

FILM 332 Film Production

Trimester 1 2012

5 March to 8 June 2012

30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6 to 22 April 2012

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Costa Botes	cosbo@paradise.net.nz	0211352176/4636520	85 Fairlie Terrace 107
Office hours:	per appointment		
Paul Wolfram	paul.wolfram@vuw.ac.nz	463 6823	85 Fairlie Terrace 105
Office hours:	Tue and Fri 2-5pm		
Bernard Blackburn	bernard.blackburn@vuw.ac.nz	463 9760	85 Fairlie Terrace 106
Office hours:	Tue and Fri 2-5pm		

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesday	10am-1pm	77 Fairlie Terrace room 205
Friday	10am-1pm	77 Fairlie Terrace room 205

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be delivered primarily via lectures and interactive practical sessions in class time. There will be no set texts, but much suggested reading or viewing material. Some additional notes will be supplied in the form of printed handouts which will also be made available on Blackboard. Outside class time, students

will be expected to put the necessary amount of time into completing personal and collaborative assignments.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students via class announcement, Blackboard, or email to all class members.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

A practical study of the creative and technical aspects of film production. Areas covered will include scripting, photography, mise-en-scene, performance, sound recording and mixing, and editing.

COURSE CONTENT

The aim of FILM 332 is to develop students' knowledge of the creative and technical aspects of film production. There will be a particular emphasis on encouraging students to develop a robust creative process based on understanding and respecting the fundamentals of dramatic narrative storytelling.

Students will be given tools and strategies for developing their ideas, and ways to effectively present them. The course will then move on to a practically oriented emphasis on 'hands on' learning, with basic introduction being given on the use of cameras and audio recording. Students will learn basic directing techniques for working with actors and crew. All students will be given a practical introduction to non linear editing equipment and editing techniques.

Students passing the course will have demonstrated creative ability at an introductory level in the field of audio visual production, and a basic mastery of relevant technical skills. They should also have enhanced their analytical skills and gained a greater understanding of filmmaking as a craft and industrial process.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Our emphasis will be on involving students in goal oriented production activities that stimulate creativity and build craft skills. Students passing the course should be able:

- To develop their creativity
- To develop their judgement about the quality and viability of their work
- To enhance their skills at presenting ideas
- To enhance their technical skills in core aspects of film production

- To demonstrate artistic or craft abilities in an aspect of film production – direction, screenwriting, cinematography, audio, editing, or production.
- To demonstrate an ability to work collaboratively

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

GROUP WORK

Students will be assessed individually for overall course credit. However, there is a heavy group component in FILM 332. Students will be expected to participate in interactive class lessons and workshops. They will be required to collaborate in groups to produce a dramatic short as a major assignment. The collaborative nature of this project will follow standard film practice. In consultation with the course coordinator some leeway may be given if individuals choose to collaborate with others on selected production activities.

READINGS

Essential texts:

Blackboard notes will be provided on all topics covered in class. In addition the course coordinator will suggest internet links of interest as required.

Recommended Reading:

Story by Robert McKee

Save the Cat by Zack Snyder

Adventures in the Screen Trade by William Goldman

Final Cut by Steven Bachman

The Devil's Candy by Julie Saloman

The Film Festival Survival Guide by Chris Gore

Recommended Viewing:

Jaws by Steven Spielberg

Chinatown by Roman Polanski

Aliens by James Cameron

Proof by Jocelyn Moorhouse

Gross Point Blanke by George Armitage

Little Miss Sunshine by Jonathon Dayton & Valerie Faris

The Station Agent by Thomas McCarthy

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Film making equipment will be supplied by the School. Students will be responsible for any expendables and special requirements of their productions.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All assessment will be internal. There will be five assignments, group work, and overall Class Participation will be taken into account:

	Due Date	Weighting
(1) Act Structure Analysis	16 March	10%
(2) Screenplay Format Exercise	23 March	10%
(3) Story Pitch	3 April	10%
(4) Short Screenplay	1 May	20%
(5) Group Work on Short Film	8 June	50%

Assignment One: Structure and Character Analysis

You will pick a film you know well and break it down in outline form, identifying how the narrative either follows or breaks with classical act structure paradigms. This assignment will help cement an understanding of the orthodox classical template underlying most (not all!) narrative cinema.

Assignment Two: Screenplay format and Dialogue

Students will work from a supplied scenario and write a short section of screenplay, using correct formatting. This will test their understanding of screenplay format and attention to detail. They will also write their own original dialogue, and visualise the scene creatively. This exercise will underline the extreme subjectivity of approach involved in screenwriting. Though the rules of formatting may be inflexible, the potential for creative expression is infinite.

Assignment Three: Pitch to Class

Each student will be required to formulate and deliver a short pitch, duration 2-3 minutes, to the class for an original or adapted story. The criteria for assessment will be emotional impact of the pitch, clarity of the idea, marketability (i.e how relevant to its target audience?), and personal delivery. Pitching has become increasingly vital as a means of rapidly winning the confidence of potential backers. This assignment will introduce students to the highs and lows of the process.

Assignment Four: Screenplay Writing

Students will write a short screenplay – maximum length 10 pages or 8 minutes – to be based on their pitches. Scripts will be assessed on emotional impact, narrative craft, marketability, and use of correct formatting. This assignment will test both creative and formal discipline in a vital aspect of film-making.

Assignment Five: Group Work on Short film

Students will be assigned to work in groups of 5 on a short film. They will be allocated key creative and technical roles in these productions. Assessment will be based on examination of individual performance, but there will also be opportunity for peer review, and reflective interview.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the written and practical work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend all classes except where unable by reason of ill health, accident, or unavoidable ill fortune.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

GENERAL ADVICE

Please note that a professional attitude towards the care and borrowing of equipment is essential. This will constitute an assessment component in all relevant assignments, and penalties will apply for misuse of gear or failure to return it on time.

School Facilities

There is a coin-operated photocopy machine on Level 3 of 77FT. The Green Room in 77FT is also available to students working in the building. You are expected to clean up after yourself, including returning to the Green Room any mugs removed from there. The same rules apply for the kitchen area at 85FT.

Award

The Prize for Film Studies, arising from a fund established by the Wai-te-Ata Press, will be awarded to the best student of film history, criticism or production.

Important Notice

Safety in the premises occupied by the School of English, Film Theatre and Media Studies at 77 and 85 Fairlie Terrace is the responsibility of everyone who uses the facilities. While we make every effort to ensure that our premises are safe and hazard free, we need the cooperation of all students and visitors and hence request the following:

1. Any student or visitor who discovers an actual or potential hazard should report it without delay to a member of staff. Where possible written reports are appreciated.
2. All university equipment must be handled in a careful and appropriate manner in accordance with the specifications and with due regard to safety. Any breakages must be reported as soon as possible.
3. It is the individual responsibility of all students to read the safety notices relating to fire, earthquake etc. and to carry out the provisions as indicated in the notices.

In addition there are certain ground rules regarding conduct within the premises at 77 Fairlie Terrace and 85 Fairlie Terrace.

- Smoking is not permitted.
- Alcoholic drinks are not to be brought onto the premises unless authorized.
- All students are expected to assist with security by making sure that doors are locked, windows closed and heaters switched off before the buildings are vacated.

More details are in The Fat Book. We greatly appreciate your help with these matters

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	March 6	Welcome & Administrative info Intro to Story Structure <u>Assignment 1: Structure analysis</u> <u>Due 16 March</u>
	March 9	Intro to Camera: Care and assembly of equipment Students to supply list of 3 preferred roles at next session
Week 2	March 13	Idea development: creative brainstorming & pitching Camera 2: Composition, use of lenses
	March 16	Handout: Character/Dialogue & Screenplay format guide <u>Assignment 2: Screenplay format exercise</u> <u>Due: 23 March</u>
Week 3	March 20	Field Sound Recording
	March 23	Directing – Onset work flow and blocking <u>Assignment 3: Prepare a 3 minute verbal pitch, presenting a viable creative idea for a dramatic short film. To be delivered in class 3 April</u>
Week 4	March 27	Lighting 1
	March 30	Lighting 2 Crew Roles assigned
Week 5	Tues 3	3 minute Story Pitches delivered in class No Friday lecture due to Easter Break <u>Assignment 4: Develop the outline and/or story pitch into a short screenplay, Target duration, 5 minutes. Rough draft due 24 April. Final draft due 1 May</u>

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 6 April to Sunday 22 April 2012

Week 6 April 24 **Intro to Editing**

April 27 **Editing 2**

Week 7 May 1 **Audio Post Production/Production Management**

May 4 **Script Workshop & Selection in class**

Week 8 May 8 **Pre Production**

May 11 **Pre Producton**

Week 9 May 15 **Production**

May 18 **Production**

Week 10 May 22 **Editing**

May 26 **Editing**

Week 11 May 29 **Rough Cut Screenings in Class / Continue Editing**

June 1 **Audio Post/Grading**

Week 12 June 5 **Audio Post/Grading**

June 8 **Final Films Submitted by 5pm**