

One Drive

PowerPoint

Shoot Project #1

8/25 T Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #1

8/27 R Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #1

9/1 T Grammar of the Shot – Chapter 1

Shoot Project #2

9/3 R Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #2

9/8 T Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #2

9/10 R Grammar of the Shot – Chapter 2

Shoot Project #3

9/15 T Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #3

9/17 R Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #3

9/22 T The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film & Video – Chapter 7

Grammar of the Shot – Chapter 3 – Pages 74 to 92

Shoot Project #4

9/24 R Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #4

9/29 T Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #4

10/1 R The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film & Video – Chapter 3 & 4

Grammar of the Shot – Chapter 4

Shoot Project #5

10/6 T Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #5

10/8 R Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #5

10/13 T Shoot Project #6

10/15 R Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #6

10/20 T Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #6

10/22 R Write a Logline for Project #7

Shoot Project #7

10/27 T Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #7

10/29 R Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #7

11/3 T Write a Logline for Project #8

Shoot Project #8

11/5 R Do PowerPoint presentation for Project #8

11/10 T Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #8 - Group A

11/12 R Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #8 - Group B

11/17 T Review PowerPoint presentation for Project #8 - Group C

11/24 T Final Exam

Grades:

Project #1 – 5%

Project #2 – 5%

Project #3 – 5%

Project #4 – 5%

Project #5 – 10%

Project #6 – 15%

Project #7 – 20%

Project #8 – 25%

Final Exam – 10 %

Projects are due on the day they are scheduled for review.

Texts:

The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video Production

Tom Schroeppel

(2nd edition is available as a pdf)

Grammar of the Shot

Roy Thompson and Christopher J. Bowen

(2nd edition is available as a pdf)

One Drive

<https://www.memphis.edu/umtech/solutions/docs/onedrive.pdf>

PowerPoint

<https://ptgmedia.pearsoncmg.com/images/9780735697799/samplepages/9780735697799.pdf>

Description of Projects:

Project #1 – Shoot a long shot, a medium shot, and a close up of three different subjects/objects. Create a PowerPoint presentation. Be sure to provide a description of each shot.

Project #2 – Shoot an example of each of the following shots: Very Long Shot, Extreme Long Shot, Long shot/Wide shot, Medium Long Shot, Medium Shot, Medium Close Up, Close Up, Big Close Up, Extreme Close Up. Be sure to provide a description of each shot.

Project #3 – Shoot an example of each of the following shots: Rule of Thirds, Nose Room, Head Room, Distracting Color (red, yellow, orange), Light and Dark object in the same shot, High Angle, Eye Level, Low Angle, Leading Line, Diagonal Line, Frame within a Frame, Distracting Background.

Project #4 – Exterior shots: Hard Light, Soft Light or Flat Light, Key Light, Key Light with Reflected Fill Light, Silhouette. Interior shots: Key Light, Fill Light, Back Light, silhouette.

Project #5 – Shoot a basic 12 – 15 shot sequence of someone doing something.

Project #6 – Shoot a 12 – 15 shot sequence of someone doing an activity. Think about how the shot would look if you were actually filming it. For example, someone walks into the shot, completes an action, and walks out of the shot. What would the audience see in the first frame of the shot? Shoot a still shot of that. What would they see in the shot that represents the action? Shoot a still shot of that. What would they see in the last frame of the shot? Shoot a still shot of that. You will need three stills to represent the action in each shot. It’s important to make sure there is a smooth ‘transition’ between the last frame of a shot and the first frame of the next shot

Project #7 – A Logline is your scripts’ core conflict summed up in one or two sentences. Think about the answers to these questions: Who is your protagonist? (not their name, just a description of who they are). What do they want? Who or What are they struggling against? What’s at stake if your protagonist doesn’t achieve what they want? You need to shoot a 12-15 shot sequence introducing your protagonist, and fairly quickly show the audience the incident that creates the conflict that needs to be resolved. Remember, you need three stills for each shot - what the audience sees in the first frame of the shot, what they would see in the shot that represents the action, and what they would see in the last frame of the shot.

Project #8 –Shoot a 15 – 20 shot sequence. This project provides an opportunity to implement any suggestions from the review of Project #7. The questions and shot requirements are the same.

Additional Information:

**COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy- Masks and Social Distancing**

All students are required to wear masks in classrooms & labs. The first time a student enters a classroom without wearing a face covering, the student will be asked to leave the class until they return with a covering. Further violations will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability. Students who repeatedly or flagrantly violate these community expectations may be referred for discipline under the Student Code and, if appropriate, immediately removed from campus by the Dean of Students.

**Student Health**

Students who are experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing or a higher than normal temperature should inform me by email so they can be excused from class and should stay home. Students should contact their health care provider or the Student Health Center at

<https://www.memphis.edu/health/>

Students who have a positive COVID-19 test should contact the Dean of Students at

[deanofstudents@memphis.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@memphis.edu)

**Student Accommodations**

If and when we return to class, students seeking to remain remote for health or other serious reasons should discuss their options with me. Students with accessibility issues or with other learning accommodation needs due to a disability should contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to submit an official request for course accommodations. Contact DRS at 901-678-2880 or at

[drs@memphis.edu](mailto:drs@memphis.edu). (<https://www.memphis.edu/drs/index.php>)

**Student Resources**

Students who need additional resources can contact the Dean of Students Office at <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php>