

## FST 201: Introduction to Film Production

5:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m., Tuesdays, LH 107

Eric Patterson, Ph.D.

Office Hours 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., TWR or by appointment

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**Course Description:** An introduction to applied cinematic language and narrative filmmaking, including pre-production, production, and post-production procedures. Techniques are discussed in lecture and workshop and practiced in order to introduce many concepts of production: narrative structure, script breakdown, visual storytelling, pre-visualization, mise-en-scene, shot types and sequences, coverage, continuity, collaborative process, camera and composition rules, camera angle and movement, exposure, lenses, perspective, focus and depth-of-field, sound, lighting, production design, directing, editing, and film and digital formats.

### Required Text:

Mamer, Bruce; *Film Production Technique* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition); Thomson-Wadsworth, 2003.

### Grade:

Quizzes and short assignments:	10%
Tests:	25%
Cumulative final exam:	25%
Projects	40%

### Quizzes and Tests:

Brief quizzes will be given every Tuesday (except test days) and are based on previous course material and text readings. Readings are very important as quiz and sometimes test material may come solely from the book — class time will often have to be spent on other material and workshops. Throughout the semester there will be several larger tests that cover more but similar material as quizzes. A cumulative final exam will be given with emphasis on material from the text.

### Projects:

There will be five graded projects that focus on various aspects of planning and incorporating cinematic language into students' own short productions. Groups of four students will collaborate on these projects, rotating through positions as director, cinematographer, producer, and editor. Each student is expected to effectively contribute to the collaborative process and final products and will be graded as such. Projects will be shot as still frames to emphasize visual technique and composition skills and will be presented and critiqued in class. Grading will consider narrative clarity, application of course material, imagination, effort, production quality, presentation, and critiques of others' works.

Time and interest permitting, there will be two short, un-graded projects that will allow students to exercise skills learned in class and gain some experience with Super-8 and/or 16mm film production. These are intended to further enhance and encourage student development and involvement in filmmaking.

### Etcetera:

General computer literacy will be a component of this course, focusing on skills required for basic digital editing such as media input/output, file organization, and usage of iMovie and Final Cut Pro. Assignments may also require word-processing, email, and Internet use. Storyboards will also be presented in electronic format.

No late assignments will be accepted. Attendance is required and will both directly and indirectly affect grades. Students who miss more than two classes during the semester are subject to failure. (Excessive lateness will be considered a lack of attendance.) Students are expected to abide by the honor code and be the original authors of all work.

It is the policy of the Film Studies Department that the final image of student film, video, and computer work created wholly or in part in film studies courses must be a title card that reads exactly as follows with no abbreviation, "This has been a student production of the Department of Film Studies at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington."

Students should not complete their projects for this course on private property outside of the UNCW campus since students are personally liable for injuries or damages that they cause while on private property. If you plan to film projects for this course on private property outside of the university, you must get prior written permission from the landowner and must purchase personal liability insurance through the Film Studies Department office. The fee is \$20 and must be paid by *January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005*.