CNTV 411: Directing Intensive Minors
Semester: Summer 2018
4 Units
Class times:
Monday/Wednesday/Friday  9:00-11:50pm
SCA 214

Section 17849D
Professor: Marcel Valcarce
Email: valcarce@usc.edu
Phone: 818-599-2780

SA: Leah Claire Borrie
Email: borrie@usc.edu
Phone: 631-278-0292

SA: David Aguilar
Email: ddaaguila@usc.edu
Phone: 312-502-3417

SUPPORT FACULTY:
Camera: Skye Borgman: borgman@usc.edu
Editing: Jeremy Deneau: deneau@usc.edu
Sound: Cliff Latimer: latimer@usc.edu

Overview:
An overview of the concerns, functions and responsibilities of the Director. The core of
the course will be the individual project. Each student will cast, rehearse, produce &
direct (outside of class) and edit a 3-5 minute film. These will be screened and critiqued
by Instructor, SA & 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).

In addition, each student will “workshop” their project with either live actors or do a
camera coverage and style workshop, and workshop their scripts. For the acting
workshop; each student will either cast and rehearse this scene outside of class, then
present the scene with actors off-book to be workshopped in class, or present the scene
with actors not off-book for a table read. For the camera coverage and style workshop;
each student will present a shot list and location pictures. 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 the fundamental skills of filmmaking - from the POV of the Director. Learn/develop what makes a short film work, the function of a scene, moments: how to develop and shoot them, how to develop character.

**Script Development:**
If you do not arrive with a 3-5 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 7/7, while groups B & C will crew.
Group B will shoot their films the weekend of 7/14, while groups A & C will crew.
Group C will shoot their films the weekend of 7/21, while groups A & B will crew.

**Student Orientation:**
6/24 Sunday
2:00-3:00pm - LOCATION: Norris

**Class Schedule & Week By Week Outline:**

**Week 1**
6/25 Monday Class
Introductions, read syllabus out loud, pitch ideas.
Scene: purpose a scene. Develop character.
Screen short films & clips/discuss.

6/26 Tuesday
1:00-4:00: Avid Editing Training Session, Avid Post Lab.
*All students must attend.*

6/27 Wednesday Class
Creating a Visual Frame. Screen clips/discuss.
Workshop ideas.
Arrange production groups.
6/28 Thursday
10:00-12:00: Camera check-out, SCX 2nd Floor
*All students must attend.*

1:00-4:00: Cinematography Seminar - camera and lighting demo, SA’s give sound kit demo, location TBA.

6/29 Friday Class
SPW Safety Seminar -- Mandatory!!
Conflict & Moments. Screen clips/discuss.
Pre-production and production planning. Casting Seminar.
Weekend: Shoot; experiment with camera and sound kit.

Week 2
7/2 Monday Class
Script workshop Group A & Production Update
***All first drafts due***

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

7/4 ***NO CLASS - July 4th HOLIDAY***

7/5 Thursday
9:00-12:00: Cinematography Seminar follow-up.

7/6 Friday Class
Acting workshop or Camera/Coverage workshop Group A
Weekend: Group A shoots

Week 3
7/9 Monday Class
Script workshop Group B & Production Update

7/11 Wednesday Class
Acting workshop or Camera/Coverage workshop Group B
7/13  Friday Class  
Group B pre-production, rehearse, plan, etc.  
Weekend: Group B shoots

Week 4  
7/16  Monday Class  
Script workshop Group C & Production Update

7/18  Wednesday Class  
Acting workshop or Camera/Coverage workshop Group C

7/20  Friday Class  
Group C pre-production, rehearse, plan, etc.  
Weekend: Group C shoots

Week 5  
7/23  Monday Class  
Intro to Editing.  
Editing in Avid Labs, Instructor and SA's in lab.

7/25  Wednesday Class  
Editing in Avid Labs, Instructor and SA's in lab.  
***All Production Notebooks due***

7/27  Friday Class  
Editing in Avid Labs, Instructor and SA's in lab.  
Weekend: Final editing, sound design, titles. Output films.

Week 6  
7/30  Monday Class: Screen Group A  
*** Group A Projects due - All Production Books due ***

8/1  Wednesday Class: Screen Group B  
*** Group B Projects due ***

8/3  Friday Class: Screen Group C  
*** Group C Projects due ***
**CAMERAS:**
Canon XC 15 (Students will need to purchase their own SD Cards).

**Students will need to purchase their own hard drives.** It is recommended they purchase one off the SCA Approved Hard Drive list; however, not required. The requirements are USB 2.0 (or higher) with its own power source (not phantom from the computer).

**Rules:**
Scheduled topics, assignments and due dates are subject to change.

Computers, mobile phones, and other devices may be used 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 for each class day they are 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 30%
- Final Project 40%
- Participation 30% (includes fulfilling crewing obligations/attendance)

**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 open 8:30 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](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/](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](http://usc.edu/academe/acsen/issues/ipr/index.html).

**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.