

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

Spring 2023

Prof. Pablo Frasconi pfrasconi@cinema.usc.edu

Office HOURS: ZOOM (by appt)

SA: Lenti Liang
liangwen@usc.edu

CLASS: Mondays, January 9- April 24, 2023 (13 sessions)

11:30am-1:20pm

SCI106 (No Class Dr King's Birthday, Jan 16 & Presidents' Day, Feb 20)

"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 different members of cohort.

To practice current collaborative methods used in the industry.

To share case studies (yours and others') in collaborative challenges with professionals

To be a "better collaborator" – whenever & wherever you begin.

To find, nurture & enjoy the collaborative spirit.

At times, to be comfortable in slightly uncomfortable collaborative situations.

To prepare you for the collaborative 507 E3, E4, & CTPR508.

Class Overview:

Chapter 1: Weeks 1-4: POD Work: identity stories/prompts

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

Chapter 2: Weeks 6-9: POD Work: Collaborative & Creative Exercises; Giving/Getting Notes

Chapter 3: Weeks 10-11: Professional Advice

Chapter 4: Weeks 12-14: Collaborative Challenges

Chapter 5: Week 15: 508 Trio Agreements -FINAL

Collaborative skills –sometimes referred to as “soft 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 your own skills and behavior. Frequently this means putting ideas over egos; finding ways to disagree without “shutting down” others; 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.

This course will provide foundations for fruitful collaborative experiences via readings, reflections, presentations, in-class exercises, and 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.

As part of our [stated values and commitment to building more inclusive media industries](#), all incoming graduate students will attend two sessions in their first semester focused on building stronger, more welcoming and equitable media communities. Session topics and schedule will be available on the first week of classes. Attending these two sessions is part of CTPR 502 and will be factored into the course grade.

The class rules:

1. Amplify your strengths, feel free to learn from your mistakes.
2. Set the stage for future collaborations. Your current cohort will be with you for many years, creating the future of the film industry.
3. 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. The exercises and films you make in USC classes are owned by USC.
4. Make the most of the moments offered to you. Speak, reflect, create within the time frames offered. Observe whether your words or actions might be counter-productive.
5. All backgrounds, perspectives, and identities are welcome in this class.
6. First name tags are requested for all sessions, especially the first few weeks.
 7. Working PODS will be assigned for exercises throughout the semester. You are free to

- move into the hallways or outdoors during in-class exercises (masks are recommended). You will receive a notification on WhatsApp to return.
8. Assignments, readings, and viewings will be posted each week on Blackboard.

Chapter 1 of 4: Identity Stories

WEEK 1: January 9, 11:30-1:20

Intro & Overview: film production hierarchies; above & below the line; depts;

POD Ex 1: "Identity Stories" *Character & Place (1 of 3)*

Assignment due January 22, (Sunday, 9pm): Brene Brown TED Talk "The Power of Vulnerability"

(20min)

https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability?language=en

Week 2: January 16 Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday - No classes

Week 3: January 23, 11:30-1:20

"Identity Stories" 2 of 6 in-class quizzes (2 of 3)

PODS Ex 2: *Sharing insights*

Assignment due January 29 (Sunday, 9pm) readings on BB

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

"Identity Stories" Going Deeper (3 of 3)

PODS Ex 3: *Sharing Insight*

Assignment due Feb 5 (Sunday, 9pm): current SAG & Current Industry & SCA HEALTH Guidelines on BB

Week 5: Feb 6, 11:30-1:20

PODS Ex 4: *Script Highlights: areas of concern*

re: health, legal & safety issues

Guest: TBD

Discussion of experience of determining health, legal and safety issues

Assignment due Feb 12 (Sunday, 9pm): readings/viewings on Writer's Room

CHAPTER 2: COLLABORATIVE & CREATIVE EXERCISE -GIVING/GETTING FEEDBACK

Week 6: February 13 11:30-1:20

NEW PODS (2 507 Trios): Brainstorm collaborative E2 ideas

Assignment due Feb 26 (Sunday, 9pm): readings on BB

Week 7: February 20 PRESIDENTS' DAY -NO Classes

Week 8: February 27, 11:30-1:20

POD Exercise 5: The Taxonomy of Feedback

Assignment due March 5 (Sunday 6pm): *Reflection #1A*

Week 9 March 6, 11:30-1:20

NEW PODS (2 507 Trios) Brainstorm collaborative E3 ideas

Assignment due March 19 (Sunday 6pm): *Reflection #1B*

SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES MARCH 13-17

CHAPTER 3: PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

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

GUEST: Prof. Michael Judd, 1st Assistant Director / Director

Assignment due March 27 (Sunday, 9pm): readings on BB

WEEK 11: March 27 11:30-1:20

GUEST: TBD SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

Assignment due April 2 (Sunday, 9pm): readings on BB

CHAPTER 4: COLLABORATIVE CHALLENGES

WEEK 12: APRIL 3 11:30-1:20

GUEST: TBD CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Assignment due April 9 (Sunday, 9pm): view “*Living in Oblivion*” (1995, Tom DiCillo)
opening 21 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XMuHHdUkIw>

Reading/Listening on BB: “Cracking the Code of Sustained Collaboration” (HBR, 30min)
Begin Collaboration Diary using methods described

WEEK 13: APRIL 10 11:30-1:20p

507 TRIOS Exercise 6: on Creative Challenges

Assignment due **APRIL 16 (Friday 6pm):**

Collaboration Challenges sent to collaborationchallenges@gmail.com

WEEK 14: APRIL 17 11:30-1:20p

GUEST PANEL ON COLLABORATION CHALLENGES

Assignment due APRIL 23 (Sunday, 6pm): *Reflection #2B*

CHAPTER FIVE:

WEEK 15 APRIL 24 11:30-1:20

FINAL: 508 Trio Agreements

GRADING:

15% -Attendance

45% -3 Submissions (15% each)

15% -In-class collaborative creative work

15% -Participation (Q&A)

10% -Final

PF 1.7.23

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 is due 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://eeotix.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.symplcity.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 • e: covid19@usc.edu