CPTR 523
Section 18625

INTRODUCTION TO MULTI-CAMERA PRODUCTION

Units: 2
Fall 2020—Tuesdays—1:00pm-4:50pm

Location: ONLINE

Instructor: Robert Schiller
Office: SCA 406
Office Hours: Zoom conference-By appointment.
Contact Info: Rschille@usc.edu

Teaching Assistant: Dorothy Lee
Contact Info: leedorot@usc.edu
858-926-9802

Course Description

This is a 13 week course ONLINE focusing on the "How To" of multi-camera directing and production, more specifically the Situation Comedy or "Sitcom", although all skills learned are applicable to all multi camera productions including daytime drama, game shows, sporting events, talk shows, news and will be discussed. We will cover the process of producing/directing one episode of a sitcom from pre-production through the live taping of the episode. All aspects of production will be covered including the roles of the stage manager, assistant director, script supervisor, camera coordinator and audience switcher. This is not a "technical course". The emphasis in this course is on the work of directors, their collaboration with crew and actors, and what is expected of them from the producers, the writers, and the network. There is one project to be shot. A two person scene three pages long of your choosing.

Learning Objectives

Though this course is modeled after a typical week of a sitcom production, using sitcom scheduling, sitcom scripts, sets, and shooting techniques, the over-arching purpose of this course is to prepare directors for the process of telling a story in multi camera, and how it differs from single camera. There will be an emphasis on considerations in staging actors for multi camera and actual shooting technique. You are required to cast actors for your project. Each student, in their role as director, learns to hone their communication and leadership skills in a collaborative way on set, leading a creative team consisting of actors, assistant directors, associate directors, script supervisors, cameramen, lighting directors, control booth personnel. We will learn how to mark a script. At the end of this course, each student should be able to watch a sitcom with a whole new appreciation of just how much effort and skill goes in to producing one episode of television.

Course Notes

The multi camera production/format is alive and well in MOST aspects of TV programming without us even realizing it. Though the emphasis and course work will focus primarily on the Situation Comedy, news, sports, gameshows, daytime dramas and more specifically scripted live action, are enjoying a resurgence due mainly in part to Netflix, Apple TV and Amazon entering the original scripted series marketplace. There also continues to be a robust job market providing young adult content by studios such as Disney and Nickelodeon.

It is the goal of this course to teach student directors the skills required in this genre of production, adapting your story telling skills to multi camera, and in this huge job market not only of the director, but the other postions directly responsible for turning the "page" to the "screen".

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Access to internet. Zoom software.

Asynchronous Learning

All class sessions will be Zoom recorded and made available for asynchronous viewing until end of the grading period in early December. Students enrolled in this course from outside the U.S. Pacific Time Zone will still be expected to participate in real time assuming that the official class time falls between 7am and 10pm in their time zones. Wherever possible faculty will be understanding and make accommodations to ease the inconvenience of asynchronous learning.

Students from outside the U.S. Pacific Time Zone for whom the class falls between the hours of 10pm and 7am may still be required to complete certain components of the course synchronously. These components will be announced at the beginning of the semester and students with concerns about meeting these requirements should discuss them with their faculty at that time.

Grading Breakdown

Including the above detailed assignments, how will students be graded overall? Participation should not exceed 15% of the total grade. Where it does, the syllabus must provide an added explanation. No portion of the grade may be awarded for class attendance but non-attendance can be the basis for lowering the grade, when clearly stated on the syllabus. The sum of percentages must total 100%.

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
Blocking action/actors	15	
Camera Blocking	15	
Mid Term	20	
Shooting script	15	
Final Project	15	
Participation	20	
TOTAL	100	

Grading Scale
(Optional – the following is only an example of what one might look like if included)

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
All asignemnts will be submitted via email.

Grading Timeline
All grades during semester will be posted one week after assignemt is handed in.

Additional Policies

Production Numbers:
Production Numbers will be given to any class who normally receives numbers. Students will be instructed when it is possible for them to go onto SCAcommunity and create numbers where authorized for their class. Class SAs will aid students in making, or correcting, production numbers if needed. Note many classes work in teams where they share a production number. Ask your SA about the needs for your particular class.

This semester, the School of Cinematic Arts will be covering all student Insurance Premiums and Lab Fees which are normally charged to students. Students will be required to use approved "Fast Track" Insurance companies only for rentals and equipment. No other insurance requests will be honored. USC does not insure Sharegrid or companies not on the "Fast Track List."

Students may still make requests for location insurance verifications (or COIs) when requested by locations. Students are reminded that these requests can take 3-10 days from request to final approval.

All necessary forms and online request forms are available on SCAcommunity under the "Student Productions" heading. Contact your SA with any questions that you may have.

In terms of shooting plans, student are required to vet their plans with their faculty including discussing any Hazardous Shooting Conditions as defined by the SCA's Safety Book as posted on SCAcommunity. This semester students will also be required to vet their plans for remaining Covid-safe with our Covid Safety Monitor. Ask your SA if you are unclear about these protocols.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 1 8/18	**Intro** History/Development of multi-cam Single cam V Multi Cam Genres: Live, News, Sports,Game Show, Daytime Drama, Sitcom	What are your top 3 favorite television shows. Why.	
Week 2 **8/25**	The stage/control room. Sound/Camera/Lighting Reading Floor plans		
Week 3 9/1	Departments/Crew personel Behind the scenes in control rooms. Glossary of Terms		
Week 4 **9/8**	Approach to Multi v Single-cam The "Line" The "A B C and X's" Shot sizes/ camera moves Panel Discussion-Live shooting- Q&A with Carrie Havel	Watch selected episode w/o sound. List shots.	**Find 2 person scene 3 pages 3-4 pages long** **Due 9/8-episode shotlist.**
Week 5 **9/15**	The coverage Shot selection and motivation View/Disect Sitcom episode. Q&A		
Week 6 9/22	Sitcom Schedule Production meeting Table read Q&A with AD Pinero		
Week 7 9/29	Mis e en scène -re: TV Staging-Blocking Actors & Business/Motivation Q&A with Victor Williams		**Obtain approval for 2 person scene**
Week 8 10/6	**MID TERM EXAM** Watch episode/dissect shots-staging		
Week 9 10/13	Marking the script 3 ways:Blocking/lined coverage/shooting	**Block 2 person scene**	

Week 10 10/20	Review blocking-2 person scenes How to mark lined coverage	Shoot 2 person scene-using all shots/angles taught	**Shoot scenes**
Week 11 10/27	Review Lined coverage		**Shoot scenes**
Week 12 11/3	Screen projects. Exec Producer Panel Discussion Q&A with Davis/Kendal Expectations in Production		
Week 13 11/10	The job market Getting the Job		

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.

Safety:
All students are expected to abide by USC School of Cinematic Arts Safety Guidelines. Violations of any of the safety guidelines may result in disciplinary action ranging from confiscation of footage to expulsion from the University.

Stressful Times:
These are stressful times in our country, and Graduate School in and of itself is stressful. I encourage you to take care of yourself and your fellow students. USC provides opportunities for Mindful Meditation http://mindful.usc.edu and Mental health counseling is available at the Engemann Student Health Center, 1031 W. 34th Street, 213-740-9355.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.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 and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by 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. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, 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 Campus Support & Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu
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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)
ombuds.usc.edu
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Covid Safety Compliance Understanding and Agreement

Due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 in California and around the world, USC and the School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) have taken a strong stance regarding the need for safe and mindful behaviors among all members of the SCA community. Medical authorities agree that even the young and healthy are capable, if infected, of becoming ill, or of being non-symptomatic, unconscious vectors of the disease's spread.

The health and wellbeing of all community members has to be our paramount concern as we return to learning and collaborating together. We understand that attentiveness to the concerns of all SCA community members – students, staff and faculty, including those with underlying health conditions -- is simply an extension of the key principle of creative collaboration that has guided our school for decades. We're all in this pandemic together and need to behave accordingly.

All of SCA's production work, whether "Virtual" or "in-person, will be governed by rules laid out in each course syllabus. Compliance with these regulations will be monitored by faculty in conjunction with SCA designated Covid Monitors. The rules follow the guidelines in SCA-Covid Production Protocols, which follows SAG/DGA and other industry protocols, and are being interpreted by a SAG-certified SCA Covid Advisor.

Students indicate their agreement to abide by these regulations by enrolling in the production program fall semester 2020.

Virtual Production and Safe Bubble defined

Student film production continues during this pandemic, including quarantine or lockdown conditions. Because of the current situation in Los Angeles County, filmmaking in Fall 2020 will be done with Virtual Production. This will provide a safe environment for the students and cast. It will also be in compliance with SAG's regulations working with their members. Students will receive instruction in the crafts and artistry of traditional filmmaking as well as new virtual production while collaborating to make their films.

Filming plans during the time of coronavirus are subject to change.

Virtual Production:

- Pre-production will be done completely online.
- Production is filmed remotely with students fulfilling their roles from their homes. Each student will work on computers from their separate homes. The communication between the students and the performers is through Zoom, Facetime or another remote service. Actors** in their own homes will perform and assist in lighting and recording sound. Performers will capture the performance with smartphones or approved personal or rental cameras as directed by the students. If the director chooses not to use professional actors, they may cast themselves and/or their own housemates.
- Additional photography, such as establishing shots and B-roll, may be shot in the students' own houses or approved safe locations. Projects may also include stock footage, still photographs, self-generated VFX and animation.
- Post-production will be done completely online: picture editing on Avid, sound editing on ProTools, remote color grading on Avid, and sound mix.
- Workflow will be modified to support different cameras available to students & actors.
- As with any SCA production class, students will follow current safety and health guidelines for LA County, USC and SCA.

Bubble Definitions:

- Student **Safe Bubbles** are zones within which safe contact normally occurs for each participant. These are your housemates (people <u>with whom you live</u> and interact without a mask or physical distancing on a daily basis). Each student has their own **Safe Bubble.** They must not meet in person with other students.
- Each actor in a film is also in their own **Safe Bubble**. Students may not interact in-person with their actors. Unless actors live with one another, they will not have any in-person interaction with each other.
- Note: When you cast an actor, you are also casting a location (their house, yard, apartment, stairway, etc.) available to that actor for production as well as others in the actor's bubble – their roommate, housemate, spouse, etc.
- Students will sign a **Bubble Lock Agreement** signifying who is in their Bubble at the beginning of the semester. Actors will sign a Bubble Lock Agreement certifying that everyone in their Bubble has been in it at least 14 days prior to the start of production; thereafter actors will not be able to add anyone to their Bubble.
- Students will cast, rehearse, block and shoot remotely as defined above.
- Actors may use their own faculty-approved equipment. Students may furnish actors with production gear purchased or rented (from SAG approved houses). Students may use your own faculty-approved gear when filming, and/or may send actors their gear directly. All equipment sent must be sanitized and transferred back to students or sent to another actor for additional filming. Equipment transfer will follow SCA guidelines.
- Physical location work must be approved by your producing faculty on a case-by-case basis and comply with COVID Precautions (i.e. masks & physical distancing) and conform with all LA County Dept. of Public Health Guidelines & SCA Safety Rules.

**"Actor" also refers to "Documentary Subjects."