



YOUR CALLING. OUR PASSION.

COMMUNICATION

COMF 473 Electronic Cinematography Spring 2024

Faculty Information

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Office Hours: *Contact Lisa Weir at x8411 for an appointment/meeting*



Course Information

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: *Spring 2024*

Course Day/Time: *Tuesday & Thursday at 12:30 PM*

Location: *Trask 315*

Required Textbooks

Rabiger, M & Hurbis-Cherrier, M. (2020). *Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics, 6th Ed.* Routledge Press

ISBN-13 : 978-0815394310

Landau, D. (2014). *Lighting for Cinematography. A practical guide to the art and craft of lighting for the moving image.* New York: Bloombury Publishing.

ISBN-13 : 978-1628926927

Required Materials And Supplies

SDXC card UHS 3 – Class 10

Evangel University Mission

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

Department Mission

The Department of Communication serves students through a study of communication, incorporating theory, history, and application in a variety of media and non-media contexts. The Department prepares its majors to function effectively as competent professionals with a Christian worldview.

Catalog Course Description

This three-credit hour course introduces the student to the processes of motion picture production in both film and digital video. Film directing and production will be covered through lecture and text materials. This includes an overview of cinematic production with some attention given to the art of filmmaking. The student will also be introduced to film production techniques with special attention given to directing for lighting and photography. Finally, this course investigates how to best tell a story using cinematic techniques and allows the student to work on a significant film project. (Prerequisite: COEM 232 or permission of the professor)

Learning Outcomes

The outcomes for this course have been aligned to the [Enter name of the accrediting organization/standards here Course Learning Outcomes (CLO), Program Learning Outcomes (PLO); and/or Evangel University Student Learning Outcomes (EU20).

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES				
Upon completion of this course, the student will:	CLO	PLO	EU20	
Students will have an understanding of basic and advanced video editing procedures and will be able to perform these using computer-based editing systems.	X	FB2*		
Students will be able to prepare and produce various cinematographic productions such as commercials, dramas, and music videos.	X	FB2*		
Students will develop their creative potential by providing a wide variety of acceptable responses within the structures of the different individual and group assignments produced in this course.	X	FB1		
Students will be knowledgeable of various film directorial techniques in relation to both acting and camera direction.	X	FB3*		
Students will have gained practical skills in motion picture film and video production.	X	FB3	E5*	
Students will be familiar with the role of director of photography and the techniques used in this position.	X	FB2*		
Students will be familiar with the duties of the film director as they relate to large and small productions.	X	FB2*		
Students will have an understanding of basic and advanced video editing procedures and will be able to perform these using computer-based editing systems.	X	FB2*		

*Objectives are in compliance with but not assessed for these outcomes.

Course Format

The course is seated in a classroom for instruction and training on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students will complete assignments on their own time as they are assigned. Occasionally, class will meet in the studio areas in the EMC as directed for special training sessions.

Course Requirements

The class will include the reading of the textbooks (outside class) with follow-up assignments. All written or out-of-class assignments will be used as a basis for the class discussion. Students will complete the following major assignments (smaller, daily work may also be assigned):

1. Students are required to **attend class** and read assigned text materials as listed in the Course Outline. Maximum of 5 absences.
2. **Dramatic Commercial (AVID) Project*** – Students will work in groups of two (maybe three) to produce a 60- second dramatic commercial on HD digital video. The spot must also be cut down to a 30-second version, and a 10 second version. The spot must have a dramatic conflict with actors portraying characters in a situation to promote an approved product. Video is to be recorded in widescreen, color, with appropriate sound. The spot should end with an original product or logo shot with possible narration. All content must be original with music from production CDs or is licensed for EUTV use. This project must be edited using AVID editing software. Final videos will be exported in 24 fps with H.264 using 1080p settings. Read assignment sheet for details.
3. **Music Video Project (DaVinci)*** - Students will work in small groups to produce a three to four-minute, music video. The video must have a dramatic element (concept), and use musicians and vocalists as appropriate. Concept footage should be at least 60 percent of the project on final edit. Must have at least 20 percent of video in lip sync. These projects will be evaluated for proper exposure, technical expertise, color, creativity, and application of style relating to genre. Videos must be in-color and widescreen. Read the assignment sheet on Dr. Pace's website for more details. Output should be H.264, 1080p, 24 fps. Must use DaVinci software as designated for post-production.
4. **Movie Script Proposal** - Each student will create a written proposal of an idea for a 6 to 7 minute, wide-screen, color movie. This proposal should include a short synopsis, a technical scene breakdown, and a screenplay. This document would typically be 8 to 10 pages in length (script takes up most of this). Each student will present his/her proposal to the class with a logline. Proposals will be evaluated for creativity, workability, and completeness. Make sure that the idea of the film presents a clear dramatic conflict, interesting characters, and a theme that is reflective of a Christian worldview (no zombies/vampires, graphic violence, or sexuality). Can be drama or comedy. All scripts will be considered by the professor for later production. Some scripts will be selected for the group film projects. The film script portion should be no longer than 7 pages. Use software for proper film screenplay formatting.

5. **Group Film Production*** - Students will work in groups to produce a 6 to 7-minute wide-screen, color digital film in high definition. Students will act as director, photographer, producer/writer, lighting director, and audio designer during production, then share the duties of editing the film equally. Students will be using HD or 4K digital video equipment for production. Films must be completed in 2.0 or 2.35 aspect ratio and have a complete soundtrack (no copyrighted music – no unlicensed music – must be licensed for airing on EUTV). These films must be narrative and dramatic/comedic (tell a short story). Appropriate graphics such as opening titles and ending credits must be added to the final production – but keep them short. A final production script must be turned in for approval prior to the production phase. Each group will submit their final edited program on USB drives for playing to the class on the due date. Export in 1080p, 24 fps, H.264. All documents related to the production are due at that time. The EU Films Showcase is April 26.

6. **Exam and pre-quizzes** –Through the semester, online quizzes will be scheduled in relation to the reading requirements listed below. One exam is scheduled for final exam day, which is comprehensive over the materials in the course. A study guide will be made available for the final exam. Please check the Canvas site for online quiz deadlines.

7. **Cinematic Montage Video**. Students will individually shoot and edit a 1 minute montage of a thematic subject that includes at least one person. No dialogue is used for this. Sound should be ambient with an appropriate music soundtrack. The project should include at least 14 to 20 camera angles using artistic and aesthetically-appropriate composition. Color and lighting are important, but most attention should be given to camera photography. See the assignment sheet online for details.

Attendance

Students are required to attend class each time it meets. Absences should be used only for illness or unavoidable conflicts. Only excused absences will be allowed to make up work missed during an absence. Students have a maximum of 5 absences during the semester. On the sixth absence, the student may be dropped from the course. Any student needing to leave class early should notify the professor. **Leaving class for bathroom breaks, cell phone calls, etc. is not acceptable.** Please take care of your personal business between classes.

Electronic Devices In The Classroom

It is expected that electronic devices will be used during class to support the students' learning for this class only. Any use of technology that substantially degrades the learning environment, becomes a distraction, promotes dishonesty or illegal activities is prohibited. Cell phones should only be used for academic purposes during class. It is not permissible to answer cell phones or engage in text messaging while class is in session. Should an emergency situation arise that requires you to use your cell phone, please make the professor aware of the circumstances.

The Temporary Grade of Incomplete

[Incomplete Request Form](#)

Academic Integrity Policy

Any and every instance of academic dishonesty compromises the mission of Evangel University and violates the standards we hold as people of Christ and practitioners within our professional fields. Evangel expects its students to exhibit the highest level of integrity for all course work. While discussion and collaboration are encouraged as part of course interaction, **all work submitted in any course** (seated, online, or hybrid) **must be the original work of the individual student. Use of services and/or software, including AI programs, to generate student submitted work will be considered a violation of academic integrity. Therefore, students are expected to understand and avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, which includes falsification, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. Instances of integrity violations will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the University's Academic Integrity Policy.**

Please view the current Student Handbook for the complete policy.

Accommodations Statement

Evangel University is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities. Please view the following page or contact the Center for Student Success for more details:

[Accommodations Statement](#)

Assessment

Students will receive a semester grade based on the following scale:

Class exercises & participation	10%
Cinematic montage Video	7.5%
Commercial spot	15%
Music Video Project	20%
Movie Script Proposal	7.5%
Group Film Project	25%
Exams/quizzes	15%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A = 92.5 – 100
B = 82.5 – 87.4
C = 72.5 – 77.4
D = 62.5 – 67.4

A- = 89.5 – 92.4
B- = 79.5 – 82.4
C- = 69.5 – 72.4
D- = 59.5 – 62.4

B+ = 87.5 – 89.4
C+ = 77.5 – 79.4
D+ = 67.5 – 69.5
F = 0 – 59.4

[How Do I View My Grades?](#)

Course Outline

(Reading assignments are expected to be completed by the date listed.)

1/11 - Intro to course/syllabus/materials/assignments

1/16 – The Fundamentals of Filmmaking – shooting the commercial – Read Rabiger chs. 1 & 2

1/18 - The Cinematic Film Production Process from A to Z – Read Landau ch. 1

1/23 – Cameras, closeups, and creativity – Read Rabiger ch. 12

1/25– Cinematic Montage due - Controlling light to create the illusion – being a DP - – Read Landau chs. 2 & 3

1/30– Elements of the Story – good drama makes good movies – Read Rabiger ch. 3-5

2/1 – Sound design for movies and short films – Read Rabiger chs. 35-36

2/6 – Film Production and cameras– Read Rabiger ch. 6 & Landau ch. 4

2/8 – Commercials due – class presentations -From script to storyboard to camera shot – directing the camera – Rabiger ch. 7-8

2/13 – Producing the Music Video – concept and production – Read Rabiger chs. 13-14 & Landau ch. 6

2/15 – In-class exercise – music video production techniques – class participation.

2/20 – Movie Script/Proposals Due in Canvas dropbox – Film visualization and planning– Read Rabiger ch. 23

2/22 – Casting, character, and script analysis – working from text to realism – Read Rabiger ch. 24

2/27 – Director as manager and adviser – Read Rabiger ch. 21, Landau ch. 5

2/29 - Directors - Working with actors - Read Rabiger 18-20

3/5 - Production Process – Read Rabiger ch. 26-27 & Landau chs. 7 & 8

3/7 - Music Video Film Projects due - Read Landau chs. 9 & 10

3/11 - 3/15 - *Spring Break*

3/19 - Shooting in 4k, 3D, and other modes – notes – demonstration
– Read Landau ch. 12

3/21 – Camera and lighting working together – class exercise

3/26 – Director and Editor in post production – Read Rabiger ch. 31 & 32

3/28 - Coloring, grading, & Correction – Read Rabiger ch. 36, Landau ch. 14

4/2 – Film editing – demonstration and video presentation – notes

4/4 – Post-Production finishes and effects – notes - Read Rabiger chs. 33-34

4/9 – Continuity style film editing – class exercise. – notes
4/11 – Continuity and complexity style in film editing – class exercise– notes, Read Rabiger ch. 12-13

4/16 – (Online lesson) *Polishing a film – fixing it in post, if necessary*
– Read Rabiger chs. 9-11

4/18 – (Online lesson) *Film Distribution and Promotion* – Read Rabiger ch. 37

Rough Cut of Film Due On Canvas

4/23 – Careers in filmmaking – how to get a job. – notes

4/25 – GROUP FILM PROJECTS DUE TODAY – WATCH IN CLASS FROM USB

April 26 – EU FILMS SHOWCASE – GROUP FILMS MAY BE SELECTED FOR PRESENTATION

FINAL EXAM - Tuesday, April 30 at 9:45 AM – comprehensive exam (see study guide online)

University Resources

Canvas Course Commons

[Canvas Course Commons at Evangel University](#)

The Center for Student Success

[The Center for Student Success](#)

EU Libraries

[EU Libraries](#)

The Write Place

[The Write Place](#)

Special Notes and Policies:

Pace's Acamania Website

To get the latest in seminar information on a 24/7 basis, connect to Dr. Pace's Web site regularly. Forms, handouts, and other information can be found there for your convenience. Type the following URL address in your browser while on the Internet:

<http://www.doctorpace.net>

Policy on Late or Incomplete Work

All assignments are due at the dates and times specified. Please be proactive in your assignment preparation and admission! Late assignments receive a penalty of 10% off the first day the item is not turned in. After 24 hours, the penalty is increased up to 40%.

- If there are any difficulties in submitting an assignment, please email the professor immediately! (Doing work at the last minute is not excused.)

- Difficulties with an assignment? Contact the professor before the day its due!
- Online quizzes cannot be taken late. Please make sure to complete the quizzes before class time on date due.
- Taking an in-class exam at any other time outside of the scheduled date and time may result in a 10% grade reduction.

(Technical difficulties? Please contact the professor via email immediately!)

Laptops, Cell Phones, And Other Electronics

Students should silence or shut off cell phones during class. **You will lose participation points if found to be using your cellphone during class.** Any other electronics such as laptops, iPads, MP3 players, headphones/earbuds, video games, etc. should not be used during class without permission. Laptops and iPads are to be used only for taking notes. Failure to follow these directions will negatively affect the student's participation grade.

MATERIALS AND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Facilities in the Ephraim Media Center will be available during the semester for checking out equipment and editing/viewing film. A demonstration on camera operation will be given during class. This is a 400 level class. Do not expect the workstudies to know how to do your projects. You must become your own technical support at this level. You may always ask for help from the professor. The TV Studio engineer will be available for questions, but not to work on your project for you.

BROADCAST RIGHTS

As with all productions, student or otherwise, produced for EU Films, your film may be selected to be aired over the EUTV cable access channels in whole or in part. Each show is to be considered an EU Films Presentation with non-exclusive copyrights by Evangel University. Do not use copyrighted material for your film projects. The music video project is an exception as it is a classroom project, not used by EUTV unless it is a local band with original music and signed permission.

EXERCISES & ASSIGNMENTS

These projects are completed using the equipment at the TV Studio. Start working on these assignments early to avoid the rush which occurs just before the deadline. Equipment non-availability is not an excuse for late assignments. Equipment breakdown is also not an excuse for late work. Start early, practice your skills, and pay attention to assignment details – these will help you to be successful.

Classroom Etiquette

Please follow the guidelines below to **maximize your class participation grade** and help make the classroom environment friendly and respectful of others:

1. Sit within the prescribed areas of the classroom as designated by the professor.

2. Come on time to class – earlier is preferred. Repeated tardies will be recorded as an absence.
3. If you come in late, please come in quietly and quickly move to your seat.
4. Do not leave the classroom prior to dismissal of the class. If you become ill, then you may leave quietly, but you are not expected to return. You may receive an absence for the class depending on when you had left.
5. If you need to leave class early for an appointment that could not be avoided, please tell the professor prior to class.
6. If you need to come late to class due to an appointment that could not be avoided, you should inform the professor prior to the class. However, if that was not possible, please stay afterward to explain the situation.
7. **Keep your cell phones in your pocket or purse.** Having them out and using them during class is a distraction to the professor and others around you.
8. Laptops or tablets are to be used for notetaking only during class. Please bring your textbook to class or may be accessed digitally on your device.
9. Food and drink may not be allowed in certain places or times during class. Talk to the professor about your situation concerning your need to bring food into the room.
10. Please do not put your feet up on tables or other furniture not designated for that.
11. Do ask questions in class and make appropriate comments. Your interaction in class is part of your learning, and contributes to everyone else's experience.