

## **CIN1600 (165) INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING (4 credits) '**

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Fall 2018 CRN 41846

Oakland University, College of Arts & Sciences

Cinema Studies, Department of English

Class Meeting Time: Thursdays, 8:30-11:47 am

Classrooms: Editing lab: 228 Varner Hall; additional lab 231 Hannah Hall

Studio: 112 Varner Hall

Professor: Andrea Eis

Email: [eis@oakland.edu](mailto:eis@oakland.edu)

Office: 528 O'Dowd Hall

Office Phone: 248-370-2987

Office Hours; Thursdays, noon – 12:45 pm and Tuesdays, 4-5 pm, and by appointment

OU/CIN webpage: [oakland.edu/english/academic-programs/cinemastudies](http://oakland.edu/english/academic-programs/cinemastudies) \$

Facebook (OU.Cinema.Studies); Twitter (OUCinemaStudies); Instagram (@oucinemastudies) \$

### **CIN 1600 Catalog Description**

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Introduction to digital film production through group projects. Prerequisite: CIN 1150(150) or CIN2100 (ENG2610/250); cinema studies major or minor standing.

### **Course Description**

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This course is required for Cinema Studies majors in the Filmmaking Specialization, and an option for the required production courses for all other Cinema Studies majors. Students will learn the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual bases of production through hands-on digital filmmaking.

### **CIN 1600 Learning Objectives**

- To develop and demonstrate basic technical capabilities in camera, audio, and lighting technique; image and audio quality control; and image/sound editing.
- To incorporate conceptual and aesthetic capabilities of cinematic techniques into filmic practice.
- To demonstrate filmic conventions through the writing, filming, and editing of short films
- To demonstrate collaborative work ethics in completion of group projects, critiques, and equipment use

This course is divided into lectures, technical workshops, studio time and critiques. During some class sessions you will be working on scripts and storyboards, shooting, or editing on the computer. Although this in class studio time is an integral part of the class structure, not all work for the class can be completed during class sessions.

Group projects will require collaborative work, in parallel to the collaborative nature of professional film production. A full commitment to individual completion of all group project responsibilities is critical, as is a commitment to putting time and energy into all work required for the class, including full involvement in class discussions and critiques.

## Readings'

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*Filmmaker's Eye: Learning (and breaking) the rules of cinematic composition*

Gustavo Mercado. 2010: Focal Point Press. ISBN 978-0-240-81217-5

Technical manuals are available online; handouts on Moodle.

## Equipment and Lab

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Students enrolled in this class have access to Cinema Studies digital film equipment and the editing lab (228 Varner Hall). Equipment available for checkout includes digital camcorders, regular and fluid head tripods, a rolling tripod, microphones and booms, and lighting kits. The student under whose name equipment is signed out is responsible for timely return of the equipment, and its condition upon return. Fines are levied for equipment that is turned in late or damaged.

Editing is done on the Mac computers in 228 Varner Hall. Students enrolled in this class are allowed access to 228 VAR with their Grizz ID cards, except for when other classes are scheduled, and to the lab in 231 HH (no classes are scheduled in the Hannah Hall lab). We use Adobe Premiere CC as our editing software. Students with their own laptops with appropriate software may use them instead; use of different editing software must be cleared with me before use. (iMovie and other consumer grade software programs are not appropriate for course work.) Many class sessions include in-class studio work. Students who want do coursework on their own laptops will be required to bring them to class for all studio days.

## Grade Distribution

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Points	Project
100	Project 1 Continuity
200	Project 2 Non-fiction
250	Project 3 Struggle narrative
350	Project 4 Flashback/dream narrative
40	Self-reflective commentaries (4@10)
20	Quiz (1@ 20)
40	Participation
<b>1000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## Grade Equivalencies

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960-1000 points	A	4.0
900-959 points	A-	3.
850-899 points	B+	3.3
800-849 points	B	3.0
750-799 points	B-	2.7
725-749 points	C+	2.3
700-724 points	C	2.0
650-699 points	C-	1.7
625-649 points	D+	1.3
600-624 points	D	1.0
Below 600 points	F	0.

## **Class Requirements**

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- Four filmmaking projects
- Four self-reflective commentaries: 2 pages, typed, on your experiences planning, shooting, editing.
- Readings: you will be expected to have read all of the assigned pages, be ready to discuss in class, and to use knowledge gained from the book to improve the cinematography in your films.
- One quiz (matching and short answer) on technical concepts in the readings, handouts and class demos.
- Regular attendance and participation in class. Take this requirement seriously.

## **Late Work**

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Work received after the due date in class will be penalized 20 points. All late work must be in at the start of the next scheduled class meeting, or it will be eligible for no more than 50% of the grade. No work will be accepted after the final critique date (December 13). Barring extreme (documented) circumstances, there will be no make-ups for the quiz or assignments.

## **Attendance and Participation Policy**

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Consistent, on-time attendance is required for the success of our discussions, your understanding of important cinematic concepts, and your satisfactory completion of all assignments. For these reasons, regular attendance is required and will be monitored with sign in sheets and in-class assignments. You will be allowed 2 absences (excused and unexcused). Each subsequent absence in excess of 2 will lower your total participation grade by 15 points. Full and engaged participation in pre-production planning, filming, studio sessions and critique is part of your final grade, along with consistent attendance, being prepared for in-class studio time, responsible behavior during group projects, and on-time submission of assignments.

## **Preferred Name Policy**

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If you do not identify with the name that is listed with the Registrar, please notify me so that I can properly amend my records. In addition, if you prefer to go by a different pronoun, please inform me.

## **Classroom Behavior**

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Respect and courtesy for your fellow classmates and professor are expected. If your conduct is deemed disruptive or disrespectful, you may be asked to leave the classroom, and your participation grade will be lowered. All electronic devices should be silent, and untouched during class time. Food and drink are not allowed near the computers.

## **Faculty Feedback**

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If you appear to be having significant problems with the class, or you are making unsatisfactory progress in this course, you will receive a Faculty Feedback email with information on the issues that I have noticed, and suggestions for how to move towards satisfactory progress. If you do receive a Feedback email, I highly recommend that you make an appointment with me to discuss your progress as soon as possible. This is your responsibility to arrange.

## Academic Conduct Policy

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The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See the catalog under Academic Policies and Procedures. Although use of copyrighted material (footage, audio/music tracks) is often allowed in an academic setting, I do not allow it in this class. In some cases, use of music tracks created by an acquaintance who has given you rights to use it may be acceptable, as is copyright free material available on line, but either must be cleared with me prior to use and must be properly credited.

## Add/Drop

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The University add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of University deadline dates for dropping the course.

## Special Considerations

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Upon request, the university provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Disability Student Services in room 103A NFH, 248-370-3266, TTY 248-370-3268. Office hours M-F, 8 am – 5 pm.  
[www.oakland.edu/dss](http://www.oakland.edu/dss)

For academic help such as study and reading skills, contact The Tutoring Center, 103 NFH, 248-370-4215. For writing help, contact the Writing Center, 212 KL, 248-370-3120; for appointments: [oakland.edu/ouwc/schedule/](http://oakland.edu/ouwc/schedule/)

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE Note: the syllabus may change at the discretion of the professor.**

Week/Date	Class	Assignment Given	Reading Due	Assignment Due
1 – Sept. 6 *MEET IN 112 VAR	Introduction: Camera demo and equipment checkout Project 1 planning and filming	Project 1 – Continuity AND Self-reflective Commentary 1	Panasonic HMC Manual (online and on Moodle)	
2 – Sept. 13 *MEET IN 228 VAR	Editing demo Project 1 editing		Mercado pp. xxiii - 19	
3 – Sept. 20	CRITIQUE Cinematography Project 2 planning	Project 2 – Non-fiction AND Self-reflective Commentary 2	Mercado pp. 20-69; ALSO: skim all main shot types	CRITIQUE Project 1 – Continuity AND Self-reflective Commentary 1
4 – Sept. 27	Sound demo Project 2 filming		Mercado pp. 70-105; ALSO: skim all main shot types	

5 – Oct. 4	Lighting demo Project 2 editing	Optional – 24- hr challenge this weekend		
6 – Oct. 11	CRITIQUE Pitches Project 3 planning	Project 3 – Struggle narrative AND Self-reflective Commentary 3		CRITIQUE Project 2 – Non- fiction AND Self- reflective Commentary 2
7 – Oct. 18	QUIZ Scripts, Storyboards, Shooting Scripts Adobe Audition/ sound editing		Mercado pp. 106-141 pp. 142-177	QUIZ
8 – Oct. 25	Project 3 filming			
9 – Nov. 1	Project 3 editing			
10 – Nov 8	Project 3 Editing			
11 – Nov.15	CRITIQUE Production Book Project 4 planning and pitches	Project 4 – Flashback or dream narrative AND Self-reflective Commentary 4		CRITIQUE Project 3 – Struggle narrative AND Self-reflective Commentary 3
12 – Nov. 22	Thanksgiving	NO CLASS		
13 – Nov. 29	Project 4 editing			
14 – Dec. 6	Project 4 editing			Project 4 rough cut
Dec. 13 **8am-11am** **note different time from class	CRITIQUE			FINAL CRITIQUE Project 4 – Flashback/dream narrative AND Self-reflective Commentary 4 AND Production Book

#### **CIN1600 Fall 2017 Quick Overview of Due Dates**

SEPTEMBER 27	CONTINUITY CRITIQUE & REFLECTION
OCTOBER 11	NON-FICTION CRITIQUE & REFLECTION
OCTOBER 18	QUIZ
NOVEMBER 15	STRUGGLE NARRATIVE CRITIQUE & REFLECTION FLASHBACK/DREAM NARRATIVE PITCH
DECEMBER 6	FLASHBACK/DREAM ROUGH CUT
DECEMBER 13	FLASHBACK/DREAM CRITIQUE & REFLECTION & PRODUCTION BOOK