

## **Course Description and Objectives**

### **CTPR 551 – Fall 2021**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*Directing in a Virtual World* is designed for students hoping to become familiar with Visual Effects techniques used to help tell resonant stories that require an approach beyond traditional motion picture cinematography. This course will prepare students for the process of creating films with visual effects, composited & virtual backgrounds, environments, and characters.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

It is expected that students will achieve familiarity, but not necessarily mastery, of the visual effects tools for scene realization with virtual components and be able to conceive & execute shots and scenes on a basic level which use Visual Effects to the advantage of the story being told. The objective of this class is to ensure that students come away with an understanding and practical grasp of the thinking and processes necessary to realize live action scenes utilizing visual effects. Students will investigate techniques, and discover the intricacies, of work they hope to integrate into current and future projects.

Course Objectives are: (1) to immerse all students in the thinking required for the use of visual effects in their storytelling – namely, photographing talent & objects against Green Screen or Blue Screen backgrounds -- particularly with respect to actor performance, lighting, and shot design, staging, and camera technique; (2) to imbue essential basic nomenclature and techniques of working with actors in a visual effects context, and with live-action methodologies with which students have had limited experience; (3) begin to grasp the elements needed to use virtual production tools for your films; (4) to solidify a grasp of practical considerations & procedures in application of the foregoing to scenes requiring digitally composited and fabricated backgrounds; and most important, (5) to create effective, seamless, VFX shots designed to enhance the story being told.

#### **PRE-REQUISITES and recommended preparation courses:**

CTAN 462 *Visual Effects* or CTAN 499 *Special Topics – Real -Time Animation* or permission from faculty that student's qualifications are equal to or exceed CTAN 462 or CTAN 499 requirements.

#### **Strongly Recommended Preparation:**

CTPR 532 or CTPR 537. Or, for Animation students, CTAN 555. For Production students, CTAN 508L, CTAN 564, CTAN497 are valuable courses to take in preparation.

#### **Recommended Reference Materials:** (All are available on Amazon.com.)

*VES HANDBOOK OF VISUAL EFFECTS, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Visual Effects Society, Focal Press  
*THE AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER MANUAL* Edited by Michael Goi, ASC  
*A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR THE ACTOR* by Melissa Bruder, et al  
*DIRECTING ACTORS* by Judith Weston