

CTPR 502 (18606D) Collaboration & Creativity (1 unit)

Spring 2022

Prof. Pablo Frasconi pfrasconi@cinema.usc.edu

Office HOURS: ZOOM Fridays 1-2pm by appt; in-person by appt.

SA: Lumingjun Fang

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CLASS: Mondays

11:30am-1:20pm

SCI106 (No Class MLK Day 1/17 & 2/21 Presidents' Day)

+Diversity Seminar on 4 Fridays 1:00-4:50p only: 2/11, 3/4, 3/25, 4/29 SCA108
(separate syllabus)

"In the long history of humankind, those who have learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

–Charles Darwin

"Collaboration means working across difference."

–Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

"The collaborative model empowers others...listens deeply to understand...equates success with questions."

–Robert Hargrove

The goals of this class are:

- *To work collaboratively, over the semester, with the full MFA Semester One cohort.*
- *To be a "better collaborator" – whenever & wherever you begin.*
- *To find, nurture –& enjoy– the collaborative spirit.*
- *To be comfortable in slightly uncomfortable collaborative situations.*
- *To prepare you for the collaborative CTPR507 E3, E4, & CTPR508.*

Class Overview:

Weeks 1-4: POD Work: spoken/re-told/recorded stories

Week 5: POD Work: Safety, Legal, Protocol Review

Weeks 6-8: POD Work: Collaborative Exercises; Giving/Getting Notes

Weeks 9-13: Collaborative problem solving

Weeks 14-15: Future Collaboration

Collaborative skills are key to determining the success of any team's process and product. Perhaps some people are born to collaborate, and others have to work at it. The truth is, we can all be better collaborators. It is the glue that makes our community – and the industry – succeed.

Discovering best collaborative practices means learning about our own skills and behavior. Frequently this means putting ideas over egos; finding ways to disagree without “shutting down;” understanding and appreciating personal and cultural differences; problem-solving on your feet; and frequent one-on-one, eye-to-eye communication, whether in-person or on-line.

While some aspects of filmmaking have been conducted remotely for many years (i.e.- producing; casting; post-production), the current public health crisis has enlarged the shift to on-line and remote production – transforming the definition and practice of collaborative filmmaking. ZOOM meetings, file sharing, remote, virtual and on-line collaboration offer unique opportunities, and yield impressive results. As we return to safe in-person collaboration, some on-line activities will remain. On-line practices have their own challenges.

This course will provide foundations for fruitful collaborative experiences via readings, reflections, presentations, in-class exercises, real-life challenges and professional advice. We will pay particular attention to understanding the strengths and challenges of working with new teams –especially when the teams are created by others.

The class rules:

1. Set the stage for future collaborations. This cohort will be with you for many years, together creating the future of the film industry.
2. Anything you say, write, or submit in this class is in “the public sphere.” Yet, you own the intellectual property to all the ideas you originate.
3. Make the most of the moments offered to you. Speak, reflect, and create within the time frames offered.
4. All backgrounds, perspectives, and identities are welcome in this class.
5. First name tags are requested for all sessions, especially the first few weeks.
6. 10 PODS of 6 students will be assigned for exercises throughout the semester. When we are in-person, you are free to move into the hallways, lounges, and outdoors during in-class exercises (you must be masked inside & outside). You will receive a notification on WhatsApp to return. When we are on-line you will work in assigned breakouts.

7. You will need QUICKVOICE, VOICE MEMOS, or other audio recording app on your phone that allows files to be sent by email easily, and/or uploaded to Blackboard.

All class assignments, readings, viewings, links, and course materials are on Blackboard.
<https://blackboard.usc.edu/>

WEEK 1: Jan 10 11:30-1:20

507: preparing E1

Intro & Overview: film production hierarchies; above & below the line; depts; “open moments”

POD Ex 1 & 2: Character & Place

WEEK 2: NO CLASS MONDAY JANUARY 17 Martin Luther King’s Birthday

507: preparing E1

Assignment #1 due 1/24: Dr. Brene Brown

Week 3: January 24 11:30-1:20

507: screening E1

“Self-Identification” quizzes

POD Ex 3 & 4: Reflecting / Accepting / Rejecting / Sharing / Not Sharing

Assignment #2: due 1/31 Reflection #1A

Week 4: January 31 11:30-1:20

507: pitching E2

“Mastering Collaboration”

POD Ex 5 & 6: Elevator Pitches

**Assignment #3 due 2/7: current SAG & Current Industry & SCA HEALTH Guidelines
And Reflection #1B**

Week 5: FEB 7 11:30-1:20

507: creating E2

POD Ex 7: *Highlight script areas of concern*

re: health, legal & safety issues

Guest: Prof. Susan Arnold, Prof. Scott Kroopf

Discussion of experience of determining health, legal and safety issues

Assignment #4 due 2/14: on World Building

Week 6: FEB 14 11:30-1:20

507: Screening E2

POD Ex 8: *Solo Writing + Writers' Room = x*

Assignment #5 due 2/28: each POD creates "Deck"

Week 7: NO CLASS FEB 21 Presidents' Day

507: creating E3's

Week 8: Feb 28 11:30-1:20

507: creating E4's

POD Ex 9 & 10: Giving & Getting Notes

Assignment #6 due March 11: Reflection #2A

Week 9: MARCH 7 11:30-1:20

507: Screening E3's

POD Ex 1 & 2: *A look inside a fictional writing class; discussion*

Assignment #6 due March 11: Reflection #2B

NO CLASSES MARCH 14-18 SPRING BREAK

Week 10: March 21 11:30-1:20

PF 3/1/22

507: E4 Prep

GUEST: FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MICHAEL JUDD

WEEK 11: March 28 11:30-1:20

507: E4 Prep

*E4 Pre-Prod Meetings
Statements of Intent*

Assign #7 Group 1B, due April 1, 9am on Blackboard

WEEK 12: April 4 11:30-1:20

507: E4 Prep

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR GUEST TBA

WEEK 13: April 11 11:30-1:20

507: Screen E4A

Guest Dr. Virginia Kuhn; Media Arts + Practice, *"The Future of Collaboration"*

Assignment #8 due APRIL 15, 6pm: send Collaboration Challenges to
collaborationchallenges@gmail.com

WEEK 14: April 18 11:30-1:20

507: Screen E4B

GUEST PANEL: TBA

WEEK 15: April 25 11:30-1:20

507: Screen E4C

Collaborative Agreements

502 Final Distributed May (1 hour)
Due by email, Monday May 9, 9pm

PF 3/1/22

GRADING:

15% –Attendance
45% –3 Reflection submissions (15% each)
15% –In-class collaborative creative work
15% –Participation (Q&A)
10% –Final

Students are encouraged to interact with both faculty and SAs outside of class. Please contact your instructor and SA if you have any concerns or questions concerning the course and be sure to let them know in advance if you cannot attend class.

Please notify your lead faculty & SA if your absence or tardiness issue to COVID. To notify the university of a case, please call 213-740-6291 or email covid19@usc.edu. Please see <https://coronavirus.usc.edu/> for USC guidelines about attendance.

COVID PROTOCOL:

Please refer to Production Protocols & Documents presented in your CTPR507 Lounge session.

If any of the Covid-19 safety protocols are violated, the SCA production may be suspended or shut down immediately and students could potentially receive a failing grade for the project.

RESOURCES

Dornsife/The Writing Center

The USC Writing Center's mission is to empower students, faculty, and staff by supporting their development of writing and critical thinking skills. The Writing Center pursues its mission through individual consultations, in-class workshops, and a large roster of handouts and instructional videos. Consultants work with writers at every skill level and every stage of the process, from interpreting an assignment to producing a final draft. All of the Writing Center's services are free.

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/>

Stressful Times

These are stressful times, and Graduate School in and of itself is stressful. We encourage you to take care of yourself and your fellow students. USC provides opportunities for Mindful Meditation <http://mindful.usc.edu>

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: <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus/>
In the Production Division, having another individual perform tasks assigned to you is plagiarism.

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 studenthealth@usc.edu

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

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/>

USC Office of Student Accessibility Services. OSASFrontDesk@usc.edu 213-740-0776

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is the unit at USC responsible for ensuring equal access for students with disabilities in compliance with state and federal law. OSAS serves undergraduate, graduate and professional students; on-ground and on-line students; and students in all credit-granting courses and programs of study.

<https://osas.usc.edu/>

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

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

<https://sites.usc.edu/engage/relationship-sexual-violence-prevention-services-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:

<https://dps.usc.edu/safety-tips/sexual-assault-and-violence/>

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://eotix.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/>

Trojans Care for Trojans:

https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid773384?

Campus Support and Intervention – (213) 740-0411. uscsupport@usc.edu

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

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

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 – Emergency: 213-740-4321 (UPC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime. Non-Emergency: 213-740-6000
Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>

USC Health's 24/7 line:

213-740-9355

USC COVID-19 24-hour hotline:

213-740-6291

Student Affairs Basic Needs Office:

basicneeds@usc.edu

COVID-19 positive cases should contact:

USC COVID-19 24 hour hotline: 213-740-6291 • email: covid19@usc.edu