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: Mondays 3:30pm - 4:45pm  
First Class: September 27th, 2021  
Last Class: November 29th, 2021

Locations: Classroom BH 1520 and the ComLab

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

Instructor of Record: Michael Hanrahan  
Email: hanrahan2012@gmail.com  
Phone: 805-453-6912  
Office Location: ComLab  
Office Hours:  
Mondays 2:00pm - 3:30pm or 5pm - 6pm

Course Text: “Environmental Media Production” Class Reader

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

There is no final exam in ESM 441.

Production Teams: We will be organizing into production teams of 4-5 people. Filmmaking requires a great deal of talent and long hours.
A good crew is helpful to collaborate with and manage all the necessary gear when conducting a proper interview.
In the first two weeks of class, we will distribute 5 sets of production gear.
Each production team will have the following in their kit:
- 2 cameras
- Sound recording
- Lights
- Various grip (c stands, light stands, reflectors, etc.)

You are welcome to use your own video camera equipment if you would like.

My instruction will center on the 'big picture' of making films, easily applied to any equipment you have available.
I will highlight the functions of the two cameras we have access to in this class: Sony FS100 and Sony NX5

iPhone Film Supplementals - If you want to use your phone for filming, this equipment will help you to capture more cinematic footage and much better audio.
https://www.filmicpro.com/gear/

Required Class Materials
• Class Reader (PDF on GauchoSpace)
ESM 441 2021
Intro to Environmental Media Production
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

Recommended Class Materials:
• Adobe Premier software ($19/month)
• 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.

On occasion, I may need to present my lecture from a remote location. These live Zoom sessions will be recorded for students who may not be able to attend in real time. By default, your microphone will be muted when you join the session. If you do not want to be included in the recording, simply keep microphone off and turn off your camera. You may ask questions in the chat window.

NOTE: Student participants are prohibited from recording of any kind. Only the instructor is permitted to record.
Teaching and learning while masked. The requirement for indoor masking is expected to last well into fall quarter.

- All students of this course, as a condition of physical presence in this classroom (including for exams or tests in this classroom or other location on the UCSB campus), must be compliant with the UC SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program at all times.
- Student non-compliance with COVID-19 health and safety requirements or with related directions from the instructor is a violation of the UCSB Standards of Conduct and will be adjudicated accordingly.
Let nature be your guide...

As you get yourself prepped for the upcoming class, think about this... Watch film more consciously.

Start paying closer attention to the story, camera, sound, lighting, and editing in the media you are watching. Watch a movie you've already seen and break it down, scrutinize everything about it:
Why that choice for the protagonist? What is her 'quest'? Why did they cut to that close up? Why did that interview sound so rich? How did they get that shot!? 

DOCUMENTARIES I RECOMMEND:
Roger & Me
The Cove
The Social Dilemma
Blackfish
Capturing the Friedmans
Grizzly Man
Fields of Fuel
Man On A Wire
Diving Deep: Life & Times of Mike deGruy
My Octopus Teacher
Supersize Me
Mad Hot Ballroom
Fahrenheit 911
Free Solo
RBG
No Impact Man
CLASS 1
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Classroom 1520
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
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: Classroom 1520 or ComLab
Lecture Topic: Phases of Production; Deconstructing film
DUE: “Pirate Story” (before class)
ASSIGNED: Basic Camera Handling

CLASS 3
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Lecture Topic: CAMERA DEMO in Com Lab
WATCH camera demos before class:

   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
CLASS 4
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Lecture Topic: Adobe Premier Demo I
You will need access to Adobe Premier

CLASS 5
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Lecture Topic: Adobe Premier Demo II

CLASS 6
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Sound DEMO

CLASS 7
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Lighting DEMO

CLASS 8
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Lecture Topic: Art of the Interview

CLASS 9
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
Lecture Topic: Client Relations

CLASS 10
Monday 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Location: ComLab
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.

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**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:
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Rembrandt
Loop
Split
Paramount

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