Description: This course is designed to give students the basic skills needed to conceptualize, capture, edit, and deliver short-form video content with a scientific and environmental theme. Basic elements of cinematography, lighting, sound and editing are covered. Through lectures and practical demonstrations of production equipment and techniques, students will be exposed to the skills necessary to produce a short documentary film.

Class Meets: Tuesdays 3:30pm - 4:45pm
First Class: October 6th, 2020
Last Class: December 8th, 2020

Locations: Zoom and GuachoSpace

GauchoSpace address:
https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/courses/course/view.php?id=89375

Class Zoom Address:

Instructor of Record: Michael Hanrahan
Email: hanrahan2012@gmail.com
Phone: 805-453-6912
Office Location: Remote
Office Hours: Tuesday 5pm - 6pm
Wednesday 9am - 10am

Course Text: “Environmental Media Production” Class Reader

Assignments and Grades:
Pirate Story Individual Assignment Pass / NP
Basic Camera Handling Individual or Group Pass / NP
Your Short Film Individual or Group Xtra Credit

There is no final exam in ESM 441.
Production Teams: Consider organizing yourselves into production teams of two or more persons from this class. Production is a collaborative effort and benefits from helping hands. Consider teaming up with someone. Alternatively, you can go it alone as a ‘Preditor’ these days — producer, director, editor…all in one person.
Required Class Materials
• Class Reader (PDF on GauchoSpace)

Recommended Class Materials: External hard drive with 1TB storage. (I like the Lacie Rugged Triple External Hard Drive, 1TB)

Recommended Reading: “KNOW—A Field Guide to Filmmaking”

Presentation of Assignments
• Video assignments will be delivered using Wipster, an online video platform with built in client review software that can be used for assignment feedback.
• All submitted documents for review must be typed and delivered via email or GoogleDocs.

Uploading Video Assignments
Wipster.io
Username: Bren Comm
Email: brencommunication@gmail.com
Password: Esm441-2020

Attendance
If you miss a class, you likely missed something important and it will be difficult to catch up. If you do need to miss a class, please notify me ahead of time with your explanation. I do understand that life emergencies come up. It is your responsibility to get the notes from that class and / or hand in assignments due on that day.
CLASS 1
Tuesday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNeVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lecture Topic: Welcome; course overview; calendar review
READ: VOCAB section of your Class Reader
WRITE: Pirate Story
  • Due next class (one week)
  • Please submit by email or Google docs

CLASS 2
Tuesday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNeVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lecture Topic: Phases of Production; Deconstructing film
DUE: “Pirate Story” (before class)
ASSIGNED: Basic Camera Handling

CLASS 3
Tuesday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNeVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lecture Topic: CAMERA DEMO in Com Lab
WATCH Demos before class on the camera you have been assigned
YouTube VIDEOS
  • on the FS100
  • on the NEXCAM

LECTURE ON
• Exposure
  Gain / ISO setting
  Shutter Speed
  Iris
• Focus
  Auto / vs Manual
  Peaking for sharp focus
• White Balance
  Manual vs camera settings
• Composition / Framing
  Where the Eye Goes
  Rule of Thirds
  - Avoid positioning your subject in center of frame
  - Head room
  - Nose room
CLASS 4
Tuesday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lecture Topic: Adobe Premier Demo I
You will need access to Adobe Premier - accessing Bren Adobe accounts TBD

CLASS 5
3:30pm - 4:45pm
Adobe Premier Demo II
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09

CLASS 6
3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lighting DEMO

CLASS 7
3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09

CLASS 8
3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lecture Topic: Art of the Interview (POWERPOINT)

CLASS 9
3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Lecture Topic: Client Relations (POWERPOINT)

CLASS 10
3:30pm - 4:45pm
Review and critique Interview
Location: Zoom Synchronous Meeting - whole class
https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/98244327474?pwd=ZDYrS291N2tMNnVPOWF0a0FwR1pLUT09
Due: BCH and Your Short Film
ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENT ONE  Pirate Story
Using film language taken from the FILM VOCABULARY AND TECHNIQUE section of your Reader, provide a narrative from the perspective of Pirate Captain Bill and his crew of delinquents as they navigate the treacherous waters off the Channel Islands in the 1600’s.

Length: 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced
Comments will be based on your correct use of film vocabulary and your creative storytelling.

ASSIGNMENT TWO  Basic Camera Handling (BCH)
This assignment introduces you to the techniques and camera movements that you will utilize in future assignments. It’s important to master these core moves as they are the basis for all good films.

Special Instructions:
Proper exposure, framing, composition, and white balance.
Shot on location using available ambient light.
Presented in the order found here with the correct shot # and the title of the shot at the start of each move.

You will need:
Camera
Tripod
Flash media card
Adobe Premier software and computer
Music

Include a music soundtrack of your choice.
Use graphic titles to label each shot clearly with Shot # and description.

Shot #1: Rack Focus / Depth of Field
Focus on an object in the foreground (or background) and then smoothly change the focus to bring another subject (in the background or foreground) into focus. Camera must be on a tripod.
Shot #2: Pan
Pan the camera, moving from one subject at the start of the move to another subject at the end of the shot. Hold three (3) seconds at the beginning and end of the pan. Make the move as smooth as possible. Camera must be on a tripod.

Shot #3: Tilt
Using the tripod handle, tilt the camera up or down from a compelling subject at the “top” and “bottom” of the move. Camera must be on a tripod.

Shot #4: Hand Held
Follow a living subject (person, dog, cat, etc.) with camera at eye level of the subject, moving as steady and smoothly as possible. Limit shake of camera—bend knees. Tripod NOT required or recommended.

Shot #5: Unique Perspective
Place the camera and frame a scene to capture a unique point of view.

CONTINUITY SEQUENCE (hold each shot for 4 seconds)

Shot #6: Establisher or Wide Shot
A very wide angle shot that will be used as your “establishing shot” in a movie. Sets the scene. Camera must be on a tripod.

Shot #7: Long shot
Long shot is “tighter” than a Wide Shot or Establisher, but still includes the complete subject and key elements of the scene. Camera must be on a tripod.

Shot #8: Medium Shot
Medium shot is “tighter” than a Long Shot and usually includes the upper torso (from the waistline up) of a human subject. Camera must be on a tripod.

Shot #9: Close Up
Close up is very tight on a subject, typically framing the face. Camera must be on a tripod.

Shot #10: Interview shot… RULE OF THIRDS
Shoot a medium shot placing a human subject in the 1/3, avoiding the center of the frame. Camera must be on a tripod.
EXTRA CREDIT This is your chance to make your own short film. Any topic. Any method. Anything you want. But because we are Bren, approach this film through an environmental lens. Build a video element to your MESM group project. Write and shoot a short doc featuring the cool research of a scientist at MSI. Make a music video. Build a series of shorts shared on social media. And be realistic. Students of ESM441 are notorious for biting off a bigger film project than they can finish in the few weeks we have remaining. Simple is better. Short is welcome. And creativity is your goal.

In this extra credit assignment, you will be utilizing all of your production skills: camera handling; sound recording; lighting; and editing.

LIGHTING
• Light an interior space (office, lab, etc.) with lighting kit; proper exposure on subject.

or
• Set up exterior interview location using 5 in 1 reflectors, silks

• If you do an interview, subject’s face should have one of the following lighting patterns:
  Rembrandt
  Loop
  Split
  Paramount

What You Will Need:
  Camera
  Tripod
  Light Kit / Reflectors
  Microphone
  Flash media card
  Adobe Premier software
  Music