



Shanghai Jiao Tong University
FT312 Studies in Film Making (Online)

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| Instructor Information | Holger Briel Home Institution: Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University Email: holger.briel@gmail.com | | |
| Term | December 17, 2020 - January 8, 2021 | Credits | 4 units |
| Course Delivery | The class will be delivered in the format of online. Other than recorded lecture videos, the instructor will arrange 6 hours' real-time interactions with students per week (via discussion forum, zoom meeting, and WeChat). The workload students are expected to complete to properly pass this course is about 20 hours per week. | | |
| Required Texts (with ISBN) | List of readings – selected | | |
| Prerequisite | None | | |



Course Overview

Studies in Film Making explores the creative and communicative possibilities of film, video and other audio-visual technologies. The course will develop your understanding of film as a technological medium by exploring some of its basic forms and features and by looking at different aspects of moving image production through a practical and formalist approach. Studies in Film Making prioritizes practice-based learning (both in terms of the ways that it can develop your understanding of key concepts in the discipline and because it can enhance your skills in creative thinking). For this reason, many of the concepts that we will be examining in the course will be explored through practical exercises and through case studies of specific film and video practices—from classics of experimental film to the latest new media. Each of these practical exercises and case studies is designed to develop your understanding of the technical, aesthetic, and sensory workings and potential of audio-visual media and your knowledge of some of the ways that artists and mainstream producers have explored film and video. This knowledge can then be drawn on and developed in the creative work that you produce in the course.

In this course you will explore ways of preparing narrative outlines and storyboards, learn how to capture and generate images and sounds, experiment with existing images and sounds and the editing process. The course will explore the creative potential of audiovisual media and deal with a range of practical and conceptual problems in developing a larger group project.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. To introduce some of the creative and conceptual skills required to devise your own unique projects and to help you recognize the practical decisions faced in the production process.
2. To develop your visual and aural sensitivities and apply them to a diverse range of audiovisual exercises and projects.
3. To allow you to explore the creative potential of audio-visual media in order to enhance your analytical skills in your further study of film and media.



Grading Policy

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| Photo Essay | 30% |
| Storyboard | 30% |
| Group Production of Short Film | 30% |
| Participation | 10% |

Grading Scale is as follows

| Number grade | Letter grade | GPA |
|--------------|--------------|-----|
| 90-100 | A | 4.0 |
| 85-89 | A- | 3.7 |
| 80-84 | B+ | 3.3 |
| 75-79 | B | 3.0 |
| 70-74 | B- | 2.7 |
| 67-69 | C+ | 2.3 |
| 65-66 | C | 2.0 |
| 62-64 | C- | 1.7 |
| 60-61 | D | 1.0 |
| ≤59 | F (Failure) | 0 |



Class Schedule

| Date | Lecture | Readings |
|--------|---|--|
| Day 1 | Introduction to course, objectives and assessment Film production: an overview | Bordwell 2016 Chapter1 |
| Day 2 | From Photography to Film Analysis Theme | Barthes 1981, Cubitt 2014 |
| Day 3 | Character Photo essay exercises | Branigen Hart 206 |
| Day 4 | Scene; Plot; Structure | Bordwell 1985, Bordwell 2016, chapter 3 Dancyger 2011 chapter 14-16 |
| Day 5 | Script writing | Dancyger 2016 |
| Day 6 | Photo Essay due Cinematography Live action storytelling Adaptation | Rabiger |
| Day 7 | Team Lab Excursion | No Reading |
| Day 8 | Storyboard work | Bordwell &Thompson 2016 ch. 4 |
| Day 9 | Performance and Acting Camera/Lens | |
| Day 10 | Directing | Bordwell 2016 |
| Day 11 | Lighting | Dancyger 2011 |
| Day 12 | Preparation of scripts for final project Filming | Rabiger |
| Day 13 | Storyboard due Filming Complete Script Reviews and Edits | Dancyger 2011 |
| Day 14 | Complete Script Reviews and Edits | Practical work |
| Day 15 | Audio, Subtitle, Sound | Dancyger 2011 |
| Day 16 | Shanghai Film Park Excursion | Practical work |
| Day 17 | Editing Post-production: Work on film project | Practical work |
| Day 18 | Editing Post-production : Work on film project Hand in project by 17.00 | Practical work |