USC School of Dramatic Arts

THTR BFA 457 63167 - Film Acting Practicum
Units: 4.0
Term: Spring 2023
Day/Time: MONDAY/ WEDNESDAY
12:00pm-1:50pm
LOCATION: MCC 111
INSTRUCTOR: JULIÁN JUAQUÍN CONDE
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT:
MON & WED 2:00pm- 4:00pm
CONTACT: jconde@usc.edu

Course Description
Our Objectives of this class:
1.Understanding Story Telling Through Pictures: A clear vision of how we tell stories through moving images. With the terminology used in Blain Browns book "Cinematography" we use the concepts of the visual language to tell our stories without words and just images.

2. Working as a cohesive group: We Collectively develop the skills to operate as an organism shifting responsibilities through the hierarchy system of film making. We will learn all the major jobs of pre-production, production and post production.

3. Dissect the technical components of filmmaking: We break down the methods and technology of filmmaking, learning how to use the tools of filmmaking and how to lower costs financially**.**

4. Create your films: Each student will complete their "Adler package": which consists of four films.
Adler package
1. Film 1. 30 second black and white film, no cut, no sound and one prop.
2. Film 2. 60 second film with six cuts only, sound or music cannot dominate the project.
3. Film 3. A music video with no words.
4. Film 4. Applying all the tools we have created to put the film together.

Learning Objectives
1. Learn "Freytag's" method of story telling along with the "One Act" and "Save The Cat".
2. Learn the major jobs of filmmaking.
3. A brief understanding of the technology needed to make a film.
4. Putting a movie together from beginning to end.

At the end of the course students will be able to understand how to put together a visual narrative story, know all the main jobs needed to create a project and have a basic understanding of the visual as well as the technical components of story telling.

Prerequisite(s): course(s) that must be taken prior to this course**: THTR 420A**
.
Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
keep in mind you will need an editing software and hard drive space. If you have a phone you can use it to film your projects. You can also use a DSLR if you have one available to use.

Recommended Reading:
1. Cinematography "Theory and practice" by Blain Brown
2. Screenplay. "The foundations of screenwriting" Syd Field
3. In the blink of an eye "A perspective on film editing" Walter Murch
4. The Dramatic Imagination. Robert Edmond Jones

Description and Assessment of Assignments
Grades are dictated by
• In class participation, contributing with questions, ideas and reflection of material.
• Constructive feedback of classmates. eg. asking supportive questions and giving your own creative feedback
• Willingness to experiment and apply constructive feedback from instructors and students on your projects.
• Presenting your projects on time.
• Being available to classmates outside of class time for projects.

Submissions of projects must be presented the day they are due for review and feedback.

IMPORTANT:
in addition to in-class contact hours, students must also meet outside of class time to create and finish their projects.

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
Film 1	15	15
Film 2	20	20
Film 3	20	20
Final film	30	30
Class participation	15	15
Total	100	100

Film 1:

10 points: Submitting on time.

1 point: Use one prop

1 points: The edit must be exactly 30 seconds.

1 point: Use one visual concept discussed in class.

1 point: Film is submitted in black and white.

1 point: Film Is shot on a tripod.

Film 2

10 points: Submitting on time

2 points: Use six cuts in the edit.

3 points: The edit must be exactly 60 seconds

1 point: For your story board

1 point: For your shot list.

1 point : For your script.

1 points: Use two methods of visual story telling (camera shots and camera movement.)

1 points: For using diegetic sound.

Film 3

15 points: Submitting on time.

5 points: Submit and edit less than 5 minutes.

Film four

15 points: Submitting on time.

5 points: For your Script

2 points: For your Shot list
2 points: For your Storyboard
2 points: For your One sheet
2 points: For your Pitch
2 points: For your pre-production sheet (A list of locations, props, equipment, cast and crew.)

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

D+ 67-69
D 63-66
D- 60-62
F 59 and below

Assignment Submission Policy
Films should be submitted in MP4, MOV format on the due date.

Grading Timeline After our third film we will have a progress check in.

EXTRA CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS AND ISPS
should you choose to participate in any extra curricular project, such as an Independent Student Production, the SDA administration and faculty will not make allowances or exceptions for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, home work that is required as preparation for class, or lack of class participation resulting from your extra-curricular involvement.

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1	Visual language: Learning the terminology and methods used to tell story : visually without words, The inciting incident.		
Week 2	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Wed. : Continue Visual Story telling.		
Week 3	Watch 30 second films		30 Second film due Jan23rd
Week 4	Creating emotion with the Camera lecture / starting your sixty second script		
Week 5	Shot list/ Story board		
Week 6	Watch your 60 second films		60 Second video is due. Feb. 13th
Week 7	Presidents day Wed.: Sound and editing		
Week 8	How to use music/ What is Directing		
Week 9	We will start your final scripts. Set design.		
Week 10	Return from spring recess, We Watch the Music videos.		Music video is due Mar. 20th
Week 11	We will continue working on our final scripts / look at costume design.		
Week 12	Finalize our scripts/ Pre productions work.		Final Scripts are due
Week 13	Production week.		
Week 14	Production week		
Week 15	Rough edit review. Going over Deliverables	Editing week	Rough edit is due

FINAL	Present final films and posters.		Date: For the date and time of the final for this class, consult the USC *Schedule of Classes* at classes.usc.edu.

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

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, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. OSAS is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for OSAS and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 814-4618 (Vidoe Phone), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

***

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

<p style="text-align:center">***</p>

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting

<p style="text-align:center">***</p>

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.

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) 740-9355(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.

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 Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776
https://osas.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 and 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) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.