

## **Directing I - FDMA 2610 - Section 501**

Syllabus - REMOTE ASYNCHRONOUS - Spring 2023

Instructor: André Callot

acallot66@unm.edu

### **Credit Hours**

This is a 3 credit-hour course. Students are expected to work on their own and in groups to complete assignments using school-supplied resources within the timeframe outlined for each assignment. The course is remote and asynchronous, meaning that class work will be turned in through the Canvas website (canvas.unm.edu) by midnight Mountain Time the night before the class in which the assignment is due.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

Introduction to the creative process of a film director. Students will participate in hands-on workshops and develop stories for motion media, create screenplays and work with actors in short scenes using current technologies in film, television and web-based media production. Course objectives include:

- Creating a screenplay from a story concept
- Working with performers to tell a story
- Breaking down a script
- Using appropriate language to manage a film set

### **Grades**

Grades are based on participation in weekly class discussions in Canvas, as well as weekly written assignments and a final project. Class participation in out-of-class projects is mandatory. Grades will be divided as so: 20% class participation, 5% each for 8 weekly writing assignments, and 40% for the final paper.

Letter grades correspond to point totals:

A: 90-100%   B: 80-89%   C: 70-79%   D: 61-69%

### **Office Hours**

Please email me ([acallot66@unm.edu](mailto:acallot66@unm.edu)) before January 23, 2023 to schedule a one-hour consultation session to occur before January 30, 2023. We will discuss your interest in the course, your hopes for covering specific subject matter, and your access to library resources. Additional sessions are available for scheduling upon request.

I am available on Fridays between 1 PM and 4 PM for additional meetings. If you would like to meet with me but haven't scheduled a time, you can email me during this weekly period for an immediate meeting, if I am not already meeting with a student.

### **Final Project**

During the week of Class Five, the students will meet individually with the instructor to discuss their concepts for a final project due on May 8, 2023.

## **Class Participation**

A portion of your final grade (defined above) will depend on the student's weekly participation in class discussions on the Canvas Discussion Board for this course. Failure to contribute significantly to the weekly forums created for each class will result in a lower final grade for the course. The student's final grade will be reduced by 2.5% for each week you fail to post responses to the prompts in the Discussion Board.

## **Weekly Assignments**

Each week, the student will be responsible for completing an assignment and posting to the Canvas Discussion Board, either alone or as part of a group.

## **Course Agreement**

Please complete, sign and email to me a copy of the Course Agreement, available at the end of this syllabus, before the start of the second week of this course.

## **Course Access**

This course will occur entirely on Canvas. A reliable internet connection and a computer capable of accessing the Canvas online platform are required for this course. For assigned readings provided as hyperlinks or PDF downloads, appropriate additional software for accessing class materials may also be required. Video conference appointments will be conducted on Zoom, using a webcam, a microphone and headphones. Film screenings will occur on Canvas, which may require minimum internet data speeds. Please test your internet speeds in the first week of class and report issues to me.

## **Privacy, Equal Access and Title IX**

Please inform me of your needs regarding disability as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner. In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM Faculty are considered responsible employees. This designation requires that any report made to a faculty member regarding sexual misconduct or gender discrimination must be reported to the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator. For information on accessibility at UNM-Valencia, Title IX and student privacy, please [click this link](#).

[UNM-Valencia's Equal Access Services](#)

## **Plagiarism**

The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University.

## **Student Resources**

For tutoring resources, information about the library, career counseling, financial aid and other student resources, please [click this link](#).

**Week One: Class 01 - Concept** January 16, 2023

Students will consider different approaches to conceiving of a concept for a film production. Students will attempt to break out of bad creative habits, and to develop an artistic practice as a film director.

Assignment One - Create a pitch for your project. Due as a post to the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of January 30, 2023.

Class Discussion - No (Pablo Larain, 2012)

**Week Two: Class 02 - Adaptation** January 23, 2023

Students will attempt several strategies for adapting various media into film narrative. Special attention will be paid to poetry, music, literature, theatre and digital media.

Assignment Two - Choose a poem (any poem at all, even the lyrics to a song), and describe how you would adapt this into a video project. Due as a post to the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of February 6, 2023.

Class Discussion - Dune (David Lynch, 1984)

**Week Three: Class 03 - Archive** January 30, 2023

Students will consider the historical archive as a source of inspiration for the creation of a film narrative.

Assignment Three - Describe how you would adapt a historical or personal event into a film narrative. Due as a post to the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of February 13, 2023.

Class Discussion - Marie Antoinette (Sofia Coppola, 2006)

**Week Four: Class 04 - Collaboration** February 6, 2023

Students will attempt to work collaboratively with each other to improve the quality of their initial film narrative concept.

Assignment Four - Work with another student, in groups of either two or three, to improve all of your initial film narrative concepts. Create new pitches and post them on the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of February 13, 2023.

Class Discussion - Best in Show (Christopher Guest, 2000)

**Week Five: Class 05 - Storytelling** February 13, 2023

Students will translate their film concept into a treatment.

Assignment Five - Write a treatment for your film. Due as a PDF (and ONLY as a PDF) attached to a post on the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of February 20, 2023.

Class Discussion - Killer of Sheep (1978)

**Week Six: Class 06 - Production Design** February 20, 2023

Students will create a visual language for their film concept.

Assignment Six - Create a visual concept for your film. Submit as a PDF (and ONLY as a PDF) attached to a post on the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of February 27, 2023.

Class Discussion - Playtime (Jacques Tati, 1967)

**Week Seven: Class 07 - Casting** February 27, 2023

Students will learn the contemporary professional practices of casting a film.

Assignment Seven - Identify all of the performers who will be in your film. Also, complete your shooting script. Due as a PDF (and ONLY as a PDF) posted to the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of March 6, 2023.

Class Discussion - First Reformed (Paul Schrader, 2017)

**Week Eight: Class 08 - Script Breakdown** March 6, 2023

Students will breakdown their script, shot by shot, and determine exactly how they plan to make their film.

Assignment Eight - Create comprehensive storyboards for every shot in your film. Due as a PDF (and ONLY as a PDF) attached to a post on the Canvas discussion board no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of March 20, 2023.

Class Discussion - Trainspotting (Danny Boyle, 1996)

**Week Nine: Class 09 - Directing Actors** March 20, 2023

Resuming class following Spring Break. Students will begin to shoot their scripts. Directing techniques used by Sidney Lumet, Constantin Stanislavsky, Jerzy Grotowski, and Anne Bogart will be discussed in detail.

FINAL PROJECT - Students will shoot a short movie based on the script they've developed in this class, due no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of May 8, 2023, uploaded through the Kaltura interface as a post on the Canvas discussion board.

Class Discussion - The Passion of Anna (Ingmar Bergman, 1969)

**Week Ten: Class 10 - Managing Crew** March 27, 2023

Students will continue to shoot their final projects, and discuss authoritarian, collaborative and non-traditional models for film crew management, as well as professional standards of behavior and technical traditions. Students will learn the structure of a traditional Hollywood production set, and the roles played by each department in creating a narrative film project. Students will report on the progress of their own productions.

Class Discussion - King Kong (Peter Jackson, 2005)

**Week Eleven: Class 11 - Editing** April 3, 2023

Students will work with their editor or on their own to create a first draft of their project.

Assignment Eleven - Create a rough edit of your final project and post a video file to the Canvas discussion board using the Kaltura interface, no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of April 10, 2023.

Class Discussion - Midnight Cowboy (John Schlesinger, 1969)

**Week Twelve: Class 12 - Reshoots and ADR** April 10, 2023

Students will develop a personal process for determining the weaknesses of their first draft, identify what additional assets are required, and collect them.

Assignment Twelve - Reshoot any scenes identified as unsatisfactory, and record ADR for any audio that was not recorded correctly on the original shoot.

Class Discussion - Back to the Future (Robert Zemeckis, 1985)

**Week Thirteen: Class 13 - Sound Design** April 17, 2023

Students will edit the audio of their rough cut, adding deliberate elements of sound design, including sound effects and foley. Students will continue to reshoot any needed scenes.

Class Discussion - Jurassic Park (Steven Spielberg, 1993)

**Week Fourteen: Class 14 - Music** April 24, 2023

Students will add music to their final project, and discuss various strategies for avoiding cliches, creating deliberate emotional experiences for the audience, and adapting existing musical cues for the dynamics of your own project.

Assignment Fourteen - Create a draft of your final project that incorporates sound design and music, as well as any reshoots and ADR that were required. Submit as a video file uploaded to the Canvas discussion board using the Kaltura interface, no later than 12:01 AM on the morning of May 1, 2023.

Class Discussion - Hackers (Iain Softley, 1995)

**Week Fifteen: Class 15 - Feedback** May 1, 2023

Students will learn to graciously and politely accept the input of their colleagues, who have generously taken the time to talk specifically about how each project can be improved.

Assignment Fifteen - Provide detailed, personalized feedback to every other student for their project, and incorporate the feedback that you receive into your final project.

Class Discussion - Contempt (Jean-Luc Godard, 1963)

**Week Sixteen: Class 16 - Final Paper** May 8, 2023

Students will turn in their final project, as a video file uploaded through Kaltura to the Canvas discussion board.

## Additional Contact Information

Program Chair - Alexa Wheeler - [alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu)  
Department Chair - Justin Bendell - [jbendell@unm.edu](mailto:jbendell@unm.edu)

## Mental Health and Counseling Services

UNM-Valencia has one part-time mental health counselor, Arturo Fierro. His hours are Wednesdays, 3pm - 6pm and he is located in the SCC (Student Community Center) Room 206. (phone # and email will be shared via Learn). He is able to see patients in-person or in Zoom. He may have more hours throughout the semester, but this is the current info. I will update this via Learn if/when it changes. Services available in Valencia County and around the state: <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/student-resources/index.html>

## COURSE AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, commit to fulfill the expectations of this course as laid out in this syllabus, specifically regarding these requirements:

1. I will participate each week in the course Discussion Board in Canvas, providing evidence that I have completed the week's reading. I will interact in a meaningful way with my fellow students while demonstrating respect and courtesy. I will demonstrate my understanding of each week's screening by commenting meaningfully on the week's film discussion, in a timely manner.
2. I will complete each week's assignment on time, with an eye toward the week's film concepts and a progression over the semester toward refinement of my personal understanding of film directing as a discipline. I will post on the Discussion Board with any relevant thoughts or questions that arise through my reading of the week's assigned screening.
3. I will complete a final video project and turn it in before the deadline, having acknowledged here that I am aware before the course begins that this assignment constitutes 40% of my grade and has a deadline of May 8, 2023. My final project will reflect an earnest attempt to create the best possible movie that I can make.
4. I will meet one-on-one with the course instructor before January 30, 2023 to discuss my goals for the course, my potential topics for the final project, and my ability to use school resources to successfully fulfill my obligations outlined in the points above.

If at any point during this semester I become aware of conditions in my life that make any of these requirements difficult or impossible to fulfill, I pledge to contact my instructor through email ([acallot66@unm.edu](mailto:acallot66@unm.edu)) to discuss what mitigations may be enacted to provide for my continued success in my education at the University of New Mexico.

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Full Name

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UNM ID

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DATE