INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING

Course number & title: Film 24 – CRN # 32366 - Section # 501

Time and Place: Tuesday, 7pm - 10pm Cloud Hall 117

Course Dates: JANUARY 20 – MAY 25, 2003

Contact Instructor: Sophie Constantinou
email: sconstantinou@yahoo.com
office hours by appointment;
mailbox outside Film Dept. Office
Mobile Phone for emergencies: (415) 378-6085

Time Requirements: 3 hours in-class plus LOTS of time for out-of-class projects

Course Content
In-class demonstrations, discussions and viewing.
Reading assignments.
Weekly written assignments.
One group film project.
One Written Midterm.
One Midterm Film.
One Final Written Exam.
One Final Film.

Course Requirements
In this class you will make 3 films: one group project, one mid semester film and a final film.
Costs: approx. $50- $200 (depending on how much film you shoot).
One individual project MUST be shot in Super 8mm.
Prompt and regular attendance.
Satisfactory completion of all assignments ON TIME – typed where applicable.

Required Text: Available at Bookstore
Shot by Shot: A practical guide to Filmmaking by John Cantine, Susan Howard and Brady Lewis.
Bare Bones Camera Course, Tom Schroeppele, 2nd Edition.

Lateness and Absences NOTE: Two absences lower your grade one full grade. Arriving late/leaving early two times is equal to one absence. If you must miss a class because of illness or other circumstances, I appreciate you contacting me. Late assignments are accepted up to one week late and will be scored one grade lower.

Grading Policy
Your projects will be evaluated for originality, thoroughness and competency. Failure to return equipment on time will affect your grade. No incompletes will be given.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, participation, written homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Film Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Final Film Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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JANUARY 20, 2004

**CLASS INTRODUCTION**

**Questionnaire:** Film Goals, Personal Profile, Knowledge of Film.

**Discussion:** Class requirements, approach etc. Discussion of composition.

**Screening:** The CCSF film festival demo tape.

**Assignment:** Find a photograph or image in a magazine that is beautiful to you. Write a short essay about the aesthetics of the image and why you find it beautiful. Please attach image.

**Read:** Shot by Shot, Introduction, Shot by Shot, Chapters 1-2/Camera, Lenses & Film Stocks. Bare Bones Chapter 1

JANUARY 27, 2004

**THE CAMERA AND THE IMAGE**

**Discussion:** What are aesthetics? How to achieve your visual goals in film? What makes motion picture’s effective? Review of frame sizes: CU, WS, MS, etc.

**Screening:** La Jetee, Chris Marker. The power of the composition.

**Practical:** Identifying the parts: Learning the Camera: Lens, Motor, Aperture, Shutter. Keeping the camera running well.

**Assignment:** Find a photograph that tells the story through the composition. Write a short essay describing the composition of your image and what makes that composition dramatic.

**Read:** Shot by Shot Chapters 3-4/Composition & Continuity. Bare Bones Chapter 2

FEBRUARY 3, 2004

**COMPOSITION AND CONTINUITY**

**Discussion:** Discuss composition homework. What is continuity? How to create continuity? The storyboard and the shot list.

**Screening:** Blue, Keislowski continuity as storytelling. Memento, continuity as a device.

**Assignment:** The Film Poem - Treatment for Project #1. Write a paragraph that describes the film project that you will complete for your first assignment. Describe the aesthetic, the style and the intention of this film.

**Breakdown for Group Shoot.**

**Read:** Shot by Shot Chapter 7; Bare Bones Chapter 4 & Chapter 5

FEBRUARY 10, 2004

**FILM AND VIDEO: KNOWING YOUR MEDIUM**

**Discussion:** Choosing film or video. 8mm, high 8mm, dv etc.

**Screen:** Films and Videos that use film or use video. Fast Cheap and Out of Control, Errol Morris.

**Handson:** Meet with group to discuss and finalize group shoot.

**Assignment:** Find an image that uses film texture or video texture describe that “look”.

**Read:** Bare Bones Chapter 3, Chapter 4

Please note that the last day to drop credit classes is February 12th.

FEBRUARY 17, 2004

**CAMERA AND TRIPOD**

**Discussion:** Working with the camera and tripod to make great pans, tilts, dolly moves, handheld work. Before you shoot you should be planning and practicing those moves.

**Shooting techniques:** Clean entrances and exits, clean beginnings and endings of shots. Intentional movement.

**Screen:** The Man with the Movie Camera, Vertov. Citizen Kane, Welles.

**Handson:** a) Work with Tripod in class. b) Develop storyboards for group shoot the following week.

**Assignment:** Complete storyboards for group shoot. Complete shot lists.
FEBRUARY 24, 2004  
**GROUP SHOOT:** Please note important film etiquette: respect for location, post signs when shooting, do not disrupt.  
**Discussion and Lecture:** Review the plan of the shoot.  
**Hands On:** Go on location and shoot.  
**Assignment:** Storyboards, Shot List and/or script for Mid-term Individual Project. Study for Mid-term Exam.

MARCH 2, 2004  
**MIDTERM EXAM: DO NOT ARRIVE LATE**  
**Assignment:** Complete Films

MARCH 9, 2004  
**SCREEN:** Individual Project #1 (A-L)  
**Read:** Shot by Shot, Chapter 6: Digital Editing

MARCH 16, 2004  
**SCREEN:** Individual Project #1 (M-Z)  
**Read:** Shot by Shot, Chapter 5: Film Editing

MARCH 23, 2004  
**LIGHTING**  
**Discussion:** Basic lighting techniques. Three point lighting. Different kinds of lights and styles of lighting.  
**Hands On:** Set up lighting scenario in class.  
**Assignment:** Find a photograph of a scene that uses three-point lighting. Write a paragraph describing the way the lighting is set up and the effectiveness of the result.  
**Read:** Shot by Shot, Chapter 8 Lighting; Bare Bones Ch 7

MARCH 30, 2004  
**LIGHTING PART 2**  
**Discussion and Lecture:** Screening of several films that use lighting techniques.  
**Hands On:** Practical lighting with equipment  
**Assignment:** Write a short essay describing the psychological effect of dramatic lighting in one of the films screened in class.

APRIL 5 - APRIL 9TH SPRING BREAK

APRIL 13, 2004  
**INTRODUCTION TO EDITING AND SOUND**  
**Discussion and Lecture:** Getting to sound and montage.  
**Assignment:** Find a unique piece of music, a song or a noise that tells a story. Write a short essay describing the way that sound affects you. If you can bring the sound to class that would be great if not it’s ok.  
**Read:** Bare Bones Chapter 3

APRIL 20, 2004  
**INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**

APRIL 27, 2004  
**FUTURES IN FILM**  
**Discussion and Lecture:** Fundraising, Distribution, Schooling & Employment. Break down of film roles on set.  
**Hands On:** Come prepared with questions  
**Assignment:** Prepare questions for field trip TBD  
**Read:** Handouts

MAY 4, 2004  
**FIELD TRIP**  
Class will be held as usual with individual meetings and review.

MAY 11, 2004  
**FINAL FILMS - Due Part One (N-Z)**

MAY 18, 2004  
**FINAL FILMS - Due Part Two (A-M)**

MAY 25, 2004  
**FINAL EXAM**  
PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK EXAM SCHEDULE FOR TIME AND LOCATION AS IT WILL BE DIFFERENT.