

BADF03C

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL FILM PRODUCTION SKILLS

Level: 4

Credit Value: 30

Pre-Requisites: NONE

Module Description

The module is designed to introduce students to the fundamental skills in digital film production, from planning, organising and filming, to editing and sound design. The understanding and development of these skills will be demonstrated via a series of short exercises which will give all students a grounding in the wide ranging areas of pre-production, production and post-production, necessary to the devising, organising and producing of digital film product. This module will culminate in the production of a completed short film (5 minutes in duration), devised and produced within groups. In addition to practical production skills, students will also learn the fundamentals of film language and an understanding of how film techniques are used to communicate narrative information and evoke emotional response.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Confidently use digital video and audio equipment and facilities for moving image recording and editing.
2. Understand film language and how it is used in sequences to convey narrative information and evoke emotional response.
3. Utilise film language creatively to convey narrative information and evoke emotional response in their own productions.
4. Follow appropriate procedures to complete productions to a competent standard.

Indicative Content

- Practical instruction in the operation of digital filming and sound recording equipment and resources, including health and safety aspects.
- In conjunction with the editing module (BADF404), practical instruction in post-production techniques using digital film and sound editing resources.
- Analysis of film sequences from early cinema to modern day examples to study the development of film language and visual narrative techniques.
- Application of film language and visual narrative techniques to the production of short film exercises.
- The completion of short film exercises to demonstrate technical competency.
- The completion of a planned short film sequence to demonstrate the practical application of film production procedures and techniques.
- Group work undertaken to emulate and reflect industry practice.
- Evaluation of finished product.
- Self-evaluation of own production role(s).

Learning & Teaching Strategies

This module will be delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials. Students will receive practical instruction in the completion of production documentation, the setting up and operation of digital filming and sound recording equipment, and the operation of digital editing facilities. Film language and narrative techniques will be taught via lectures demonstrating film analysis techniques. Seminars will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of film language through their own presentations of film/TV sequence analyses. Group tutorials will be used to discuss and reflect on the development and progress of productions. Final tutorials will be devoted to evaluative critiques of finished productions.

Assessment

Hand-in	Aggregate (Yes/No)	Semester Due
Presentation of film/TV sequence analysis (15 minute duration) (30% of module) LO2	Yes	Sem 1, Mid
Completed digital film production (5 minutes duration), pre-production portfolio and evaluation (800 words) (70% of module) LO1, LO3, LO4	Yes	Sem 1, End

Specific Learning Resources

- Multi-camera TV Studio with lighting rig and green screen facility
- Digital camera and lighting kits
- Digital Sound recording kits
- Editing suite with Adobe Premier Pro CS6 software
- Lecture Theatre or Classroom with Multimedia Facilities including Blu-Ray and Surround Sound (5.1 or similar)
- Large screen for projection (e.g. Lecture Theatre)
- CD/DVD resources (shown in lectures and/or available on loan from University of Essex and Colchester Institute Libraries)
- Reference books and journals (available on loan from University of Essex and Colchester Institute Libraries)

Reference List

Highly Recommended

Andersson, B., Geyen, J.L. (2012) *The DSLR Filmmaker's Handbook : Real-world Production Techniques*. Indianapolis, John Wiley
Lyver, D. (2001) *Basics of the video production dairy*, Abingdon, Focal Press
Musburger, R. B. (2010) *Single-camera video production (5th edition)*, Abingdon, Focal Press
Nikolic, V. (2016) *Independent Filmmaking and Digital Convergence: Transmedia and Beyond*. Abingdon, Focal Press.

Recommended

Bamford, N. (2012) *Directing Television: a professional survival guide*, London, Bloomsbury
Cook, P. (2007) *The Cinema Book 3rd Edition*, London, British Film Institute
Gates, R. (1999) *Production management for film and video (3rd edition)*, Abingdon, Focal Press
Harvey, B. (2008) *How to Make Your Own Video or Short Film: all you need to know to make your ideas shine*. Begbroke, How To Books
Holland, P. (1997) *The Television Handbook*, UK, Routledge
Hughes, M. (2012) *Digital Filmmaking for Beginners: a practical guide to video production*. London, McGraw-Hill.
Juniper, A., Newton, D. (2011) *101 top tips for DSLR video*, Brighton, Ilex
Murphy, R. (2009) *The British Cinema Book 3rd Edition*, London, Palgrave Macmillan

Background Reading

Bushby, A. (1994) *A-Z of film, television and video terms*, Abingdon, Routledge

Websites

<http://sightandsounddigital.bfi.org.uk/> (subscription required)

<http://www.mediacollege.com/video/>