CTPR 427: INTRODUCTION TO COLOR GRADING
Units: 2
Fall 2020 - Wednesday - 9-11:50

Location: Online

Instructor: Andrew Balis
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Teaching Assistant: Gülnigar Ralph-Nurhikim
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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 technqiues to reshape the images.

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

Learning Objectives

Students will develop a working knowledge of aspects of color theory related color grading.
Students will develop a working knowledge of DaVinci Resolve application.
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.

Prerequisite(s): CTPR 310 or CTPR 508

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

For online sessions and assignments, students need to have a computer that is capable of running the free download version of DaVinci Resolve. Students also need an approved hard drive to store the video assets used in class. The SA will provide a list of approved drives. The computer and hard drive must be available by the first 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. Interactrive e-book. Available at https://www.eureka-publishing.com/product/the-hidden-colors/ This book covers 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% - Class (virtual class via Zoom) 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

discussions, and demonstrate competence in the techniques necessary for the successful completion of the assignments.

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
Assignments will be uploaded to specified Google Drive folders. Specifics for different assignments will be covered during the semester.

Grading Timeline
Announce a standard timeline for grading and feedback.

Attendance Policy
Attendance refers to attendance in online Zoom class meetings. 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.

Etiquette Rules for the Zoom Classroom

You must turn video on and participate. Mute yourself unless you have a question or comment. Only post chat messages relevant to the lessons. Try to find a quiet space and stay in an attentive sitting position.

Please no reclining or multi-tasking. Consider your background and avoid sitting in front of a window which may either be too bright and distracting or properly exposed and you'll be a silhouette.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1 Aug 19th	**Online:** Overview of curriculum and course Discussion and screening of examples of color grading fundamentals and process		
Week 2 Aug 26th	**Online:** Working in DaVinci Resolve: fundamentals Conforming in DaVinci Resolve: preparing a project for color from an editorial application		
Week 3 Sept 2nd	**Online:** Color management overview Introduction to video scopes for analyzing the luminance and color makeup of the image Working with videoscopes to read luminance		
Week 4 Sept 9th	**Online:** Primary color grading: Contrast Exploring techniques to shape the contrast of images		
Week 5 Sept 16th	**Online:** Color theory: reading color, visualizing and talking about color Working with videoscopes for analyzing color		Assignment 1 due
Week 6 Sept 23rd	**Online:** Primary color grading: Color Balancing Exploring concepts of naturalistic color renditions, color casts, and balanced images Color balancing techniques explored		
Week 7	**Online:**		Assignment 2 due

Sept 30th	Continuing to explore color balancing		
Week 8 Oct 7th	**Online:** 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 Scene to Scene color grading - Matching shots within a scene, and keeping a look cohesive and consistent throughout a scene or entire project		
Week 9 Oct 14th	**Online:** Exploring tools for aiding in scene to scene color grading		
Week 10 Oct 21st	**Online:** Story and context - Creative uses of contrast and color		Assignment 3 due
Week 11 Oct 28th	**Online:** Continuing to explore creative color techniques		
Week 12 Nov 4th	**Online:** Introduction to advanced image workflows Working with log and raw imagery, LUTs Advanced color grading tools		Assignment 4 due
Week 13 Nov 11th	**Online:** Secondary color correction - the processes and tools for manipulating individual areas of the frame. Working with Power Windows and "keys" in DaVinci Resolve.		
FINAL Nov 18th	**Online:** Each student color corrects a final short project for their final exam. This is timed.		Date: Nov 18th 9AM – 10:30AM

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. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
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
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
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, 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
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
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
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
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, 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
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. 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