

# **CTPR 290 CINEMATIC COMMUNICATION**

## **Syllabus - Fall 2015**

**(Section #18473D)**

6 units

*Open to School of Cinematic Arts students only.*

Class hours: 1:00 – 3:50 PM, Tuesdays / Thursdays

Location: SCA 310

Instructor: Miles Watkins

Email: mileswatkins@mac.com

Phone: (310) 666-1073

Office hours: By Appointment

SA: Tony Rettenmaier

Email: tonyrett14@gmail.com

Phone: (949) 705-9018

### **OVERVIEW**

In this class students will learn to express their ideas through the language of cinema. The basic principles of cinematography, directing, editing, producing, and sound will be introduced, but the class does not aim to produce polished movies or moviemakers.

When you make narratives, we would like you to focus on the expressive potential of physical behavior; reveal emotions and ideas through what the characters *do* rather than say. Dialogue is used sparingly in 290; we make sound pictures, but not talking pictures.

Students are encouraged to explore alternative and non-traditional forms in both fictional drama and documentary, as individual filmmakers and as part of a crew.

The instructor and class will critique screened projects. The goal of these sessions is to provide constructive criticism that will improve the student filmmaker's understanding of the process and skills required to produce and consume movies.

By the end of the course, students should display basic competence in conceiving and developing movie ideas and in using the techniques of cinema and digital media to express themselves and communicate to audiences.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Understand and begin to apply the aesthetics of visual and aural communication through cinema.
- Use the creative interaction of image and sound for expressive purposes.
- Design and create cinematic structures.
- Introduce the basics of scriptwriting, producing, directing, cinematography, editing, and sound

design, and their interrelationship in the creation of a cinematic project.

- Develop ideas into movies.
- Experiment with personal expression through cinema.
- Show skills in characterization and visual story telling.
- Recognize the potential of a variety of cinematic forms: experimental, documentary, animation, etc.
- Deliver and receive effective critiques of work in progress.
- Establish ethical standards for movie making.
- Show ability to collaborate, to both lead and take direction on a crew.

## ASSIGNMENTS, AND PROJECTS

The individual projects will center on various themes that will change each semester.

### Individual Exercise

1. One day shooting with available light and non-synch dialogue sound recording.
2. Write, produce, direct, shoot, create sound for, and edit exercise.
3. One week to edit exercise.
4. Maximum length 3 minutes, including credits.

### Individual Project 1

1. One weekend shooting with available light and non-synch dialogue sound recording.
2. Write, produce, direct, shoot, create sound for, and edit project.
3. One week to edit project.
4. Length 3-6 minutes, including credits.

### Individual Project 2

1. One weekend shooting with available light or light kit and synch dialogue sound recording.
2. Write, produce, direct, shoot, create sound for, and edit project.
3. One week to edit project.
4. Length 3-6 minutes, including credits.

### Crew Project

1. One class day of shooting on location with lighting, and synch sound recording.
2. Serve in one crew position.
3. One week to edit project.
4. Maximum length 5 minutes, including credits.

### Written Assignments

1. Completed scripts for Projects 1 & 2.
2. Complete a *Personal Critique* and *Crit on Crits* for Exercise , Project 1 and Project 2. Personal Critiques are due at time of screening. Projects will not be screened without them. Crit on Crits are due one week after the project is screened. Forms for both are at the end of the syllabus. All documents are to be TYPED and SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE.

### 3. Five-minute script for Crew Project

When doing your fictional projects, cast actors, when you want performances, not roommates, friends, and family—use the casting sources at SPO. Since you must operate camera, **you are not permitted to act in your own movies.**

#### **ETHICS**

It is extremely important that you protect your opportunity to learn and not hand it over to someone more experienced. **We expect you to operate your own camera**, plan your own lighting, etc. **You may not have people from outside the film school or in advanced classes crew or edit for you**; this is the equivalent of asking someone else to write a paper for you, which is a violation of academic integrity. We DO encourage you to help out on each other's shoots by carrying equipment, dressing sets, watching over safety, and so on; it's more effective and more fun!

#### **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Cinema school is intense. One important aid in coping is managing one's time, energy, and health. This translates into: scaling projects to do-able sizes; having back-up ideas, locations, equipment and actors in case of problems (weather, accidents, camera break-downs, etc.); realistically estimating time; protecting time to eat and sleep!

If you are feeling stressed out, please talk with your instructors or SA. USC also provides a Student Counseling service which has helped pull many students through rough spots; you can reach them at (213) 740-7711. Chances are that as the semester progresses you will be amazed at how much you are capable of and how quickly you are becoming a seasoned filmmaker.

#### **GRADING BREAKDOWN**

Final grades will be issued only upon completion of all required movies and documents; grades will be calculated on the following percentages:

Individual Exercise	10%
Individual Project 1	20%
Individual Project 2	20%
Crew Project (Final Exam)	25%
Documents*	15%
Class participation	10%

\*The 15% of the overall grade for Documents is based solely on the percentage of times the student's scripts, Personal Critiques, and Crit on Crits are delivered at the requested time. Blank or nonsensical documents will be considered late.

We do not grade "on a curve." Each student's grade reflects his or her individual work during the semester. Attendance and punctuality will also influence your final grade. You will be graded down one notch (e.g. B to B-) for every three unapproved absences and/or every five times you are late for class. If you are absent, the circumstances of your absence must be

approved by your directing faculty.

Turn your phone all the way off during class. This applies to **ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES** (known or unknown throughout the present or any expanded universe). This is under grades because the success of this class is depends on every student's full presence. Or, as Ram Dass said, "Be *here* now." Students will receive a downgrade of one notch for violation of this policy more than two times.

### **Recommended Texts**

*Producing and Directing the Short Film and Video, Second Edition*, Peter W. Rea and David K. Irving, Focal Press, 2001

*The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video*, Tom Schroepel. Self-published.

*Practical Moviemaking; A Handbook for the Real World*, Joe Wallenstein, McFarland & Company

*The Avid Media Composer Cookbook*, Benjamin Hershleder, Packt Publishing,

<http://tinyurl.com/avidmc-book>

*Avid Editing*, Sam Kauffman and Ashley Kennedy, Focal Press (with DVD of practice materials)

*The Healthy Edit: Creative Editing Techniques for Perfecting Your Movie*, John Rosenberg, Focal Press, 2011

### **Recommended Viewing**

DVD: *Visions of Light, The Art of Cinematography*

DVD: *The Cutting Edge*

## **Week-to Week** (see accompanying calendar)

### **WEEK ONE**

#### **Meeting 1**

Introduce the course and discuss class goals, organization and assignments.

Divide class into **A**, **B**, and **C** Groups.

Directing- Introduce story telling techniques, character, plot.

#### **Meeting 2**

Directing- Introduction to Scripwriting. Script Format. Discuss beats and three act structure, Connect with character, motivation, blocking

### **WEEK TWO**

#### **Meeting 1**

Cinematography- Checkout and introduce tripod and camera (Sony NXCAM), including an in-class demonstration of menu settings.

#### **Meeting 2**

Directing- Working with actors, collaboration, blocking

Assign exercise, 3 mins. Max.

*Assignment (all groups): Shoot Exercise.*

### **WEEK THREE**

#### **Meeting 1**

**(Labor Day, No Monday Class)**

**TUESDAY CLASS-** Editing: - AVID LAB Introduce basic editing and post production, including High Definition workflow. Conduct Avid instruction in lab. Begin editing Project 1. **Tech & SA led** (3 hrs)

#### **Meeting 2**

**WEDNESDAY CLASS-** Editing: - AVID LAB Introduce basic editing and post production, including High Definition workflow. Conduct Avid instruction in lab. Begin editing Project 1. **Tech & SA led** (3 hrs)

**THURSDAY CLASS-** Editing- AVID LAB Basic Avid Editing using classroom exercises- **Instructor Led** (3 hrs)

*Assignment: Edit Exercise. **Group A** Project 1 scripts due Sunday 6PM.*

***Group A** preps Project 1.*

### **WEEK FOUR**

#### **Meeting 1**

**MONDAY CLASS-** Editing- AVID LAB Basic Avid Editing using classroom exercises- **Instructor Led** (3 hrs)

Script Conference Project 1 A group (Concurrent last hour)

**TUESDAY CLASS** - Directing- Screen and critique Exercise, Group A & ½ Group B: 9 @ 3 min ea.  
Conduct **Group A** Project 1 script conferences.

**Meeting 2**

**WEDNESDAY CLASS**- Directing- Screen and critique Exercise, Group A & ½ Group B: 9 @ 3 min ea.

**THURSDAY CLASS**- Directing- Screen and critique Exercise, Group C & ½ Group B: 9 @ 3 min ea.

*Assignment: Group B Project 1 scripts due Sunday 6PM. Group B preps Project 1. Group A shoots Project 1.*

**WEEK FIVE**

**Meeting 1**

**MONDAY CLASS**- Directing- Screen and critique Exercise, Group C & ½ Group B: 9 @ 3 min ea.  
Conduct **Group B** Project 1 script conferences.

**TUESDAY CLASS**- Directing **TBD**

Conduct **Group B** Project 1 script conferences.

**Meeting 2**

Directing- Experimental and Documentary

*Assignment: Group C Project 1 scripts due Sunday 6PM. Group C preps Project 1. Group B shoots Project 1. Group A edits Project 1.*

**WEEK SIX**

**Meeting 1**

Sound- Avid Lab- Basic Avid sound editing (3hrs.)

Directing- Conduct **Group C** Project 1 script conferences. (Concurrent last hour)

**Meeting 2**

Directing- Screen and critique **Group A** Project 1. Announce script assignment for Crew Project.  
Midterm conferences A Group

*Assignment: Group C shoots Project 1. Group B edits Project 1.*

**WEEK SEVEN**

**Meeting 1**

Directing: Blocking, the 180 degree line, use of camera angles in story telling  
Vagabond Scout last hour of class

**Meeting 2**

Directing- Screen and critique **Group B** Project 1.  
Midterm conferences B Group

*Assignment: Group C edits Project 1. Write scripts for Crew Projects and circulate to class on-line.*

**WEEK EIGHT**

**Meeting 1**

Editing- Avid Lab. Avid Instruction- Students bring in projects to work on (3 hrs)  
Crew Project Scripts submitted online by 6pm Monday.

### **Meeting 2**

Directing- Screen and critique **Group C** Project 1.  
Midterm conferences C Group

*Assignment: **Group A** Project 2 scripts due Sunday 6PM. **Group A** preps Project 2.  
Class reads Crew Project scripts and votes for top 3 by Noon Sunday, SA announces selections by 6PM Sunday.*

## **WEEK NINE**

### **Meeting 1**

Directing- Hopeful crew project producers pitch. Different crew positions defined. Working as a crew  
Conduct **Group A** Project 2 script conferences.

### **Meeting 2**

Cinematography- Introduce lighting kits. Demonstrate 3-point lighting on stage sets. Discuss, lenses, depth of field, and color temperature. Brief boom kit demonstration (2hrs)  
Students bring cameras and tripods to class.  
Directing- 3 producers selected for Crew Projects

*Assignment: **Group B** Project 2 scripts due Sunday 6PM. **Group B** preps Project 2. **Group A** shoots Project 2.. Project 3 light and boom kits available for student checkout.*

## **WEEK TEN**

### **Meeting 1**

Directing- Directors for Crew Projects pitch to producers and writers of selected projects. Directors selected. Other crew positions for Crew Projects filled. Producers and Directors assigned casting call times.  
Conduct **Group B** Project 2 script conferences.

### **Meeting 2**

Sound- Avid Lab- Introduce editing and mixing concepts in Avid lab session that covers how to edit sound, specific elements of the track in Media Composer, level, panning, and use of frequency.  
Introduce selected audio tools in Audiosuite.

*Assignments: **Group C** Project 3 scripts due Sunday 6PM. **Group C** preps Project 2. **Group B** shoots Project 2. **Group A** edits Project 2.  
Crew Project- producers, writers and directors work on rewrite. Producers & directors casting call*

## **WEEK ELEVEN**

### **Meeting 1**

Directing- In-class casting sessions  
Conduct **Group C** Project 2 script conferences.

Assignment: Producers and directors of Crew Project begin casting call.

**Meeting 2**

Directing- Screen and critique **Group A** Project 2.

*Assignments: Group C shoots Project 2. Group B edits Project 2. Crew Project producers, writers, and directors work on rewrite of Crew Project scripts.*

**WEEK TWELVE****Meeting 1**

Cinematography/Directing- Vagabond Stage Rehearsal- Students light, shoot, build sets and record synch sound with students serving as crew and talent. (3 hrs)

**Meeting 2**

Directing- Screen and critique **Group B** Project 2.  
Vagabond scout

*Assignment: Group C edits Project 2. Directors and producers polish Crew Project scripts.*

**WEEK THIRTEEN****Meeting 1**

Directing- Prep and rehearse crew Projects in Vagabond

**Meeting 2**

Directing- Screen and critique **Group C** Project 2.

*Voluntary extra rehearsal of Crew Projects*

**WEEK FOURTEEN****Meeting 1**

Directing- Shoot Crew Projects.

**Meeting 2**

**THANKS GIVING- NO WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY CLASS (LABS CLOSED WED-FRI.)**

*Assignment- Crew Project editors do first cut*

**WEEK FIFTEEN****Meeting 1**

Directing- Screen first cut of Crew Projects

**Meeting 2 -**

Directing- Screen final cuts of Crew Projects.

**Wrap party- last class**

## **SAFETY**

**All students MUST attend the SCA Safety Seminar and present proof of attendance to their instructor before any equipment may be issued.**

Students must adhere to the USC School of Cinematic Arts Safety Guidelines as well as professional, ethical and safety standards that will protect everyone on the set. They can be found at [https://scacommunity.usc.edu/resources/physical production/pdf/SafetyRulesHandout.pdf](https://scacommunity.usc.edu/resources/physical%20production/pdf/SafetyRulesHandout.pdf)

The following policies are applicable to CTPR 290.

### 1. CARS

- a. NO FILMING in or around a moving automobile.
  - b. If you have scripted a moving automobile shot film you must use a “Poor Man’s Process” technique on private property or on University property. Your faculty will instruct you how to do this.
  - c. Stationary car work requires permission from your faculty and a Hazardous Shooting Form from Physical Production.
  - d. You may not place a camera or a crew member on a street.
  - e. You must have written permission to be on any property.
2. Minors (actors under 18 years of age) require the presence of a studio teacher and legal guardian, along with valid work permits.
  3. No guns of any kind may appear in a 290 project. Productions are only authorized to use rubber knives, swords or bayonets. Squibs are not allowed.
  4. Stunt coordinators are mandatory for any action that could in any way injure your actor.
  5. USC Insurance never covers any vehicle of any kind.
  6. Jib arms, cranes, scissor lifts, camera cars are not allowed on student projects.
  7. No creature may be harmed during the filming of any USC Student Project. The American Humane Society must approve use of all animals.
  8. The use of motor boats/speed boats is prohibited, as are helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.
  9. Students are authorized to use 290 light kits and practical lights (300 watts and under) only. No lights are to be rented or donated from vendors. Generators are not permitted.
  10. Fire is limited to the use of LED candles and cigarette lighters. Candy Glass (a special stunt glass) must be used when glass, plates, mirrors, etc. are broken as part of a stunt or when these objects present a possible danger to an actor.
  11. The maximum shooting day for USC projects is 12 hours. The minimum turn around time before the next shooting day is 12 hours.
  12. No open-toed shoes on sets, stages, or around any heavy equipment.
  13. Students may not go beyond the 50 Mile Studio Zone.

Failure to follow these policies may result in:

1. Confiscation of the student’s film.
2. Lowering of the student’s grade. Serious violations will result in a grade of F for the project.
3. Suspension of the student’s production number.
4. Class failure.
5. Appearance before the SCA Academic Violation Committee of both peers and faculty

members.

6. Appearance before the University Judicial Affairs Committee.

All students must consult with the instructor on any shot that might raise a safety issue. The hazardous shooting form can be found online at:

[https://scacommunity.usc.edu/resources/physical\\_production/hazardous\\_form.cfm](https://scacommunity.usc.edu/resources/physical_production/hazardous_form.cfm)

You must have Hazardous Shooting Conditions Forms, signed by your instructor and the Head of Physical Production, prior to shooting in any situation or location that might be considered dangerous or when using weapons, projectiles, or stunts. This process must be completed by the Thursday before shooting. If you cannot complete the process before shooting, you must cancel whatever would require the form. Students are expected to work with others in the class whenever on location. Everyone (crew and cast) is responsible for safety on the set.

Do not store equipment in your car, even in a locked trunk. It is not insured for loss if stolen from a vehicle.

## **EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

**All 290 projects MUST be shot on the camera provided to students by the School of Cinematic Arts and edited in the SCA AVID labs. Use of personal or rented professional cinema equipment is prohibited in 290. No Exceptions.**

**Projects not shot on SCA camera and/or edited outside of the SCA AVID labs will be graded as an "F" and confiscated by the class instructor.**

The School will provide digital cameras, tripods, and editing stations. Students must pay a Lab Fee of \$500 and also an Insurance Fee of \$300.

**Students will provide their own:**

1. **Headphones (required) for Avid lab.** We recommend Sony MDR 7506, which are available at the *USC Bookstore*.
2. **SDHC Memory (16 GB) cards for NXCAM.** (Class 10 rated) **SCA APPROVED SDHC CARDS:**
  - Kingston Ultimate X 16GB SDHC Flash Card: Model # SD10G2/16GB
  - SanDisk Extreme 16GB SDHC Flash Card: Model # SDSDRX3-16GB-A21
  - SONY 16GB SDHC Flash Drive: Model # SF16NX/TQ
  - Lexar Professional 133x 16GB SDHC Flash Card: Model #LSD16GCRBNA133
  - PNY Professional Series 16GB SDHC Flash Card: Model # P-SDHC16GB10-EFS2
3. **One of the following approved External Hard Drives:**
  - G-TECH: G-RAID (1TB RAID)
  - G-TECH: G-DRIVE (500GB Single Drive)
  - Glyph-Technologies: GT-050Q (1TB Single Drive)

**A second drive or 16GB flash drives are highly recommended to back up material in the case of drive failure.**

**Students will be required to bring their projects to class on their drives from time to**

time.

**The School will provide:**

1. **Sony NXCAM HD Cameras and tripods.**

**N.B. WITH THE NXCAM CAMERA, THIS SETTING IS THE ONLY SETTING THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO EDIT YOUR FOOTAGE ON AVID:**

### **HD 1080/24p FX**

Setting can be found by clicking on "Menu"

Toggle down to REC/OUT SET then select "Exec"

Toggle arrow to the right and down to select "Rec Format" then select "Exec" then choose: HD 1080/24p FX and select "Exec"

To verify you've selected the correct format at the main screen select the "Display" button until you see HD 1080/24p FX on the viewfinder screen.

2. **Access to lighting kits after the 5<sup>th</sup> week of classes**
3. **Limited grip/electric equipment for the crew project.**

## **Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

### **Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the Department of Public Safety <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage [sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options and other resources.

### **Support Systems**

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose

primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html) provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

**Disruptive Student Behavior:**

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.

## 290 Editorial Syllabus

**ORIENTATION MEETING – staff & SA led (See Calendar)**

**Meeting 1**

**Editing: - AVID LAB (No Editing Instructor)**

**Main function of Editing Lab in 290 is learning AVID functions.**

**Quicktimes of editing exercises may not be emailed to instructors.**

**Students will work individually on SCA approved hard drives.**

**Teachers should email students to remind them to purchase and bring USC SCA approved hard drives and headphones with ¼ adapters to class.**

**Lab Orientation: Tony Bushman:**

**Explains SCA Lab Rules, policies, procedures, important department contacts, safety information.**

- Front Desk Procedures (signing in, checking out a workstation)
- SCA Lab Policies
- Locker Procedures
- Safety Procedures

**Technical Orientation: Class SA:**

**Explains use of SCA Lab equipment, resources, and technical workflow information**

- How to use the SCA Knowledgebase and access SCA documentation
- SCA Lab Policies
- Getting Help in the Labs
- SCA Lab Workstation Logins
- Using Lab Workstations
- Reformatting External Hard Drives
- Connecting to ISIS
- Using Classroom Exercises
- Avid Project Organization
- Class specific workflow training (e.g. NXCAM Camera Dailies Workflow)

**MEETING 1 - with instructor (See Calendar)**

**Meeting 1**

**Editing in AVID Lab (With Editing Instructor)**

**Review Basic Avid editing functions:**

-Students bring in dailies from the classroom exercises and use them as a working tool, during Avid function demonstration. 3hrs

-Basic Avid editing functions: marking ins & outs, three point editing, inserts & overwrites, lift, overwrite, match frame, track management, trim mode etc. etc.

-Organizing folders and bins in project window to conform with SCA work flow and industry work flow.

-Avid settings, Project setup, Project window and saving project,

-Backing up Project and Avid Files folders

**-Homework assignment:** Cut a scene from classroom exercises.

**MEETING 2 – with instructor (See Calendar)**

**Editing in AVID Lab (With Editing Instructor)**

**-Review Basic Avid editing functions and introduce more advanced Avid editing functions.**

-Students use their cut scene from classroom editing exercises as a working tool during Avid function demonstration.

-Match cutting, dissolves, fades, wipes; L-cuts, advanced trim mode.

-Simple VFX from Effects Palette.

(2.5 hrs)

**Vagabond scout last ½ hour of class.**

**SCA Post Lab Policies**

\*\*\*Anyone using the Post Labs must adhere to Post rules, regulations, and hours of operation.\*\*\*

For complete Lab Policies , refer to the Knowledge Base:

[http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/\\_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SCA%20Knowledgebase/SCA%20Lab%20Policies.aspx](http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SCA%20Knowledgebase/SCA%20Lab%20Policies.aspx)

➤ **FOOD, DRINKS, GUM, SKATEBOARDS**

- No food, drinks (including bottled water), or gum in the labs, Edit Suites, Sound Suites, or on the floor outside any of these rooms.
- No Smoking (this includes electronic “cigarettes”)
  - Violation of this rule will result in suspension of Lab or Suite privileges.
  - Food/drinks found on the floor outside of a lab will be disposed of immediately.
  - Locker area is available for food and drink storage.
- No skateboards permitted in any lab.
  - Skateboard rack available for use in locker area.
  - Please do not lean skateboards against walls.

➤ **SIGNING IN**

- You must sign in at the Front Desk to use the facilities.
  - Workstations are numbered, indicated on both the CPUs and corresponding monitors.

- You must use the station assigned by the Front Desk. Any change must be assigned through the Front Desk, even if you are switching stations due to a technical problem.
- Students MUST have Student ID in order to use a workstation.
  - **We do not accept any other form of identification.**
  - If you must use your ID while remaining signed in (e.g. to grab a snack at the Coffee Bean) you must return your ID within 30 minutes or lose your station (see “Bumping” rules below).
- Stations are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

### ➤ SCA LAB WORKSTATIONS

- Stations are dual-boot and offer both Mac OS and Windows.
- Applications available for use support all divisions (CTPR, CTAN, CTIN, MA+P).
- Additional applications, plug-ins, codecs, drivers, etc. are not to be installed.
- Laptop connectivity via HDMI, VGA, DVI, etc. is not available.
- SxS and SD card readers are located on top or bottom of CPUs in machine rooms.

### ➤ TECH SUPPORT

- If you are having technical problems with your workstation, contact a Tech through the Help Desk (B139).
  - Please be patient. Techs can get busy, and it may take a few minutes to get to you.
- Outside footage/material is not supported.
  - If you operate outside of the approved workflow for your course, you are on your own.
- SCA Help Documents are located at <http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/>

### ➤ CLOSING

- Closing time is strictly enforced; you will not be permitted to stay late for any reason.
  - Begin saving and doing outputs early enough to finish before closing.
- Techs will give warnings as closing approaches.
  - If you miss the Tech’s warnings, **it is still your responsibility to leave on time.** There is a clock on every computer, so there are no excuses.
- SCA Post-Production Hours for the entire semester can be found posted at the Front Desk, Help Desk, and online at <http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/>, as well as on SCA Community.

➤ **HARD DRIVES**

- You must use SCA-approved Hard Drives in the Post Labs.
  - Use of any other brand/model negates technical support; you're on your own.
  - SCA does not provide power supplies or connecting cables (FireWire, USB, etc.)
  - Supported Hard Drive document can be found at <http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/>

➤ **HEADPHONES**

- Headphones with 1/4 inch adapters are required at each workstation in the labs.
- SCA does not supply headphones or adapters.

➤ **BUMPING**

- You may be removed if your station has been vacant for 30 minutes or more. In this event, a Tech will save your project and take your materials to the Front Desk to be reclaimed upon your return.

➤ **VULTURING**

- If every station is in use, a Vulture List may be started by the Front Desk Monitor.
- The Vulture List is first-come, first-served. When a station becomes available, the next person on the Vulture List can sign in to that station.
  - You must be present at the Front Desk when your name is called by the Monitor.  
If you are not present, the Monitor will move to the next name on the list

➤ **LOCKERS**

- Locker checkout is available for eligible classes. Fill out locker form in B144.
- Lock must be approved by Post Management prior to locker being assigned.
- Students sharing a production number will share a locker, and all signatures must be on the form.
  - Classes structured as duos/trios will share with group members, not production numbers.
- No food or drink may be kept inside the locker at any time.
- On the final day Post is open for the semester, your lock and all contents must be removed.
  - Failure to do so will result in the cutting of the lock and disposal of all contents within.

### ➤ EDITORIAL AND SOUND SUITES

- Available for advanced projects only (eligible classes listed at Front Desk).
- Please see reservation and vulture policies at the Front Desk.
  - When reserving/signing in, entry must be initialed by Front Desk Monitor before it becomes valid. DO NOT merely write your name in a reservation/sign-in slot and walk away. If your reservation appears without a Monitor's initials, your reservation will be erased by Staff.
- Please refrain from using excessive speaker volume in any suite.
- Students using the suites must check out a Key Card for their specific suite upon signing in.
  - A \$50 fine will be incurred if the card is not returned.
  - It is your responsibility to return the Key Card to the Front Desk at the end of the editing session. The return of your Student ID relieves you of the responsibility of the Key Card.

### ➤ LOST AND FOUND

- If you arrive at your station and there are personal items that have been left by the previous user, please be courteous and take them to the Front Desk to be kept in Lost and Found.
- Lost and Found items at the Front Desk will be forwarded to DPS after a week or two.
- High value items that have been lost will be kept in B144 until taken to DPS.

### ➤ PROFESSIONALISM

- Keep your workstation clean as a courtesy to other students.
- Please handle all equipment and computers professionally.
  - It is forbidden to move equipment or to attempt to re-patch any cables.
- We understand the need to collaborate with classmates, but please keep your voices down as others are working. Loud conversations, laughter, or noises will result in being asked to leave.
  - Phone calls, Skype, etc. are not permitted in the labs or hallways outside labs.
- For your safety and others', please do not run in the hallways.
- Please treat fellow students, student workers, and staff with respect.

For most up-to-date list of Post Policies, please reference the SCA Knowledgebase, located at: <http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/>.

The SCA Knowledgebase, is an online resource for students, faculty and staff to easily access broad information about facilities, classes, technology and workflows in a variety of formats.

**PERSONAL CRITIQUE**

Movie-maker: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project No: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: **TWO PRINTED** copies to be turned in with project.

INTENT: (How you want to affect us)

SYNOPSIS: (What we see)

STRENGTHS: (List by priority, one line per item)

WEAKNESSES: (List by priority, one line per item)

WHAT I WANT TO LEARN TO DO BETTER IS:

**CRIT ON CRIT**

Movie-maker: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project No: \_\_\_\_\_

(Due ONE WEEK after screening)

THE MAJOR SUGGESTIONS IN THE CRITS WERE:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

I AGREE/DISAGREE WITH THE SUGGESTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

BASED ON THE SCREENING AND CRITIQUES, IF I COULD CONTINUE TO SHOOT OR EDIT, I WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

## Statement of Understanding

I have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the CTPR 290 Syllabus, and the Student Production Office Handbook, and have attended the SCA Safety Seminar.

I agree to conference with my instructors before creating any situation that might put my actors, crew, bystanders, or myself in jeopardy.

I am equally committed to protecting and enhancing the reputation of the USC School of Cinematic Arts through my actions.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_