CTPR 411: Directing Intensive Minors

Semester: Summer 2014
4 Units
Class times:
Monday/Wednesday/Fridays 9:00-12:50pm
RZC Stage A

Section 17836D
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Overview:
An overview of the concerns, functions and responsibilities of the Film Director. The core of the course will be the individual project. Each student will cast, rehearse, produce & direct (outside of class) and edit a 3-6 minute film. These will be screened and critiqued by Instructor & the class during the final week sessions. At these sessions, students MUST turn in a Production Notebook containing all "prep work" (working script & breakdowns, storyboards, shot lists, ALL permits & releases, etc. -- see SAs for exact requirements).

In addition, each student will "workshop" their scene with live actors and workshop their scripts. For the acting workshop, each student will cast and rehearse this scene outside of class, then present the scene with actors off-book to be workshopped in class, with appropriate props and wardrobe. For each script workshop, every student will have their scripts read out loud in class, with Instructor highlighting what works and doesn't, incorporating the entire class; adding suggestions for improvements.

Course Objective:
To develop skills at translating word into image/action/performance; at blocking scenes; and maximizing the effectiveness of material through camera and editing. Students should gain a sense of how a director guides a film to completion.

Script Development:
If you do not arrive with a 3-6 page screenplay, you should have at least two story ideas written out, ready to be developed.

Casting:
You should cast "real" actors (those with training), rather than friends. Past students found it more gratifying to work with people who can actually respond to direction. The SA's will guide you through the resources available with which to cast actors.

Production Groups & Scheduling:
The class will be divided into 3 groups: GROUP A, GROUP B, GROUP C.
Group A will shoot their films the weekend of 7/11, while groups B & C will crew.
Group B will shoot their films the weekend of 7/18, while groups A & C will crew.
Group C will shoot their films the weekend of 7/25, while groups A & B will crew.

Class Schedule & Week By Week Outline:

Week 1
6/30 Monday Class
9:00-11:00am: Student Orientation
1:00-4:00pm: Introductions, read syllabus out loud, arrange production groups, collect scripts/treatments/outlines.
Intro to Story.

6/30 Tuesday
10:00-12:00: Camera check-out, SCX 2nd Floor
1:00-4:00: Cinematography Seminar - camera and lighting demo, SA's give Sound Kit demo, RZC Stage A

7/2 Wednesday Class
Intro to Camera, coverage and blocking. Screen clips and shorts as examples.
ALL STORY IDEAS MUST BE SUBMITTED

7/3 Thursday
1:00-4:00: Avid Editing Training Session, Avid Post Lab.
All students must attend.

7/4 ***July 4th Holiday - no classes***

Weekend: Shoot; experiment with camera and sound kit.

Week 2
7/7   Monday Class
SPW Safety Seminar -- mandatory.
Script analysis, script breakdown and production planning.
Working with Actors 101.
All first drafts due

7/8   Tuesday
1:00-4:00: Cinematography Seminar follow-up.

7/9   Wednesday Class
Script workshop Group A

7/10 Thursday
1:00-4:00: Avid Editing Training Session follow-up.

7/11   Friday Class
Acting workshop Group A

Weekend: Group A shoots

Week 3
7/14   Monday Class
Script workshop Group B

7/16   Wednesday Class
Acting workshop Group B

7/18   Friday Class
Group B shoots, class crews, Instructor and SA's on sets/locations.

Weekend: Group B shoots

Week 4
7/21   Monday Class
Script workshop Group C

7/23   Wednesday Class
Acting workshop Group C

7/25   Friday Class
Group C shoots, class crews, Instructor and SA's on sets/locations.

Weekend: Group C shoots

Week 5
7/28   Monday Class
Intro to Editing.
Editing in Avid Labs, Instructor and SA's in lab.

7/30   Wednesday Class
Editing in Avid Labs, Instructor and SA's in lab.

8/1   Friday Class
Editing in Avid Labs, Instructor and SA's in lab.

Weekend: Final editing, sound design, titles. Output films.

Week 6
8/4   Monday Class   ***Group A Projects due***
Screen Group A

8/6   Wednesday Class   ***Group B Projects due***
Screen Group B

8/8   Friday Class   ***Group C Projects due***
Screen Group C

<u>**Rules**</u>**:**
Scheduled topics, assignments and due dates are subject to change.

Computers, cel phones, and other devices may be used to take notes and to work on projects when specified by the instructor. Other uses are not allowed and students will receive a deduction to their attendance/participation grade if found doing so.

No food or beverages of any kind are allowed in the classrooms.
No projects will be accepted later than the final class date. All late projects will receive a grade deduction per week late.

Only absences related to medical need will be excused and only with a letter from your Doctor.
Students are responsible for all projects even if they are absent on the day a project is assigned.

Non-attendance policy:
Absences are permitted only with doctor's notices; otherwise two absences equals one letter grade reduction (from A to B, for example), and two 'lates' will equal one absence.

Grading:

Workshops	20%	
Final Project	50%	
Participation	30%	(includes fulfilling crewing obligations)

Due dates should be adhered to. No unexcused absences (documentation required for excused). You will receive a reduction of one-third grade for each unexcused absence. Tardiness is unprofessional & will lower your grade.

Students with Disabilities:
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html, (213) 740-0776(Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Statement on Academic Integrity:
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, (www.usc.edu/scampus or http://scampus.usc.edu) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.
Information on intellectual property at USC is available at: http://usc.edu/academe/acsen/issues/ipr/index.html.

<u>Disruptive Student Behavior</u>

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.