Shanghai Jiao Tong University

FT312 Studies of Film Making (Online)

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

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