

**Instructor:** Jacek Laskus, ASC, PSC  
Office Hours: Tuesdays after class (by appointment)  
323 -6976830C [j.laskus@att.net](mailto:j.laskus@att.net)

**Student Assistant:** Charles Mazery 323 509 6772 mazery@usc.edu

**Class Meeting:** Tuesday SCA stage 3, 1:00-4:50 pm  
**Final Class:** Tuesday December 16th

## OVERVIEW

Welcome to CTPR 537. This class will introduce you to 16mm film stocks, intermediate lighting principles and review your understanding of digital video capture. Classes will consist of lectures, demonstrations, and in class exercises in which students will serve in a variety of crew positions. The course will be taught using a 16mm motion picture camera and one Hi Def capture camera. The course covers also a lab fee the use of Arri SR2 16mm camera and a Sony F5 camera packages, as well as a grip/ lighting package. It is recommended that you provide a hard drive for your digital files.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- to further the student's understanding and appreciation of the art and craft of cinematography
- to enhance the effectiveness of visual storytelling
- to develop the student's problem solving abilities

## ASSIGNMENTS

There are two class assignments, 1) a still assignment (due mid semester) and 2) A final HD assignments (due at the end of the semester).

## REQUIRED COURSE EQUIPMENT

- A digital or analogue still camera (the quality does not matter)
- A small flash light (recommended with the removable top)

## OPTIONAL COURSE EQUIPMENT

- A light meter---There are a few available from the equipment center BUT I highly recommend you purchase your own if you are serious about learning to use one.
- A DSLR camera and 18% grey card.
- A ditty bag

Title: Voice & Vision: A creative approach to narrative film and DV production

ISBN-13: 978-0-240-80773-7

Title: New Cinematographers

Author: Alexander Ballinger

ISBN: 1856693341

Publisher: Harpers Design International

Title: Matters of Light & Depth

Author: Ross Lowell

ISBN: 0966250400

Publisher: Lower Light Management

Title: Cinematography

Author: Kris Malkiewicz

ISBN: 074326438X

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

## **INTERNET**

Roger Deakins ASC, BSC Blog <http://www.rogerdeakins.com/>

No Film School – <http://nofilmschool.com/>

## **YOUTUBE**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhhnFP1GWHI&list=LL4lcWHXLNh6yclnvMWhvMFw&feature=mh\\_lolz](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhhnFP1GWHI&list=LL4lcWHXLNh6yclnvMWhvMFw&feature=mh_lolz)

Connie Hall

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxKWS0\\_2a5E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxKWS0_2a5E)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mas4zNdBhzo>

Roger Deakins

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hziDmIE0wA>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0-dXh\\_IsiQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0-dXh_IsiQ)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzinPgsoxE>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_x6ACOMVRs4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_x6ACOMVRs4)

Skyfall

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=5Lh69p5g13Q>

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**Course Equipment: Reminder:** A small ditty bag (bring these to **every** class)

[http://dl.dropbox.com/u/14944067/Website/USC/AC\\_Work\\_Flow.html](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/14944067/Website/USC/AC_Work_Flow.html)

See the above page for a review of what a minimal ditty will entail.

A DSLR camera is optional but strongly advised.

**Grading:**

Grading is based on a combination of both objective and subjective criteria. However, the larger percentage of your final grade does come from the latter. Therefore, it is **imperative** that you understand what is expected from you in this class. If at any time you are wondering how you are progressing, please arrange a meeting with me to discuss your status.

- 20%** Photo Module. Student selects from module alternatives and presents 6-8 images in class.
- 20%** Final assignment including a one page summary & self-critique, due the day of screening. (This exercise must be proposed by you and approved by me.)
- 40%** Crew performance during "in class" exercises. Throughout the semester you will be assigned rotating crew positions on specific lighting and shooting exercises. Your performance will be evaluated on preparedness, (bring all necessary equipment & supplies), collaboration, efficiency, respect for crew and equipment, and problem solving ability.  
There will be 2 opportunities for each student to DP a project. 2x2 #1 & 2x2 #2
- 20%** Class participation. You need to "be there" mentally as well as physically.

**Attendance is not optional!** 1) You must discuss all absences and late nesses from class with me. 2) Absence or lateness will be categorized as excused or unexcused. An absence or lateness is considered excused if you discuss it with me and have a note from an authority. All medical absences require a visit and note from a personal doctor or visit to the USC student health center. Please sign the release form giving them permission to discuss your visit with me. Email from the doctor is not acceptable.

Unexcused absence will alter your final grade in the following way:

(Examples assume you earn an A.)

1 absence will result in your final grade dropping one portion of a grade, i.e., from A to A-.

2 absences will result in your final grade dropping two portions of a grade, i.e. from A to B+

3 absences will result in your final grade dropping three portions of a grade, i.e. from A to B

Unexcused lateness will alter your final grade in the following way:

(Examples assume you earn an A.)

One lateness will not count against you, it's LA.

Two will result in your final grade dropping one letter portion of a grade, i.e. from A to A-.

Three will result in your final grade dropping by two portions of a grade, i.e., from A to A- (one), to B+ (two portions of a grade).

Four will result in your final grade dropping three portions of a grade, i.e. from A to A- (one) to B+ (two), to B (three portions of a grade). And so on...

If you arrive late, you **MUST** come to me during a break and let me know you are present.

Please don't assume I saw you arrive. If you fail to do so, you may be marked absent.

**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 DPS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me within in the first two weeks of the semester. DPS is located in STU301, and is open 8:30 AM until 5:00PM, Monday through Friday. Their number is 213-740-0776.

#### 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, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. 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/>.

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- 1    08/26** Syllabus, review course objectives, prep and learn Cameras. Loading, build & prep procedures.

**SA**    Syllabus, AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector/ or 50" monitor for Mac,  
3 Arri SR Packages, (3 100ft test rolls to learn loading)

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- 2    09/02** BOOT CAMP - Camera, grip, gaffing essentials. Set protocol. Focus pulling, meter reading Incident & Spot. Electrical safety. Working with ratios and dynamic range. Camera set-up/ labeling mags and cans, Lenser/pins. Shoot a demo exercise.

**SA-** AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor  
2 Arri SR Packages, 7219T 2-100ft rolls

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- 3    09/09**    Intro to Sony F5 Camera.  
Differences –film 16mm Digital 35mm sensor. Camera set up and recording  
Handling the digital files, understanding the digital flow. Histogram as a light meter.

**SA-** AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac, / or 50" monitor  
1-Arri SR Package, 2-100ft rolls of 7219T & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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- 4    09/16**    BOOT CAMP II –  
Lighting Skills, review of basic lighting properties.  
DP/ Gaffer/Grip/AD communications. Plotting light set-ups. Power distribution. & cabling. Stock test performed. Dynamic range and ratios.

**SA-** AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac, / or 50" monitor  
1-Arri SR Package, 2-100ft rolls of 7219T & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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**5 09/23** 2x2 #1 cycle begins - Total of 4 projects shot. Two hours for each project. These projects are shot on stage with rotating crews. DP selects lab work (pull/ push). In this cycle, the project content is derived from a reference image, either from a film still or the reproduction of a painting. Actors for those exercises are recommended. Each DP has 2 hours to complete the work, then we take a brief break and the next team is up. The scope of the shot should be a MS. Actors for these exercises are encouraged. All students will arrive with the printed out image they are working with (or on your laptop). Select a series of cinematic elements that you are working with. Art direction, wardrobe and props are all required for success in these exercises.

1 Arri-SR package & 1 Sony F5 Package with monitor.

**SA-** AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac, 1-Arri SR Package, 2-100ft rolls of 7219T & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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**6 09/30** 2-x2 #2 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA** - AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor, Arri SR Package, 2-100ft rolls of 7219T & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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**7 09/07** 2x2 #3 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA** - AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac, Arri SR Package, 2-100ft rolls of 7219T & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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**8 10/14** 2x2 #4 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA** - AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor, Arri SR Package, 2-100ft rolls of 7219T & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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**9 10/21** Midterm presentations – photo collection presentation. There will be a presentation of ideas for the final projects. Each student is required to shoot a final project. 2 students may share a production number & equipment with another member of the class. It is shot over a weekend and all 16 projects are screened the final day of class.

**SA-**, AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor.

- 10 10/28** 2x2 #5 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA** - AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor, Arri SR package & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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- 11 11/04** 2x2 #6 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA** - AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor, Arri SR package & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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- 12 11/11** 2x2 #7 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA** - AV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor, Arri SR packages & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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- 13 11/18** 2x2 #8 cycle - Total of 4 projects shot. 1.45 hours for each project viewing of the project from previous week.

**SA**- SAV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor, Arri SR package & Sony F5 Package with monitor

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- 14. 12/02** - Viewing of the project from previous week. Final project is shot and prep outside the class over previous weekend and review during the class

**SA**- SAV- Monitor w/DV-Cam deck, 8ft screen, digital projector for Mac / or 50" monitor,

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- 15. 12/09** Telecine field trip – Re-telecine in class projects beginning with Round 2 materials. Students may verify their transfers. 2-hour session, so not all of the projects will be able to be re-transfer

**SA**- Send maps and times for the session, bring negative.

- 16. 12/16** Final screening of students' projects- all 16 projects are screened the final day of class.