

**CIN 1600 (165) INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING (4 credits)
Fall 2018 CRN 42748**

Oakland University, College of Arts & Sciences
Cinema Studies, Department of English

Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays 8:30-11:47 am
Classrooms: Editing lab: 228 Varner Hall
Studio: 112 Varner Hall
Professor: Justin Reifert Email: reifert@oakland.edu
Office: 531 O'Dowd Hall Office Phone: 248-370-2268
Cell: 269-598-6145
Office Hours: Tuesdays, noon – 1:00 pm and Thursdays, 3-4 pm and by appointment
Cinema Studies OU/CIN webpage:
oakland.edu/english/academic-programs/cinemastudies
Facebook (OU.Cinema.Studies)
Twitter (OUCinemaStudies) Instagram (@oucinemastudies)

CIN 1600 Catalog Description

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

Course Description

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

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

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, tripods, a rolling tripod, microphones, boom poles, 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.

Equipment Check-out will be handled by Student Services.

Monday-Thursday: 7am-8pm

Friday: 7am-6pm

Saturday: 8am-4pm (There are some exceptions, please check with the office if you plan on checking out or returning on Saturdays).

Editing is done on the Mac computers in 228 Varner Hall. Students enrolled in this class are allowed 24/7 access to 228 VAR with their Grizz ID cards, except for times when other classes are scheduled. Students will also have access to the lab in 231 Hannah Hall, which will have no scheduled classes.

We will use Adobe Premiere CC as our editing software. Students who have 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, so students who want to do coursework on their own laptops will be required to bring the laptops to class for all in-class studio days.

A personal, portable hard drive is highly recommended for footage storage and backup. The drive should be at least 7200RPM and connect via USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt.

Workload

Film production is fun and exciting but also difficult and time-consuming. Plan on dedicating a significant amount of time and energy outside of class for production assignments. You will need to be flexible with your time in order to work with others in this collaborative environment.

Grade Distribution

Project 1 Lumiere	5%
Project 2 Shots	5%
Project 3 Documentary	10%
Project 4 How to Video	10%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	15%
Student Presentation	10%
Final Film	25%
Attendance and Participation	10%

Grade Equivalencies

94-100	A	4.0
90-93.99	A-	3.7
86-89.99	B+	3.3
82-85.99	B	3.0
79-82.99	B-	2.7
75-78.99	C+	2.3
73-74.99	C	2.0
69-72.99	C-	1.7
66-68.99	D+	1.3
63-65.99	D	1.0
Below 63	F	0.0

Late work

Any work received after the start of class on the due date will be late and will be penalized 10%. All late work must be received before the start of the next scheduled class meeting or it will be eligible for no better than 50%. Absolutely no work will be accepted after the final class meets, Week 14. If you anticipate missing class on the date an assignment is due or an exam is scheduled, contact me to schedule a time to complete the assignment *before* the regular deadline. Barring extreme (documented) circumstances, there will be no make-up exams or make-up assignments given.

Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance for this class is considered mandatory. Class participation will be key not only to your grade but to understanding the material as well. You must let me know via email if you have to miss class and the reason behind the absence. No make-up examinations will be allowed without prior approval of the instructor. Proof or evidence of your impending absence on the day of the exam may be required.

Exceptions to the Attendance Policy

Absences for the following reasons will be viewed as beyond the control of the individual and will not cause a person's grade to be lowered or cause them to withdraw from or fail the class (Unless the absences become so numerous as to make meeting the objectives of the course impossible).

- Death of a family member/or other significant person.
- Extended hospitalization of self, child or partner.
- University sponsored events.
- Jury duty/or being subpoenaed for court testimony.
- Inclement weather and the University closes.
- Other issues not listed if they fit the criteria of beyond the individual's control. (This is the professor's call)

NOTE: Exceptions must be discussed with the instructor at the time they occur to be considered an excused absence.

In the film and video production world, tardiness is not tolerated and we will practice the same principle in this class. Each late arrival or early leave will result in a reduction of the student's Attendance and Participation grade unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor.

Deductions for participation will be made at the instructor's discretion. Using cell phones or computer programs/websites not pertinent to the day's lesson is unacceptable and will lead to deductions in participation points.

Preferred Name Policy

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

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

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

Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, falsifying reports/records, and unauthorized collaboration, access, or modifying of computer programs are considered serious breaches of academic conduct. The Oakland University

policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See catalog under Academic Policies and Procedures. The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Student and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0 in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

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

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

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

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/

Title IX

Per [OU policy](#), in compliance with Title IX, faculty or staff who become aware of a student who has been victimized by sexual misconduct must report the incident either to the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives or to the Dean of Students Office.

Emergency Management

To register for Emergency Alerts or learn more about Oakland University's Emergency procedures, please go to Oakland University Police Department's website: <https://oupolice.com/em/>

Film Resources

Free Film Streaming

Kanopy- www.kanopy.com

MUBI - <https://mubi.com/filmstudent>

Film Podcasts – On Apple Podcasts, Stitcher and other Podcasting Apps

Filmspotting – www.filmspotting.net

The Next Picture Show - <https://www.filmspotting.net/nextpictureshow/>

CinemaJaw – www.cinemajaw.com

The Document - <https://www.kcrw.com/news-culture/shows/the-document>

Course Schedule – ***I reserve the right to change and adapt the schedule based on the needs of the class.

Week	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Given	Assignment Due
1 T 9/11	Introduction & Syllabus. Lab: Camera Demo and Equipment Checkout		Project 1 – <i>Lumiere</i>	
2 T 9/18	Screen Project 1 Lecture: Principles of Composition and Technical Concepts Lab: Putting the shots together/Editing.	Mercado pp. xiii - 19	Project 2 – <i>Shots</i>	Project 1
3 T 9/25	Camera as canvas. Lecture: Principles of cinematography. Lab: Cinematography	Mercado pp. 29 -69	Student Presentations	
4 T 10/2	Screen Project 2 Lecture: Lighting for Film Lab: Lighting Demo 24HR Challenge Oct. 6-7	Mercado pp. 71 - 105	Final Project	Project 2
5 T 10/09	Review for midterm exam. Lecture: Principles of Sound Lab: Sound Recording for Film	Mercado pp. 107 - 141 Ch. 15 of <i>Voice and Vision</i> , on Moodle	Review for Exam Project 3 – Documentary Project	
6 T 10/16	<u>Midterm Exam</u> Student Presentations A & What is a Pitch?			<u>Midterm Exam</u> Student Presentations A

7 T 10/23	Screen Project 3 Telling your story. Lecture: Writing a script Lab: Writing exercises	Mercado pp. 142 - 177	Project 4 – <i>How to Video</i>	Final Project: Pitches Project 3
8 T 10/30	Designing your film’s unique image system. Lecture: Storyboards & shooting scripts Lab: Work on Final Project Storyboards	Watch <i>Old Boy</i> on Kanopy Mercado pp. 21 - 27		Final Project: Script
9 T 11/6	Orchestrating emotion. Lecture: What does an editor do? Lab: Advanced Editing			Final Project: Storyboards
10 T 11/13	What does a Producer do? Lecture: Compiling your Production Book. Lab: Work on Production Book	Chapter 6 of <i>Voice and Vision</i> , on Moodle		Project 4 – <i>How to Video</i>
11 T 11/20	<u>Student Presentations B</u>			Student Presentations B
12 T 11/27	<u>Rough Cut Screening</u> Meetings with Professor & lab time.		Review for Exam	Rough Cuts
13 T 12/4	Final Exam Meetings with Professor & lab time.			Final Exam
EX WK T 12/11	Final Project Screening			Final Project