

CTPR 371 Directing for Television

Section 18502

Units: 4 units

Spring 2020—Tuesday—6:00-9:50PM

Location: RZC STG A

Instructor: Phil Ramuno

Office: RZC STG A

Office Hour: Instructor will be on Stage A of RZC for one hour prior to each class meeting for in person consultation.

Contact Info: philramuno@gmail.com or ramuno@usc.edu

818 307-8451 Inquiries will be returned within 24 hours of receipt

Teaching Assistant:

Office: RZC STG A

Office Hours: Teaching Assistant will arrive one half hour before class.

Contact Info:

Course Description

This is a 16-week course in creating two short scenes (approximately 1 ½ to 3 minutes each) using the techniques of live multicamera television. Formats for the scene can be, but are not limited to, traditional television forms such as episodic drama and situation comedy. The directorial role as production team leader and visionary is emphasized. Each student will also participate as a crew member each week to become familiar with the concepts of lighting for multiple cameras, video latitude limitations, live camera switching, quad split camera coordination, composition for television, studio camera pedestals and controls, digital recording, sound mixing, managing a stage, and managing a control room. The instructor will demonstrate a short, simple scene at the beginning of the semester so that each student can practice directing predetermined shots and staging before designing their own project.

Learning Objectives

Each student will learn how to stage two scenes for a three-wall proscenium set, with live four-camera coverage in mind. The student will also learn the shot patterns, sizes and rhythm as applicable for television. He/she will also learn both live cutting camera coverage, as is done in live and live-audience recorded television and coordinating cameras from a quad split floor monitor. The objective of these styles is to allow for quicker editing and shot selection knowledge that will also help in single camera projects. The Instructor will demonstrate how to stage, direct actors and mark scripts for cameras. Each student will also understand the requirements and assignments of Associate (Assistant) Director, Technical (Audience Switcher) Director, Video Recordist, Audio Mixer, Stage (Floor) Manager (AD) and camera operator for each camera position. The team aspect of creating scenes will be learned. Analyzing/Selecting script format and Directing Actors for television will be critical knowledge that will be the basis for each scene.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Co-Requisite(s): None.

Concurrent Enrollment: None.

Recommended Preparation: Watch and analyze a multi-cam live audience sitcom such as CBS's new "Our House" and compare that to a single-cam sitcom such as NBC's new "The Kenan Show."

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

A small hard drive will be required to copy each of your scenes. Access to some simple video editing software will be helpful to combine and trim the best of the live edited scenes from class. A video copy of your scenes must be provided to the actors who volunteer to play the characters in each scene as their reward. You will be responsible for finding and rehearsing these volunteer actors. Stage "A" will be available the hour before class for each of the two students each class to stage and rehearse their actors.

Required Reading

"The NEW Sitcom Career Book" by Phil Ramuno and Mary Lou Belli is available at the USC book store or <https://www.amazon.com/NEW-Sitcom-Career-Book/dp/0989342808>. Homework will be reading one chapter each week. There will be a terminology quiz each week between scenes based on each chapter.

Grading Breakdown

Directing First Scene	20%
Directing Second Scene	40%
Crew assignments	20%
Participation ie: asking questions, collaborating with fellow students.	10%
Homework review	10%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Production Division Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. Two unexcused absences will result in a student's grade being lowered by one full letter (IE: A becomes B). A third unexcused absence will result in a student's grade being lowered by one, additional full letter (IE: B becomes C). A student's grade will be lowered by one full letter for each additional unexcused absence. Two late class arrivals equate to one full absence.

In order for an absence to be excused, the student must have approval from the professor and provide documentation at the next attended class session.

If a student misses class due to an emergency, the student must contact the professor prior to class or contact the Production Office at 213-740-3317.

Assignment Rubrics

You will need to either write or find two short (one and a half minute to two and one half minute) scenes during the semester. The first will be a two-person scene and the second a three-person scene. These can be found on-line at: <http://www.simplyscripts.com/tv.html> and other sources.

You will provide a pencil marked script for yourself, the instructor and the associate director at the beginning of the class for your scene assignments. You will also provide an unmarked script for the Stage Manager and the actors. You will need to rehearse your actors before class. The Associate Director will dictate your shots to the camera operators and list the shots for the Technical Director (Audience switcher).

Assignment Submission Policy

You may email your script to the instructor a few days before your scenes for his advice. Each finished scene will be played back after recording for the instructor notes and analysis. The rest of the crew will participate in this discussion.

A QUICKTIME copy of the scene must be given to each cast member. Unless you write your own original material, all QUICKTIMES must be watermarked as a "USC Classroom Exercise" and must not include the name of source material in the titles.

SAG cast members must be reminded that they are allowed to post no more than thirty seconds of the material given to them onto the Internet.

Grading Timeline

Each student may ask the instructor for feedback of their performance and participation at any time during the semester. Final grades will be submitted after Finals week. Your second project is considered as your final. There will be no other test during finals week.

Additional Policies

It is expected that each student will be on time for each class meeting. The crew assignments will be posted by the SA on stage so that each student can test and prepare their equipment for class as the Director is rehearsing. If you have an emergency or illness that will keep you from class, you are expected to contact the SA as soon as it if know so that crew assignments can be adjusted.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework
Week 1 Aug 27	Introduction to multi-cam	
Week 2 Sept 3	Equipment survey. Instructor demo of scene with actors. How to select shots and mark script.	
Week 3 Sept 10	Review instructor's scene and rotate through all crew positions	View a variety of multicam shows

Week 4 Sept 17	Director 1 2-person scene Director 2 2-person scene	Read Foreword, Preface and introduction of textbook.
Week 5 Sept 24	Director 3 2-person scene Director 4 2-person scene	Read Chapter One of textbook.
Week 6 Oct 1	Director 5 2-person scene Director 6 2-person scene	Read Chapter Two of textbook.
Week 7 Oct 8	Director 7 2-person scene Director 8 2-person scene	Read Chapter Three of textbook.
Week 8 Oct 15	Director 9 2-person scene Director10 2-person scene	Read Chapter Four of textbook.
Week 9 Oct 22	Director11 2-person scene Director12 2-person scene	Read Chapter Five of textbook.
Week 10 Oct 29	Director 2 3-person scene Director 1 3-person scene	Read Chapter Six of textbook.
Week 11 Nov 5	Director 4 3-person scene Director 3 3-person scene	Read Chapter Seven of textbook.
Week 12 Nov 12	Director 6 3-person scene Director 5 3-person scene	Read Chapter Eight of textbook.
Week 13 Nov 19	Director 8 3-person scene Director 7 3-person scene	Read Chapter Nine of textbook.
Week 14 Nov 26	Director10 3-person scene Director 9 3-person scene	Read Chapter Ten of textbook.
Week 15 Dec 3	Director12 3-person scene Director11 3-person scene	Read Appendix Two of textbook. See which shows started when you were born.

Note: preparing your scene the week before it is scheduled is also homework.

PLEASE NOTE:

FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. 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>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>