



## **CTPR 427: INTRODUCTION TO COLOR GRADING**

**Units: 2**

**Spring 2020 - Wednesday - 9-11:50**

**IMPORTANT:**

Please note that the final exam will be in person in SCA-B154. All students are required to attend class that day to take the final.

**Location:** Color Suite SCB-B104 and Lab SCA-B154

**Instructor: Andrew Balis**

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact Info:** [balis@usc.edu](mailto:balis@usc.edu) / 818-599-4949

**Teaching Assistant: Fio Karpenko**

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact Info:** [karpenko@usc.edu](mailto:karpenko@usc.edu) / 213-326-7730

**IT Help:** SCA Help Desk

**Hours of Service:** Open during SCA lab hours

**Contact Info:** 213-740-3981

## Course Description

This class is an introduction to the art, craft and science of color grading, also known as color correction and color timing. The course will explore various aspects of grading and how it can enhance and improve storytelling. The objective is for students to gain a greater understanding of the nuances of photographed images and how images are perceived, then apply color grading techniques to reshape the images.

The class consists of lectures, screenings, discussions, and hands on exercises using the color grading tools of DaVinci Resolve.

## Learning Objectives

Students will develop a working knowledge of color theory and how it applies to color grading.

Students will develop a working knowledge of DaVinci Resolve application.

Students will apply color management fundamentals for different color grading workflows.

Students will re-balance the contrast and color of images, the core foundation of a colorist's work.

Students will create cohesive looks for scenes.

Students will apply techniques to use color creatively to impact the "mood" and "feel" of a scene.

Students will apply secondary color grading tools to isolate and adjust areas of the frame or individual colors in the frame.

Students will utilize color grading techniques that are similar to toolsets found in other applications.

Students will apply techniques that successfully maximize creativity and address time management in a collaborative color grading session as a colorist and a filmmaker.

**Prerequisite(s):** CTPR 310 or CTPR 508

## Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Students need an approved hard drive to store the video assets used in class. The SA will provide a list of approved drives. This hard drive must be available by the second week of class.

## Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

"The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction", by Steve Hullfish (2nd Edition). I will be teaching concepts that can be revisited in the book throughout the semester and the book can be used for a concept refresher after the class has been completed.

"Hidden Colors", by Gry Garness. Interactive e-book. Available at <https://www.eureka-publishing.com/product/the-hidden-colors/> This is optional, additional reading on color theory concepts we will be exploring during semester.

## Description and Assessment of Assignments

Grading will be based on a combination of elements, including class participation, a series of assignments and a final exam to determine the student's comprehension of the different aspects of color grading.

Assignments and final exam will be completed in DaVinci Resolve.

20% - In-class participation\*

15% - Assignment #1

15% - Assignment #2

15% - Assignment #3:

15% - Assignment #4:

20% - Final exam

*\*Class participation:* CTPR 427 is a workshop course that requires students to practice color grading techniques demonstrated in class. Students are expected to fully participate in all in-class exercises, and demonstrate competence in the techniques necessary for the successful completion of the assignments. In

addition, students are expected to provide constructive critiques of fellow students' work presented in class, and participate actively in the weekly discussions.

### **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

### **Assignment Submission Policy**

Describe how, and when, assignments are to be submitted.

### **Grading Timeline**

Announce a standard timeline for grading and feedback.

### **Attendance Policy**

If a student is late or absent, please contact the professor and SA prior to class

#### Absence

One absence will result in your final grade being lowered by two portions of a grade, i.e. from A to B+.

Two will result in your final grade being lowered one full grade, i.e. from A to a B.

Three will result in your final grade being lowered two full grades, i.e. from A to C.

Your grade will be lowered by one full grade for every absence after.

Lateness If more than 30 minutes late, it's considered an absence.

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

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

Three will result in your final grade being lowered by two portions of a letter grade, i.e. from A to B+.

Four will result in your final grade dropping three portions of a grade, or one full letter grade i.e. from A to B. 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.

## Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 15th	<p><b>Color Suite - SCB-B104:</b></p> <p>Overview of curriculum and course</p> <p>Discussion and screening of examples of the color grading process</p> <p>Introduction to video scopes for analyzing the luminance and color makeup of the image</p>	<b>Ch. 1 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"</b>	
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 22nd	<p><b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b></p> <p>Primary Color Correction</p> <p>Interpreting and shaping contrast</p> <p>Working in DaVinci Resolve-fundamentals</p>	<b>Ch. 2</b>	
<b>Week 3</b> Jan 29th	<p><b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b></p> <p>Continuing to explore how to reshape the contrast of the image</p>	<b>Ch. 3</b>	
<b>Week 4</b> Feb 5th	<p><b>Color Suite – SCB-B104:</b></p> <p>Color theory: reading color, visualizing and talking about color</p> <p>Working with videoscopes for analyzing color</p> <p>Color Balancing: Exploring concepts of naturalistic color renditions, color casts, and balanced images</p> <p><b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b></p> <p>Hands-on lab exploring color balancing</p>	<b>Ch. 4</b>	
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 12th	<p><b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b></p> <p>Continuing to explore color balancing</p>		Assignment 1 handed out
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 19th	<p><b>Color Suite - SCB-B104:</b></p> <p>Color Theory - exploring how color imagery is perceived within a single image and across a series of images. Contrast effects, color harmony and more is covered</p>		Assignment 1 due

	Scene to Scene color grading - Matching shots within a scene, and keeping a look cohesive and consistent throughout a scene or entire project		
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 26th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Exploring tools for aiding in scene to scene color grading		Assignment 2 handed out
<b>Week 8</b> Mar 4th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Story and context - Creative uses of contrast and color	<b>Ch. 8</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 11th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Conforming in DaVinci Resolve – preparing a project for color from an editorial application		
Mar 18th	<b>SPRING RECESS - NO CLASS</b>		
<b>Week 10</b> Mar 25th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Workflows and formats  Details and strategies for working with various digital formats including raw formats. Exploring an overview of various color spaces and related topics, the optimum viewing environment and and introduction to color management.		Assignment 3 handed out
<b>Week 11</b> April 1st	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Advanced image workflows  Working with log imagery, LUTs  Advanced color grading tools		Assignment 3 due
<b>Week 12</b> April 8th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Timed, graded assignment in the lab.  <b>Color Suite SCB-B104:</b> After assignment ends, class moves to color suite to review scene used for assignment. Exploring strategies for color grading scenes in real world scenarios.		In-class: Assignment 4
<b>Week 13</b> April 15th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Secondary color correction - the processes and tools for manipulating individual areas of the frame. Working with Power Windows in DaVinci Resolve. Using different		

	types of shapes to isolate parts of the frame.		
<b>Week 14</b> April 22nd	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Secondary color correction continued  Exploring the use of qualifiers to “key” - to isolate and adjust individual colors.	<b>Read sections:</b> <b>Pg. 68-70</b> <b>Pg. 164-165</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> April 29th	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Communication and Collaboration  Color grading is a process of collaboration between two or more people- including colorists, cinematographers and directors. Discussion and lab to explore how to communicate and work with others in a color grading environment.  Students will work together in the lab on a scene.	<b>Read sections:</b> <b>Pg. 336-337, talk like a DP</b> <b>Pg. 462-465, communicating with clients</b>	
<b>FINAL</b>	<b>Lab - SCA-B154:</b> Each student color corrects a final short project in the classroom for their final exam.		Date: May 6 <sup>th</sup> 9AM

## 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” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://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, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*  
[engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*Student Health Leave Coordinator – 213-821-4710*

Located in the USC Support and Advocacy office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when needed.  
<https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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

[engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086*

[equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](https://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

*Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](https://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](https://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self-expression; however, SCA will not

tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation or violence against person or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, <http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm>; e-mail [diversity@cinema.usc.edu](mailto:diversity@cinema.usc.edu). You can also report discrimination based on a protected class here <https://equity.usc.edu/harassment-or-discrimination/>

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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