

Digital Video Production I - FDMA 1210 - Section 501

Syllabus - REMOTE - Fall 2021

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 Blackboard Learn website (learn.unm.edu) by midnight Mountain Time the night before the class in which the assignment is due.

Course Learning Objectives

Digital Video Production I is an introduction to motion picture pre-production and production. This class is your opportunity to develop a personal artistic practice as a filmmaker, conscious of the power of images that dominate the spectacle of everyday life. Moving images are some of the most powerful manifestations of this spectacle. I hope that, through this class, you might gain insight into the production and function of these images.

We will concentrate on video production and planning, building the skills necessary to manipulate time and experience as well as images. Course objectives include:

- Plan and produce a digital video project.
- Apply a post-production workflow.
- Work in a team and as an individual to complete digital video projects.

Grades

Grades are based on participation in class critiques and discussions, as well as weekly assignments and two final projects (group and solo). Grades will be divided as so: 20% class participation, 10% solo project, 10% group project, 10% structure project, 10% biography project, 10% magic montage project, 10% duration project, 10% narrative project, 5% performance project, 5% motion graphics project. Projects that satisfy the stated requirements and which are turned in on time will receive full credit. Late projects will be docked a letter grade for each week they are late.

Video project assignments are to be uploaded directly to the Learn Blackboard Discussion Board to the appropriate assignment. 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) before October 25, 2021 to schedule a one-hour consultation session to occur before November 1, 2021. 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.

Class Participation

A portion of the student's final grade (defined above) will depend on the student's weekly participation in class discussions on the Blackboard Learn 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 1.25% for each week you fail to post responses to the prompts in the Discussion Board.

Production Assignments

The student will complete nine production assignments as described below, post to the course Discussion Board, and comment on other students' work in a timely manner.

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 Blackboard Learn. A reliable internet connection and a computer capable of accessing the Blackboard Learn 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 Blackboard Learn, 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](#).

Assignment Summary:

Class Participation - Each week, 20% of final grade. Comment on discussion boards in all topics, including discussion of student work, discussion of example clips, and discussion of the week's lesson.

Duration Project - Due in Class Three (September 7, 2021) 10% of final grade.

Narrative Project - Due in Class Six (September 27, 2021). 10% of final grade.

Performance Project - Due in Class Eight (October 12, 2021). 5% of final grade. Grade includes script.

Motion Graphics Project - Due in Class Eleven (November 1, 2021). 5% of final grade.

Biography Project - Due in Class Thirteen (November 15, 2021). 10% of final grade.

Magic Montage Project - Due in Class Fourteen (November 22, 2021). 10% of final grade.

Solo Project - Due in Class Sixteen (December 6, 2021). 10% of final grade. Grade includes planning documents.

Structure Project - Due in Class Seventeen (December 13, 2021). 10% of final grade.

Group Project - Due in Class Seventeen (December 13, 2021). 10% of final grade. Grade includes planning documents.

School Production Resources

Production resources for use on course assignments will be available for check-out from the UNM Valencia library, based on availability. The student will reserve production equipment ahead of time and return the equipment to the UNM Valencia library according to the return deadlines set by the library. The student will return the equipment in the condition in which it was checked out, as determined by the UNM Valencia librarian. The student will remove batteries before returning equipment. The student will replace quick-release plates on tripods before returning equipment. The student will pack camera bags, light kits and other equipment in a responsible and professional way, preventing unnecessary damage to the equipment. The student will return any media (such as SD cards and/or hard drives) that are included in the camera kit, and will backup their footage before returning equipment. Failure to respect these instructions may result in suspension or revocation of privileges as determined by the UNM Valencia librarian.

Week One:

August 23, 2021

Class One - Camera

Students will learn the operation of a digital video camera, including focus, framing, exposure, white balance, using the tripod and proper camera etiquette. Students will practice shooting with the camera indoors and outdoors.

Screen selections from *Stalker* (1979), *The Doom Generation* (1995), *Le Samourai* (1967)

Week Two:

August 30, 2021

Class Two - Lighting

Students will practice shooting with lights in mixed lighting and controlled lighting. Students will establish Adobe Creative Cloud accounts and install Adobe Premiere.

Screen selections from *Jeanne Dielman* (1975), *Cries and Whispers* (1972), *Bad Timing* (1980)

ASSIGNMENT ONE - DURATION

Each student will shoot one hour of footage. All shots will be either shorter than fifteen seconds or longer than two minutes. Students will consider color, framing, mise-en-scene, light, movement, exposure, focus, subject and location in each composition. Due in class three.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - Francois Truffaut, "Hitchcock"; Teresa de Lauretis, "Alice Doesn't"

Week Three:

September 7, 2021 (Class is pushed one day forward due to Labor Day.)

Class Three - Editing

Students will learn the basics of non-linear editing, including file management, moving and cutting clips on the timeline, color correction, transitions, the motion tab and exporting final videos. Students will practice editing the footage they shot for assignment one.

Screen selections from *Cleo from 5 to 7* (1962), *Velvet Goldmine* (1998), *Repulsion* (1965)

Week Four:

September 13, 2021

Class Four - Continuity

Students will learn traditional continuity shooting and editing. Groups will practice concepts such as shot-reverse-shot, single-character perspective, constructing narrative space, cut-on-action, line of action, cross cutting and simultaneous action.

Screen selections from *Volver* (2006), *Pickpocket* (1959), *Swimming Pool* (2003)

ASSIGNMENT TWO - NARRATIVE

Each student will shoot and edit a one-minute silent narrative with two characters and one location. Students will create continuity through shot selection and editing. Due in class six.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - Antonin Artaud, "The Theatre of Cruelty"; David Mamet, "Three Uses of the Knife"

Week Five:

September 20, 2021

Class Five - Story

Students will practice writing visual stories. Students will collaborate on two-page scripts with a beginning, middle and end. Students will attempt to construct narrative desire, suspense and comedy. Scripts will be due in class seven.

Screen selections from *Frances Ha* (2012), *Come and See* (1985), *l'Age d'Or* (1930)

Week Six:

September 27, 2021

Class Six - Screen Assignment Two

Students will watch and discuss the "Assignment Two" projects, keeping an eye toward visual narrative and affect. Students will learn storyboarding, shot lists, casting, budgeting, scheduling. Students will also learn location shooting protocols and production hierarchy.

ASSIGNMENT THREE - GROUP PROJECT PROPOSAL

Students, in pairs, will collaborate on a single five-minute video. Students will create comprehensive plans for the production of their group and solo projects, including shot lists, budgets, schedules and storyboards. Proposals for this project will be due in class eight.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - Robert Bresson, "Notes on the Cinematographer"; Uta Hagen, "Respect for Acting"; Stephen Wangh, "Acrobat of the Heart"

Screen selections from *Day for Night* (1973), *Sex is Comedy* (2002), *American Movie* (1999)

Additional screenings: Underworld's Rez, Sleater-Kinney's Get Up, Childish Gambino's This is America

Week Seven:

October 4, 2021

Class Seven - Performance

Students will experiment with different approaches to performance and directing. Psychological realism will be contrasted with ritualistic or choreographic practices.

ASSIGNMENT FOUR - PERFORMANCE

Scenes from class five will be performed in a number of ways, with each student attempting to direct. Videos will be due in class eight.

Screen selections from *Horse Feathers* (1932), *Wendy & Lucy* (2008), *Throne of Blood* (1957)

Week Eight:

October 12, 2021

Class Eight - Group Project Proposals

Class is pushed one day forward due to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Student pairs will present their project proposals, which the class will discuss.

Students will discuss videos made for the performance project.

ASSIGNMENT FIVE - SOLO PROJECT PROPOSAL

Students will propose a five-minute video project to be completed by themselves. Proposals will be due in class ten.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - Andrei Tarkovsky, "Sculpting in Time"

Week Nine:

October 18, 2021

Class Nine - Animation

Students will learn principles of animation and user interface of Adobe After Effects. Students will practice keying, compositing, basic motion graphics animation, color correction and managing layers.

<https://helpx.adobe.com/after-effects/tutorials.html>

ASSIGNMENT SIX - MOTION GRAPHICS

Students will create a one-minute animated video in After Effects that incorporates layers of vector graphics animated separately and composited together using masks and chroma key. Due in class eleven.

Screen selections from Joy Street (1995), Dead Leaves (2006), Dumbland (2002)

Week Ten:

October 25, 2021

Class Ten - Solo Project Proposals

Students will present their proposals for their solo projects. The class will discuss these proposals.

Students will learn to create biographical videos that communicate and/or embody an aspect of themselves. Students will consider their own mortality.

Screen *It Wasn't Love* (1992), *Window Water Baby Moving* (1962), *Valentine For Perfect Strangers* (2006)

ASSIGNMENT SEVEN - BIOGRAPHY

Students will make a movie about themselves, using whatever means they choose. Due in class thirteen.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - Lynda Hart, "Fatal Women"; Guy Debord, "The Society of the Spectacle"

Week Eleven:

November 1, 2021

Class Eleven - Structural Videos

Students will become aware of the hidden structure of video, in its technology, its process and its effects. Students will experiment on the edges of mediated experience, creating works that are unsettling, surprising and unconventional.

Screen *Special Effects* (1972), *Arnulf Rainer* (1960), *Razor Blades* (1968)

ASSIGNMENT EIGHT - STRUCTURE

Students will create a video that addresses a particular structural element of video practice. Due in class twelve.

Students will discuss production plans for group and solo projects. Final solo projects due in class sixteen. Final group projects due in class seventeen.

Week Twelve:

November 8, 2021

Class Twelve - The Movement-Image and The Time-Image

Students will learn to create visual/temporal/narrative content through the juxtaposition of shots in a non-continuous way. Students will learn to use video intuitively to create powerful rituals that transform the mundane into that which is outside of language. Students will identify and destroy internalized clichés and rules that they may not be aware they have built into their artistic practice.

Students will screen and discuss the videos made for the Structure assignment.

Screen selections from *The Holy Mountain* (1973), *Ganja and Hess* (1973), *A Movie* (Bruce Conner)

ASSIGNMENT NINE - MAGIC MONTAGE

Using non-traditional cinema language, create a video that cannot be sufficiently summarized or described. Due in class fourteen.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - Watch "The Pervert's Guide to Cinema" by Slavoj Žižek

Week Thirteen:

November 15, 2021

Class Thirteen - The Personal

Students will screen and discuss the videos made for the Biography assignment.

Week Fourteen:

November 22, 2021

Class Fourteen - Magic Montage

Students will screen and discuss the videos made for the Magic Montage assignment.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK - P Adams Sitney, "Visionary Film"; Paul Schrader, "Transcendental Style in Film"

Week Fifteen:

November 29, 2021

Class Fifteen - Sound

Students will learn to record and edit sound, in sync with video footage, asynchronous with the visual, and in dramatic conflict with the visual. Students will use sound effects, music, voiceover, room tone, and mixing/audio effects to create deliberate and specific sonic events and environments.

Screen selections from *Modern Romance* (1981), *First Cow* (2020), *Playtime* (1967)

Week Sixteen

December 6, 2021

Class Sixteen - Final Screenings

Students will screen and discuss their solo projects.

Week Seventeen

December 13, 2021

Group projects will be screened and discussed.

Any late projects will be screened and discussed.

Additional Contact Information

Program Chair	-	Alexa Wheeler	-	alexa08@unm.edu
Department Chair	-	Justin Bendell	-	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 (this may change to virtual only as the pandemic continues to change). He may have more hours throughout the semester, but this is the current info. I will update this via Learn if/when it changes. Also, here is a list of 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 Blackboard Learn, providing constructive criticism of my fellow students' completed assignments. 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 lesson by commenting meaningfully on the week's film discussion, in a timely manner.
2. I will complete each week's production assignment on time, with an eye toward the week's lesson and a progression over the semester toward refinement of my personal understanding of digital media production as a discipline. I will post on the Discussion Board with any relevant thoughts or questions that arise through my completion of the week's assignment.
3. I will complete my final project and group project and turn them in before the deadline, having acknowledged here that I am aware before the course begins that these assignment constitute a combined 20% of my grade and have a deadline of December 13, 2021. My final projects will reflect the skills and concepts I learn as I progress through this course.
4. I will meet one-on-one with the course instructor before September 1, 2021 to discuss my goals for the course, my potential concepts for my 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) to discuss what mitigations may be enacted to provide for my continued success in my education at the University of New Mexico.

Full Name

UNM ID

DATE