

SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS
CTPR 409 - Practicum in Television Production

SYLLABUS



Semester: Spring 2024

Location: Robert Zemeckis Center for Digital Arts, Studio B

Instructor: Steve Martinez, stevenm8@usc.edu

SA: Favio Lopez-Magne, lopezmag@usc.edu

Course Coordinator: Harrison Merkt, merkt@usc.edu

Office Hours: Available upon request

Class Meeting Time: Friday, 9a-11:20a

UNITS: 2 Units

This class is open to all students from any school or department in the university.

Students enrolling in CTPR 409 do not require television production experience.

All the skills needed to successfully complete this course are taught in class.

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

This course introduces students to the basic concepts of live multicamera television production. For shows produced in this course, students learn the creative, technical, and practical procedures for hands on, in-studio weekly television production. Over the semester, each class functions as a team to produce a season of shows that livestream on the Trojan Vision website. After post-production, these shows start streaming on demand on and TrojanVision.com

HOW DO STUDENTS REGISTER FOR A SPECIFIC CLASS?

Each CTPR 409 section features one a selection of Trojan Vision shows, including longtime favorites like *The Morning Brew*, *Soundstage*, *The SCoop* and *The Water Cooler*. There are also newer shows like *Roomie Rivals* with a pilot produced in Spring 2022 and *The Comedy Show*, starting development in Fall 2022. Each semester, specific shows attached to each 409 section are identified in WebReg.

For students who wish to register for the 4-Unit option, review the 2-Unit sections that are offered for the semester and select the two you prefer, then email your selection to the Program Manager, Harrison Merkt, merkt@usc.edu.

WHAT ARE TROJAN VISION SHOWS?

Trojan Vision shows are modeled on the popular classics of live television. Formats include morning news, talk shows & interviews, game shows, cooking shows, music performance, sports talk, sketch comedies and entertainment news. After a period of instruction and practice, students produce multiple episodes of their show over the span of the semester.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS DO IN CLASS?

Depending on the individual show genres, students learn the basics of how to pitch story ideas, write scripts, cast and direct talent, take on crew positions (camera, sound, graphics, tech director, director, teleprompter, playback and floor manager) operate studio and control room equipment, book guests, field produce videos, rehearse and record live shows and post produce recorded shows.

ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES?

No. This class is open to all students, graduate and undergraduate, from any school or department in the university. It is assumed that students enrolling in CTPR 409 have no television production experience. All skills needed to successfully complete this course are taught in the class.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Safety Seminar:

All of you taking these classes this semester are required to take a safety seminar with SCA because you'll be producing content on stages with equipment.

The Physical Production Office will be offering Production Procedures and Safety Seminars the times and locations are listed below:

- 1/5 (Friday), 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM – Eileen Norris Theatre
- 1/9 (Tuesday), 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM – SCA 110
- 1/12 (Friday), 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM – SCA 108

If you can not make it to any of these dates, please let your professor and SA know the first week of class.

This course has a production insurance fee of \$50 per semester. You can expect billing shortly after the last day of add/drop.

CLASS SCHEDULE

This schedule is based on classes beginning the week of January 8, 2024 and ending the week of April 22, 2024. Once the semester begins, the instructor will decide the dates for live show recordings and those dates may be subject to change.

WEEK 1 (1/12)

Student orientation, syllabus review and facility tour. Introduction and breakdown of *The Water Cooler*.

WEEK 2 (1/19)

Overview of facility equipment and crew positions. Instruction on relevant TV terms often used in production. Ideas on pitching stories, scripting, research, hosts and guests.

WEEK 3 (1/26)

Above continued. Introduction to field production, out-of-studio packages and pitches. Crew exercises in rotation. Learning to set up and strike studio.

WEEK 4 (2/2)

Above continued. Crew exercises in rotation.

WEEK 5 (2/9)

Above continued. Episode 1 run-throughs and rehearsals. Episode 1 crew assignments.

WEEK 6 (2/16)

Episode 1 livestream. Postmortem & post-production instruction.

WEEK 7 (2/23)

Episode 2 livestream and postmortem.

WEEK 8 (3/1)

Episode 3 livestream and postmortem.

WEEK 9 (3/8)

Sports media career panel. More info to follow.

WEEK 10 (3/15)

Spring Recess, March 10-17. No Class session.

WEEK 11 (3/22)

Run-throughs and rehearsals for Episode 4. Switch crew positions.

WEEK 12 (3/29)

Episode 4 livestream and postmortem.

WEEK 13 (4/5)

Episode 5 livestream and postmortem.

WEEK 14 (4/12)

Episode 6 livestream and postmortem.

WEEK 15 (4/19)

Episode 7 livestream and postmortem.

WEEK 16 (4/26)

Episode 8 final show livestream and postmortem. Hour-long finale. Submit Final Evaluation as a summation of technical and creative progress. Due May 6.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Instructors give assignments related to instruction presented in class and in preparation for specific shows. For field productions, students work in teams and outside of class time to pitch, write, produce, shoot and edit videos to be dropped in to future show episodes.

Videos, PowerPoints, tutorials, templates for legal forms and documents and other media referenced in class are available in the class drive.

Optional reading on multicamera production is available digitally from USC Libraries.

Cury, Ivan. *Directing & Producing for Television, 5th edition*. Routledge Press, 2017.

Owens, Jim. *Television Production, 16th edition*. Focal Press, 2015.

GRADES

Grades are based on the timely submission of assignments and the execution of crew assignments. Instructors also evaluate students' preparation in class, engagement in discussions, professional behavior, punctuality, and team collaboration.

GRADING CRITERIA

Participation and collaboration: 30%

Show assignments: 25%

Crew assignments: 30%

Final Evaluation: 15%

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. This class is performance-based and attendance is extremely important. Two unexcused absences will result in a grade being lowered by one full letter (example: A becomes B). A third unexcused absence will result in a grade being lowered by one additional, full letter grade (B becomes C). Grades will be lowered by one full letter for each additional absence. Two unexcused late class arrivals equal one full absence. Students must report an absence to the instructor and SA before class begins.

CELL PHONE & SAFETY POLICY

Cell phones, laptops, tablets and other personal devices may only be used in class for show related work. Sandals and open-toe shoes are not permitted in the studios. Students should dress appropriately for crew jobs in the facility.

CREDITS - 2 or 4 UNITS

CTPR 409 can be taken for 2 units per semester (one class per week) and may be repeated up to four times.

CTPR 409 can be taken for 4 units per semester (two classes per week) and may be repeated twice.

CTPR 409 can be taken for a total maximum of 8 units.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – when a student presents someone else’s ideas as their own, either verbatim or recast in their own words – it is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please review 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.

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, nonconsensual 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 USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with students to explore options or paths to manage their concern.

PLEASE NOTE:

FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX.

THIS SYLLABUS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RESTRICTIONS OR REQUIREMENTS THAT MAY BE IN PLACE DUE TO COVID-19.