USCCinematic Arts

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.

CTPR 427: INTRODUCTION TO COLOR GRADING
Units: 2
Term: Fall 2024—Tuesday—Time: 9-11:50am

Location: Online, Lectures: SCB-B104, Labs: SCA-B154

Link to Course Brightspace:

Instructor: Clark Muller
Office: By appointment
Office Hours: By appointment
Contact Info: clarkmul@usc.edu / 805 807 2880

Teaching Assistant/ Student Assistant: Liu Linnan
Office: By appointment
Office Hours: By appointment
Contact Info: linnanl@usc.edu / 323 547 0505

Course Description
This class is an introduction to the art, craft and science of color grading, also known as color correction and color timing. The course will explore various aspects of grading and how it can enhance and improve storytelling. The objective is for students to gain a greater understanding of the nuances of photographed images and how images are perceived, then apply color grading techniques to reshape the images.

The class consists of lectures, reviews of media, discussions, and hands on exercises using the color grading tools of DaVinci Resolve.

Learning Objectives
Students will develop a working knowledge of aspects of color theory related color grading.
Students will develop a working knowledge of DaVinci Resolve application. Students will re-balance the contrast and color of images, the core foundation of a colorist's work.
Students will create cohesive looks for scenes.
Students will apply techniques to use color creatively to impact the "mood" and "feel" of a scene.
Students will apply secondary color grading tools to isolate and adjust areas of the frame or individual colors in the frame. Students will utilize color grading techniques that are similar to toolsets found in other applications.

Prerequisite(s) CTPR 310 or CTPR 508

Recommended Preparation: course work or background that is advisable, not mandatory.

Course Notes
[Include grading type (e.g., Letter, Credit No/Credit, Numeric). Note any unique characteristics of the course of operating procedure. Is the course Web-Enhanced (i.e. Brightspace), Blended or Online? If copies of lecture slides and other class information will be posted on Brightspace, note that here. If multimedia or technology-enhanced learning strategies will be used, please describe them here.]

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
For online sessions and assignments, students need to have a computer that is capable of running the free download version of DaVinci Resolve. Students also need an approved hard drive to store the video assets used in class. The SA will provide a list of approved drives. The computer and hard drive must be available by the first week of class.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
"The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction", by Steve Hullfish (2nd Edition). I will be teaching concepts that can be revisited in the book throughout the semester and the book can be used for a concept refresher after the class has been completed.

Optional Readings and Supplementary Materials
"Hidden Colors", by Gry Garness. Interactrive e-book. Available at https://www.eureka-publishing.com/product/the-hidden-colors/ This book covers color theory concepts we will be exploring during the semester.

Description and Assessment of Assignments
Grading will be based on a combination of elements, including class participation, a series of assignments and a final exam to determine the student's comprehension of the different aspects of color grading. Assignments and final exam will be completed in DaVinci Resolve.

Participation
CTPR 427 is a workshop course that requires students to practice color grading techniques demonstrated in class. Students are expected to fully participate in all in-class exercises and discussions and demonstrate competence in the techniques necessary for the successful completion of the assignments. Students will be required to catch up on missed classes in class with instructor.

Grading Breakdown

Table 1 Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool (assignments)	% of Grade
Class Participation	15
Assignment #1	20
Assignment #2	20
Assignment #3	20
Final Exam	25
TOTAL	100

Grading Scale
Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

Letter Grade & Percentage Range

A	100% to 94%	C	76% to 73%
A-	93% to 90%	C-	72% to 70%
B+	89% to 87%	D+	69% to 67%
B	86% to 83%	D	66% to 63%
B-	82% to 80%	D-	62% to 60%
C+	79% to 77%	F	59% to 0%

Assignment Submission Policy
Assignments will be uploaded to specified Google Drive folders. Specifics for different assignments will be covered during the semester.

Grading Timeline
[Announce a timeline for when students can expect grading and feedback from the instructor.]

Course Specific Policies
[Add any additional policies that students should be aware of late work submissions, missed classes, use of technology in the classroom, etc. Course-specific policies differ from university policies in that they are set by each instructor or department/program.]

Attendance
If a student is late or absent, please contact the professor and SA prior to class. Students must contact the professor or SA 24 hours prior to class start time if they need to miss class for any reason.
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.
Absence One absence will result in your final grade being lowered by two portions of a grade, i.e. from A to B+. Two will result in your final grade being lowered one full grade, i.e. from A to a B. Three will result in your final grade being lowered two full grades, i.e. from A to C. Your grade will be lowered by one full grade for every absence after.
Lateness If more than 30 minutes late, it's considered an absence. One lateness will not count against you, it's LA. Two will result in your final grade being lowered by one portion of a letter grade, i.e. from A to A-. Three will result in your final grade being lowered by two portions of a letter grade, i.e. from A to B+. Four will result in your final grade dropping three portions of a grade, or one full letter grade i.e. from A to B. And so on...
If you arrive late, you MUST come to me during a break and let me know you are present. Please don't assume I saw you arrive. If you fail to do so, you may be marked absent.

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

Zoom etiquette

This is a class attended course. You are required to attend class unless instructed not to do so. If **Zoom** is required then you will be instructed and given directions. **Zoom** exceptions will be considered due to unforeseen circumstances.

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.

SCA AI Policy

In this course, I 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.

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, or 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).

Course Evaluations

[Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class. The process and intent of the end-of-semester evaluation should be provided. In addition, a [mid-semester evaluation](#) is recommended practice for early course correction.]

Course Schedule

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 1 Aug 27th	Overview of curriculum and course discussion and screening of examples of grading fundamentals and process. Discuss and familiarize Waveform and vector scopes	Chapter 1 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	
Week 2 Sept 3rd	Working in DaVinci Resolve: Fundamentals. Preparing a project for color. Using video waveform to color. Balancing video waveforms	Chapter 2 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	
Week 3 Sept 10th	Discussing tools in DaVinci Resolve. Analyzing video waveforms for color and luminance.	Chapter 3 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	
Week 4 Sept 17th	Primary color grading: Contrast Exploring techniques to shape the contrast of the image.	Chapter 4 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	
Week 5 Sept 24th	Color theory: reading color, visualizing and talking about color. Videoscopes for analyzing color.	Chapter 9 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 6 Oct 1st	Primary color grading: color balancing. Exploring naturalistic color renditions, color casts, and balancing images.	Chapter 10 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 7 Oct 8th	Continue to explore balancing.	Chapter 7 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	**ASSIGNMENT #1 ASSIGNED**
Week 8 Oct 15th	Color theory - exploring how color imagery is perceived within a single image and across a series of images. Contrast effects, color harmony and more is covered. Scene to scene color grading. Matching shots scene to scene.	Chapter 8 of "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction"	**ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE**
Week 9 Oct 22nd	Exploring tools for aiding in scene to scene color grading		**ASSIGNMENT #2 ASSIGNED**
Week 10 Oct 29th	Story and context - Creative uses of contrast and color.		
Week 11 Nov 5th	Continuing to explore creative color techniques. **Setting looks for Assignment 3**	"The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction" Read sections:Pg. 336-337, talk like a DP. Pg. 461-469, communicating with clients, the future of color correction…up until "smoke"	**ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE**
Week 12 Nov 12th	Introduction to advanced image workflows. Working with log and raw imagery, LUTs.	**HOMEWORK: continue setting looks for assignment 3**	

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables

Week 13 Nov 19th	Secondary color correction - the processes and tools for manipulating individual areas of the frame. Working with power windows in DaVinci resolve.	**HOMEWORK : review looks** "The Art and Technique of Digital Color Correction" Read sections:Pg. 68-70 & Pg. 164-165	**ASSIGNMENT #3 ASSIGNED**
Week 14 Nov 26th	**NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**		
Week 15 Dec 3rd	Secondary color correction - working with qualifiers/keys and other tools. Real world color management fundamentals. Exploring looks in film.		**ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE**
Week 16 Dec 10th	**Study Week** **NO CLASS**		
Week 16 **Thursday** Dec 12th 11am-1pm	**Final Exam!!** Each student color corrects a Final short project for their final exam. **THIS IS A TIMED EXAM**		

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://eeotix.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

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:
The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, 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. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity 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.

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

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.

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