



USC

CTPR 327, MOTION PICTURE CINEMATOGRAPHY

Section 18495

Units: 3

Thursday, 6:30pm - 9:30pm

USC Fall Semester 2024

Location: SCA Stage 3

Instructor: Gary Wagner

Office: Call or email to schedule a meeting

Office Hours: Contact professor for meeting

Contact Info: will be provided to students enrolled in the class

Teaching Assistant: Tomaz Favrin

Office: online

Office Hours: Contact TA for zoom meeting

Contact Info: will be provided to students enrolled in the class

“Art is the lie that makes us realize the truth.”

Pablo Picasso

Course Description

Cinema-TV 327 is an excellent introduction to the creative and technical challenges of motion picture photography. The content of the course will emphasize how to express ideas, moods, story and character using basic photographic and lighting principals.

Communication Policies:

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor by USC email or text. The instructor will reply to emails within 24 hours during the school week, 48 hours over a weekend, and the workday following a holiday.

Many questions can be answered by our SAs, so please ask them first. If they are unable to help you or you feel you need to see me, request an appointment..

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- Students will be able to shoot with a HD Motion picture video camra for class exercises. Faculty member and Teaching Assistant will be available to help in this process.
- Students will be able to use the basic functions of a lens: focal lengths, aperture, depth of field, and focus, and how they are used in visual storytelling.
- Students, on USC stage, with instruction from the professor, will be able to work with basic power distribution, and motion picture lighting.
- Students will be able to use professional set protocol.
- Students will light and shoot assigned short scenes and/or class exercises during class period.
- Students will be able to block and cover a scene. Then they will use those principles to complete self-shot assignments.
- Students will be able to utilize pre-visualization techniques to plan shots and coverage for their scenes. Students will be able to execute visual and lighting continuity.

Course Notes

This will be an in person course, class will not offer Zoom recordings of class unless specified by Instructor, If Covid restrictions are put in place and lockdown mandated by the state and USC the class will resume online. Resources and uploading will be via a Google drive. Enrolled students will be given access to drive at beginning of the semester.

Learning Objectives:

You will be exposed to a wide variety of cinematic challenges, you will develop your "eye". You will be able to properly expose video, as well as manipulate the light, camera and content of your "scenes" into a meaningful, conceptual presentation. If you commit to this process you will finish the course with a basic competence in these areas and should have a more refined idea concerning how best to pursue your development in filmmaking and in particular, cinematography. This is an ideal introduction to motion picture photography for aspiring cinematographers, as well as for those interested in directing, editing, art directing, writing and producing. The first few class meetings will be lectures designed to give you the basics to get you going. The remainder of the meetings we will delve deeper into the principles of Cinematography and after each class lecture and professor led lighting demonstrations, you will be assigned a weekly "Scene Project," the guidelines for which will be provided to you. These shooting assignments will be shot during the class then shared with the class then be viewed and discussed.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Laptop loaner: (This program may not be available during Covid-19 distance learning, please visit the website for up to date guidelines)

If you require an internet-enabled device, the USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program - USC Information Technology Services provides loaner laptops at the general-use computing centers in King Hall, Ahmanson Information Commons at Leavey Library, and Waite Phillips Hall. This service is only available to currently enrolled USC students with a valid USC ID Card. To check out a laptop, go to the service desk at an USC computing center and log into the laptop checkout webpage:

<https://itservices.usc.edu/spaces/computingcenters>.

For more information about the program, see:

<https://itservices.usc.edu/spaces/laptoploaner>

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Throughout the semester I will refer to information and articles. You will be responsible to read the material. Weekly handouts, downloadable PDF files, and/or links to on-line information will be available online on a 327 folder on "Google Drive."

Recommended Readings will be from:

The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video By: Tom Schroeppel

The Filmmaker's Eye: Learning (and Breaking) the Rules of Cinematic Composition By: Gustavo Mercado

Additional Recommended Reading:

Motion Picture and Video Lighting By: Blair Brown

Cinematography theory and practice By: Blair Brown

Cinematic Storytelling. By Jennifer Van Sijll

Production Student Attendance Policy

Absences: Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. You will receive a free pass on your first absence. One additional absence (counted as your first) may result in a student's grade being lowered by one notch (IE: A becomes A-). Two absences may result in a student's grade being lowered by two notches (IE: A- becomes B). A third absence may result in a student's grade being lowered another full point (IE: B becomes C). Grades can be lowered by one full point for every additional absence.

Tardiness: A student is deemed late 7 minutes (number can be adjusted as desired) after the class is scheduled to start. One late arrival may not affect your grade. Two late arrivals equate to one full absence. (IE: A becomes A-). Three late arrivals may result in your grade being dropped by two portions (IE: A- becomes B). Four late arrivals may result in your grade being dropped three portions (one full point: B becomes C). Lateness of more than 30 minutes will count as an absence.

Timely attendance is mandatory and failure to attend all class sections from beginning to end may affect grades.

- Exemptions will be allowed on a case-by-case basis and must be supported by a written accommodation request from the USC Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS).
- Students who become ill and need to self-isolate will be supported in their efforts to stay current with classwork and assignments. Faculty are no longer required to provide an option for students to zoom into class.

However, faculty may choose to use zoom at their discretion in an effort to help students stay current in their course work.

Students must contact the professor or SA 24 hours prior to class start time if they need to miss class for any reason.

Turn off your phone in class. This applies to **ALL INTERNET-CONNECTED PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES** (known or unknown throughout the present or any expanded universe). This is under grades because the success of this class is depends on every student's full presence. Or, as Ram Dass said, "Be *here* now." Students will receive a downgrade of one notch for violation of this policy more than two times.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the USC Student Handbook. All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage. The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the student handbook or the Office of Academic Integrity's website, and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, we encourage you to use artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs to help you with assignments that indicate the permitted use of AI. You should also be aware that AI text generation tools may present incorrect information, biased responses, and incomplete analyses; thus, they are not yet prepared to produce text that meets the standards of this course. To adhere to our university values, you must cite any AI-generated material (e.g., text, images, etc.) included or referenced in your work and provide the prompts used to generate the content. **Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.** Please review the instructions in each assignment for more details on how and when to use AI Generators for your submissions.

If found responsible for an academic violation, students may be assigned university outcomes, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, and grade penalties, such as an “F” grade on the assignment, exam, and/or in the course.

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class is prohibited, unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

The School of Cinematic Arts Support Systems and Statements

Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self-expression; however, SCA will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation, or violence against persons or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting, they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, <http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm>; e-mail diversity@cinema.usc.edu or anonymously submit a report on SCA Community: <https://scacommunity.usc.edu/secure/diversityEquity/> You can also read more about how to report discrimination based on a protected class here: <https://eetix.usc.edu/get-help/what-are-my-choices-text/>
SCA Office of Student Services 213-740-8358 or StudentAffairs@cinema.usc.edu

SCA Embedded Therapists

Students enrolled in an SCA major program can schedule an appointment with an embedded therapist for the School of Cinematic Arts through the student health portal MySHR.
SCA Community For additional SCA resources please visit scacommunity.usc.edu

Creative Technology and Support

(213) 821-4571 creativetech@cinema.usc.edu Location: SCA 128 Support Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM <https://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/> <https://workstations.sca.usc.edu/>

Physical Production Office

The Physical Production Office assists students and faculty with production-related matters including production numbers, locations, permits, insurance, gear and equipment vendors, safety issues, and crew and actor policies. More information can be found by visiting the online Production Procedures and Safety

Handbook. The Physical Production Office is located at **SCA 304** and is open every weekday from 9am-5pm (Fridays 9am-1pm). You can also reach the Office by calling 213-740-1298 or by email at spo@cinema.usc.edu.

Office of Industry Relations

School of Cinematic Arts - SCA 235

(213) 740-4432 ir@cinema.usc.edu

Cinematic Arts Library Research Guide <https://libguides.usc.edu/cinema>

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The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodation is not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

COVID-19 Resource Center - <https://coronavirus.usc.edu/what-should-i-do/>

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

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

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

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

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

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

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

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

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

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

Land Acknowledgement

USC acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Tongva People. For thousands of years, the Tongva people lived on this land we occupy today and were considered the most powerful indigenous peoples to inhabit the Los Angeles basin. Along with the Tongva, we also recognize the Chumash, Tataviam, Serrano, Cahuilla, Juaneño, and Luiseño People, for the land that USC also occupies around Southern California. To learn about the Indigenous land on which your learning location resides, please visit Native-Land.ca to discover the Original People of your home.

PLEASE NOTE:

FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE IN THE SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Midterm	25	25
Notebook assignment	20	20
Class participation	10	10
Weekly scene assignments	25	25
Final exam	20	20
TOTAL	100	100

Grading Scale (Example)

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

- A 94-100
- A- 90-93
- B+ 87-89
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D+ 67-69
- D 63-66
- D- 60-62
- F 59 and below

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments will be uploaded to a Google Drive then email TA and Professor stating that it was uploaded.
(please check the drive after your upload to make sure it was uploaded successfully)

Missing a Quiz or Exam and Incompletes:

The only acceptable excuses for missing a quiz or exam or for taking an incomplete in the course are personal illness or a family emergency. Students must inform the instructor **before** the quiz or exam in order for a make up to be scheduled. Students who wish to take an incomplete must also present documentation of the problem to the instructor before the final grades are submitted.

Course Schedule: Topics and Lectures subject to change according to wants and needs of students and professor.

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1 8/29	Lecture: Intro to class, class overview. Mechanics of camera and lenses	Assign Notebook	Noatbook due week 10 Watch: Visions of Light Exposure Triangle Videos: TBA
Week 2 9/5	Lecture/Demo: Intro to grip & electric equipment #1 Contrast Ratio and exposure latitude	Reading: TBD	Due: week 3
Week 3 9/12	Lecture/Demo: " in class shooting assignment A sense of space - CU Faces	Reading: TBD	Due: week 4
Week 4 9/19	Lecture/Demo: iin class assignment #2 Hard & soft Light	Reading: TBD	Due: week 5
Week 5 9/26	Lecture/Demo: in class assignment #3 Depth of field	Reading TBD	Due: week 6
Week 6 10/3	Lecture/Demo: shooting for coverage/ Understanding the line Back-Cross Key Lighting Matching CUs	Reading: TBD	Due: week 7
Week 7 10/10	FALL RECESS		
Week 8 10/17	Lecture/demo: nclass shooting assignment ECUs, Product Photography Review for the midterm	Reading: TBD	Due: week 8
Week 9 10/24	Midterm Exam	Reading: TBD	
Week 10 10/31	Grp 1 - project shot in class	Reading: TBD	Notebook Due:

Week 11 11/7	Grp 2 - project shot in class	Reading: TBD	Due:
Week 12 11/14	Grp 3 - project shot in class	Reading: TBD	Due:
Week 13 11/21	Grp 4 - project shot in class	Reading: TBD	Due:
Week 14 11/28	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Week 15 12/5	Grp 5 - Final project shot in class		Edit projects for screening
FINAL 12/12 7:00-9:00	Final Screening, Screening Room TBD Final Essay Exam		SCREEN Grp Projects 1-5