## CULS 5329 Film Production & Presentation (1st Term, 2023-24)

## 電影製作與展現

## Draft

Day and Time: Wed, 10:30am-1:15pm

Classroom: KKB 310 Lab

Teacher: Dr. Li Tiecheng

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Office Hour: Tue, 3pm-5pm
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**Course Description**

With the development of technologies, contemporary filmmaking has become faster and more flexible. This practical course is designed for storytellers who want to translate their ideas into compelling videos. Through pre-production, filming, to post-production, students will learn the visual-audio language, basic skills and techniques of filmmaking, including production by using Adobe Premiere and After Effect, etc. It consists of lectures, readings, screenings and consultations, hands-on visual projects, and mini workshops; it helps students to explore and develop their conceptual and aesthetic styles.

隨著技術的不斷提高，當代電影製作變得更加快捷和靈活。這門課開設給那些想將自己的主意和想法轉換成完整影像作品的人。通過前期、拍攝，再到後期製作，學生們可以學習到視聽語言，電影製作的基礎技術和技能，包括攝影、錄音、照明，和用 Adobe Premiere 等軟體進行剪輯等。本課由講座、閱讀、放映、討論、實際操作，以及多次小型工作坊組成，最終幫助同學們探索屬於自己的審美影像風格。

**Learning Outcomes**

1. To understand storytelling in visual productions.
2. To extend the students' knowledge of film genres and language.
3. To gain or improve the skills associated with video production, including writing, producing, directing, shooting, and editing.
4. At the end of the course, students will finish a compelling video work.
5. To organize a screening to show their own works at the end of the semester.
6. To learn how to spread and distribute video works.

**Course Components (Learning Activities)**

- Lectures
- In class discussions / with professional filmmakers
- In class exercises
- Workshops
- Screenings and talks

**Course Content & Schedule**

|  | Storytelling and Script | Film Language | Filmmaking Techniques | Editing | In class Exercise |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Week 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Week 2 | I |  |  |  |  |
| Week 3 | II | I | Camera |  | Composing shots for a scene |
| Week 4 | III |  |  | I | Photomontage |
| Week 5 |  | II | Light |  | Light setting |
| Week 6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Week 7 |  | III | Sound |  | Sound recording |
| Week 8 | IV |  |  | II | Script Table Read |
| Week 9 |  |  | Storyboard |  | Brainstorming |
| Week 10 |  |  |  | III | Discussion & Consultation |
| Week 11 |  |  |  |  | Discussion & Consultation |
| Week 12 |  |  |  | IV | Editing Practice |
| Week 13 |  |  |  |  | Rough Cut Screening Discussion & Consultation |

Week1 Sep 6
**Introduction to the course**
Ice Breakers
•Course outcomes, assessments, and schedule, etc.
• Styles of film and video (Genre)
• From traditional film to new media
• Crew roles and procession of filmmaking
***Assignment 1****: Film an introduction video about yourself (2min)*
          *(Refer to Operational Requirments#1)*

Week 2 Sep 13
**Storytelling and Script I**
•From visual to screenplay (compare)
•Telling a story visually (Using visuals and sound)
•Playwriting (Screenwriting), concept development, storytelling
Submission: Assignment 1 – Self-introduction video (2min)
• Screening in class: Students' self-introduction videos
***Assignment 2****:Come up with an idea for a short film, no more than 8 minutes long. Then practice how to pitch your idea in 2 minutes, which you will have to do in class next time. (Refer to Operational Requirments#2)*

Week 3  Sep 20
**Story telling and Script II**
• Narrative – Understand classical narrative structure.
• Characters – Understanding how to write characters.
• Grouping – Students are to choose their groups (which they will work in for their
   upcoming films).

**Film Language I & Filmmaking techniques I: Camera**

• Types of shot

• Camera angles, composition, movement, etc.

• Camera operation, use of lens, depth of field, etc.

**Exercise and Grouping**

• 2-minute pitches per student

• Submission: an idea of short film, no more than 300words

In class Exercise: Composing shots for a scene.

*Assignment 3: Write a 5-8 page short film script.*
*(Refer to Operational Requirments#3)*


Week 4  Sep 27

**Storytelling and Script III**

• Conflict – Understanding and developing conflict in story.

• Relationship – Developing relationships in storytelling.

• Standard screenplay format

**Editing I**

• Editing Theory / Techniques

   Types of Montage /How Montage works

In class Exercise: Practice of photomontage

*Assignment 4: (group assignment) Start writing a working diary, and submit it with the final work in week 15 (Refer to Operational Requirments#4)*


Submission: Assignment 3-1: A draft script (Script version 1) of 5-8 pages


Week 5  Oct 4

**Film Language II & Filmmaking techniques II: Lighting**

• Lighting

• Color

• Lighting Techniques (Fill Light, Spot Light etc.), Diffusing light ,Flagging, Effect of
   different lighting style

In class Exercise: Practice of light setting

*Assignment 5: Shot list: write down the shot list with the detailed information based on one scene of a commercial film or an advertisement. (Refer to Operational Requirments#5)*


Submission: Assignment 3-2:  Script version 2

*(One script from each group will be chosen by the lecturer to be developed and be filmed for the final project.)*


Week 6  Oct 11

**Film Producing, Film Market & How to distribute your work**
**Guest Speaker: TBC**

• Film Censorship in different counties

• Independent Film/Video, Art Film, and commercial Film in the Global Market

- Where is your audience?
- To Prepare and organize students' own final screening in the campus
- Film industry
- New media platform
- Film/Video festival
- Art exhibition

Week 7  Oct 18
**Film Language III & Filmmaking techniques III: Sound.**
• Sound design and Sound Effects
  Dialogue, Ambience, Foley, and how music effect films.
• Sound & Music
In class Exercise: Practice of sound recording
*Each group will be given the script by the lecturer to be filmed.*
Submission: Assignment 5:  Shot list
*Start thinking about which role you would like to conduct for this film, and prepare your pitch, ideas, arguments, homework for why you would be best to direct, or produce, whichever role you would like. (Roles Pitch for week 11)*

Week 8  Oct 25
**Editing II & Storytelling and Script IV**
• Short film structure
**Script Table Read:** 25min for each group to read the script and discuss with the class

Week 9  Nov 1
**Filmmaking techniques IV: Storyboard**
**Prepare for organizing the screening outside campus**
• Shooting schedule
  Breaking down of the script, and shoot schedule.
• To design a storyboard
*Assignment 6:Everyone must create a storyboard, their own version of how they would shoot / compose the film (for final project). Work together to help each other, and create your 4 different styles / voice. (All students must work with and help / support their group members). (Refer to Operational Requirments#6)*
Submission: Assignment 3-3:  Group Script
In class Exercise: Brainstorming

Week 10 Nov 8
**Editing III & Others**
• Visual meanings behind editing
• Budgeting
  Location, Wardrobe, Actors, Transport, Food, etc.
• Casting
Submission: Assignment 6 - Storyboard

***Assignment 7-1***: *(Individual Assignment) Prepare your pitches for the 3 x roles you would prefer to do. And. indicate your preference: For e.g.: Director 1st, DOP 2nd, Producer 3rd*

***Assignment 7-2***:*(Group Assignment) Prepare group proposal presentation, (each student shows their preparation for their respective role) use your storyboards, as part of your Roles Pitch for Week 10* *(Refer to Operational Requirments#7)*

**Consultation Before Shooting**

Week 11 Nov 15
**Proposal Presentation, Pitches for Roles, Shooting Preparation**
**Prepare for organizing the screening outside campus**
**• *Submission 7****:*
• Proposal presentation:
*The storyline, Characters, Film style, Storyboard, Schedule, Budget, Difficulties and Solutions, Where to screen, etc.*
• Roles pitching:
  *Each student explaining their role and why they want to perform that role on the script*

**Roles will be chosen by this point.**
***Assignment 8***:*(group assignment) Shoot and edit to complete the rough cut.*
        *(Refer to Operational Requirments#8)*
**Consultation Before Shooting**

**Shooting & Editing: Nov 17-Nov 29**

Week 12  Nov 22
**Editing IV: Adobe Premiere**
• Workshop
• Consultation

Submission: Assignment 8 – Rough Cut

Week 13  Nov 29
• **Rough-Cut Screening & Course Review**
Screening in class: Rough Cut
*Assignment 9*:*(group assignment) Edit to complete the final cut.*
***Assignment 10***: *Write a report (no more than 3,000 words in Chinese, or 5 pages in English) Refer to Operational Requirements #10*

Week 15 Dec 13
Final Submissions:
Assignment 4 – Group working diary
Assignment 9 –Final Cut
Assignment 10 – Report

**Assessment**

**Attendance, Participation & In class Exercise** ------------------------------------ 20%

**Assignments (30%):**
- Self-introduction video ----------------------------------------------------------- 5%
- Film idea and pitching ------------------------------------------------------------- 5%
- Short film script --------------------------------------------------------------------- 10%
- Shot List   --------------------------------------------------------------------------- 5%
- Editing Practice -------------------------------------------------------------------- 5%

**Projects (50%):**
- Storyboard ---------------------------------------------------------------------------- 5%
- Proposal Presentation & Role Pitching *(Group assignment)* -------------------- 10%
- Rough Cut *(Group assignment)* --------------------------------------------------- 10%
- Final Cut *(Group assignment)* ----------------------------------------------------- 10%
- Working diary *(Group assignment)* ------------------------------------------------ 5%
- Report ----------------------------------------------------------------------------------- 10%

| No | Title | Operational Requirement |
|----|-------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Self-introduction video | Film an introduction video about yourself (2min) Consider using whatever visual methods you would like, or are capable of using. Such as: <ul><li>Still imagery</li><li>Drawings</li><li>Video</li><li>Animation</li></ul> This will be shown in class. |
| 2 | Film idea and pitching | Come up with an idea for a short film, you will only have 2 minutes to present your idea. Practice how to pitch your idea, which you will have to do in class. Write down your idea (no more than 300 words) |
| 3 | Short film script: draft, version 2, and the group script. | Write a short film script (5-8 pages). Limit the number of locations to 3 (maximum), and your characters to 4 (maximum) One script from each group will be chosen by the lecturer to be developed and filmed for the final project. It will be regarded as the group script. |
| 4 | Working diary | Step by step, note the whole process of your filmmaking experience. Each filmmaking student will be required to contribute their own thoughts, experiences, and comments during this process. *(Group assignment)* |
| 5 | Shot List | Write down the shot list with the detailed information based on one scene of a commercial film or an advertisement. |
| 6 | Storyboard | To shoot still images (or animated / drawn images) and create a storyboard for shot selection / composition for your chosen script. Using images to visually demonstrate the shot composition you will use during filming. |

| 7 | Proposal Presentation & Role Pitching | Present your chosen script to class, detailing the storyline, characters, film style, storyboard, schedule, budget, difficulties, and solutions, etc.<br>Each individual member will need to present their planning and preparation for their specific role in the production of the short film. *(Group assignment)*;<br>Which role would you like to manage for this film? In class, pitch your ideas, arguments, and why you would be best to direct, or produce, etc. You must pitch for 3 roles, 1 preferred to 3 least preferred. |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Rough Cut | Producer – must submit the 1$^{st}$ Rough Cut of the film, each filmmaking student must be present. *(Group assignment)* |
| 9 | Final Cut | Producer – must submit the 1$^{st}$ Rough Cut of the film, each filmmaking student must be present. *(Group assignment)* |
| 10 | Report | No more than 3,000 words in Chinese /5 pages in English.<br>Final Comments on each student filmmaker's experience, and thoughts about the entire process.<br>Comment on your specific roles during the entire process. |

**Required Readings:**

1. Bazin, André. *What Is Cinema*. Translated by Hugh Gray. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971.
2. Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson 著, 曾偉禎譯. *Film Art: An Introduction.* 《電影藝術:形式與風格》. 台北: 美商麥格羅希爾, 2001.
3. D. Giannetti, Louis. *Understanding Movie*s. London: Pearson, 2017
4. D. Katz, Steven. *Film Directing Shot by Shot: Visualizing From Concept to. Screen*. Calif.: Michael Wiese Productions, 1991.

**Recommended Readings:**

1. Brown, William. *Non-Cinema: Global Digital Film-making and the Multitude (Thinking Cinema)*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018
2. Bordwell, David. Film Art: An Introduction. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2015.
3. Cook, David A. *A History of Narrative Film*. Third edition. New York, London: W.W. Norton, 1996.
4. Lehman, Peter. *Defining Cinema*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1997.
5. McGrath, Declan. Editing & Post-production. Boston: Focal Press, 2001.
6. Hayward, Susan. *Cinema Studies: The Key Concepts*. London: Routledge, 2006
7. Siapera, Eugenia. Understanding New Media. London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2012
8. Smith, Jerron. Adobe Premiere Pro CC Digital Classroom. Indianapolis: John Wiley& Sons, 2013.
9. Smith, Jerron. Adobe After Effect CS6 Digital Classroom. Indianapolis: John Wiley& Sons, 2012.
10. Turner, Graeme 著, 林文淇譯. *Film as Social Practice* 《電影的社會實踐》. 台北: 遠流, 1997.

**Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. All student assignments in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes should be submitted via VeriGuide with effect from September 2008: https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx

Although cases of cheating or plagiarism are rare at the University, everyone should make himself/herself familiar with the content of this website and thereby help avoid any practice that would not be acceptable.

**Section 1 What is plagiarism**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p01.htm

**Section 2 Proper use of source material**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p02.htm

**Section 3 Citation styles**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p03.htm

**Section 4 Plagiarism and copyright violation**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p04.htm

**Section 5 CUHK regulations on honesty in academic work**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p05.htm

**Section 6 CUHK disciplinary guidelines and procedures**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p06.htm

**Section 7 Guide for teachers and departments**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p07.htm

**Section 8 Recommended material to be included in course outlines**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p08.htm

**Section 9 Electronic submission of assignments via VeriGuide**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p09.htm

**Section 10 Declaration to be included in assignments**

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p10.htm