

# FDMA 2110 Introduction to Film Studies

UNM-Valencia, Art Studio and Film & Digital Arts, Fall 2024

updated 8-2023

ONLINE COURSE

**Professor: Jonathan Sims | Jsims01@unm.edu**

**Class time & location:** ONLINE

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm & Wednesdays Virtual\* by appointment

\*see "How to Contact the Instructor" below for more info

**Office:** B&T Building Rm. 114

EMAIL ME TO SETUP ZOOM MEETING TIME -

**Cell [for text only, please]:** 505.681.4009

**Land Acknowledgment:** UNM-Valencia is located on the traditional and ancestral Pueblo people and is unceded. This region holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this area. I acknowledge their connection to this land, and give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, and learn on their traditional homeland.

**A note:** Since 2020, the U.S. has experienced both the emergence of a global pandemic and the painful consequences of long-endured violence against the BIPOC community. These events have caused, and continue to cause, fear, stress, and pain for many members of our community, and will continue to impact each of us in various ways for times to come. Under these circumstances, it is completely normal to feel overwhelmed or anxious, and to have difficulty concentrating. I have designed this course with these challenges in mind, and am committed to continuing to work with all of you to create a positive and supportive learning environment. If your health, well-being, or school work are being impacted, I offer support services and resources in this syllabus and will meet with you anytime to discuss it as well. If your needs are not being met in any way, contact me and I will help you find services that will meet your needs as best I can.

**Credit-hours:** This is a three credit-hour course delivered in-person for 16 weeks. Class meets for five hours of direct instruction per week for the semester. Please plan for a minimum of 4 hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, open lab, projects, and class preparation) each week.

## Course Description

Video Post-Production Editing is a college-level course that focuses on the art and techniques of editing digital video content. Students will learn how to use industry-standard video editing software to transform raw footage into polished and engaging video projects. The course covers essential editing principles, workflow, and creative storytelling techniques. Through hands-on projects, students will gain practical experience in video editing and refine their skills in crafting compelling visual narratives.

## Objectives

1. Demonstrate proficiency in using video editing software to assemble, manipulate, and enhance video footage.
2. Understand the principles of video editing, including pacing, rhythm, and continuity.
3. Apply storytelling techniques to create coherent and impactful video narratives.
4. Evaluate and critique their own and others' edited video projects.
5. Develop problem-solving skills to overcome post-production challenges.

## Student Responsibilities & Course Policies

- **Health and Awareness:** UNM-Valencia is a mask friendly community if you are not feeling well. If you are experiencing any illness symptoms, please do not come to campus. Even without a positive test for any illness (covid, flu, etc...), if you feel sick, please stay home, rest and **take care of yourself first**. If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me (see "How to Contact the Instructor" section); I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. UNM-Valencia faculty and staff know that there is a complete life for you outside of your class and on-campus time. Please let us know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources.
- **Affirmed/Preferred First Name:** As part of its commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning, living, and working environment, the UNM-Valencia Campus recognizes that many people prefer to use a name other than their legal name to identify themselves. Here is a general website for it- <https://oeo.unm.edu/resources/preferred-name.html>.
- **AccessAbility Policy:** I can and want to make appropriate accommodations that will support you in this class by collaborating with you and the [Equal Access Services at UNM-Valencia](#), 505-925-8560 or [call/email any of the Advisors](#). It is important that you take the initiative to inform me of your accommodations needs, as I am not legally permitted to inquire. In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor and/or Equal Access of the need for an accommodation.
- **School/Life Conflict:** Many of you face obstacles to your education as a result of work or family obligations or unforeseen personal difficulties. If you are experiencing challenges throughout the semester that are impacting your ability to succeed in this course, or in your undergraduate career more broadly, please reach out to me immediately so that we can work together to form a plan for your academic success. Reach out to me at anytime to discuss this!
- **Caregiver Responsibilities Policy:** I have great respect for students who are balancing their pursuit of education with the responsibilities of caring for children or other friends/family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss class or if your caregiving responsibilities are interfering with your ability to engage in this course, please contact me. I can be flexible and support your learning!
- **Citizenship and/or Immigration Status:** Everyone is welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM-Valencia as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on the UNM-ABQ campus website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.
- **Course Conduct:** I am committed to creating a learning environment where diverse perspectives are recognized and valued as a source of strength. I request that all students work with me to create a class culture based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. As a class we will approach all discussions with curiosity, respect and civility. Disagreements and debates in academic discourse are expected and welcome, but personal attacks are never OK and will not be tolerated. I strive to ensure an open and welcoming classroom for all students. If I ever miss the mark, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We are all learning together.
- **UNM Email/CANVAS Access:** All UNM-Valencia students will be required to have a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: <http://it.unm.edu/accounts/>. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, Canvas and UNM Email.

- **Computer & Internet Policy:** Students will need to have access to a computer with **high-speed Internet** for this course. If you do not have access to a computer with high-speed internet at home, I want to help! UNM-Valencia and UNM-ABQ have implemented **laptop checkout options**.
  - If you are a **UNM-Valencia student** and you need access to a laptop, please contact the UNM-Valencia Library at :<http://valencia.unm.edu/library/index.html>
  - If you are a **UNM-ABQ student**, you will need to fill out this form: <https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/summer-2023-laptop.pdf> and send it to [avdept@unm.edu](mailto:avdept@unm.edu). For more information on computer checkout and wifi access for UNM-ABQ Campus, visit this website: <https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/student-tech-access.html>.
  - **ALL students can request** access to a LoboVirtualDesktop. Here is the website: <https://lobovirtualdesktop.unm.edu>. Fill out the online form. This virtual desktop is a work-in-progress, and you would need a decent computer and internet connection to make this work. But, it would give you access to a variety of UNM owned software.
- Students should have basic computer and file management skills for all courses, especially online courses. If you are struggling with these, reach out to tutoring and support services (see support section on syllabus).
  - If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me!
  - All students, whether online or in-person (or in-between) are able to access the computer labs on the UNM-Valencia Campus and the UNM-ABQ Campus regardless of where you are taking classes.
- **Access to internet:** The UNM-Valencia Campus has great wifi if you are on campus. [UNM-ABQ does too-see this login info. This is a great list of internet options for qualifying households. This is an ABQ listing and map of wifi hotspots.](#) If you still need access off-campus and do not have the resources, please reach out to me, Student Services, or any other faculty and staff.
- **Computer Lab Responsibility:** Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM-Valencia and UNM-ABQ properties is governed by "Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use" which can be found at <http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html>. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.
- **Title IX:** Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM-Valencia faculty are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member must be reported by that faculty member to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>
- **Academic Integrity and Honesty:** Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. 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. You are capable of meeting my expectations for this course! The arts are such a personal, unique experience for each person, and your story and how you choose to share it with the world are so important! If you are concerned about how well you are doing in this course, please reach out to me instead of considering academic misconduct.

## Participation

Student participation is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. Course participation and attendance is key to mastering skills and successfully completing projects. You are adults and I expect you to be motivated to grow your knowledge and abilities by engaging in coursework. You are still held responsible for all academic work required regardless of weekly participation and attendance. Class participation influences your grade heavily. Participation includes:

- You should complete all projects on time (to your best ability), participate in scheduled critiques/class discussions, and maintain a safe, respectable, positive lab environment.
- You are required to attend class and be prepared for each day's work.
- If you do not attend the first week of class you may be dropped.
- You will need to work a few hours each week in addition to the scheduled class times. Open Studio hours will be announced.

## Grading Policy

- Grading is based on completion of course work and projects, the quality of your individual technical and critical development, and a personal commitment to your work. Personal commitment involves regular participation, consistent effort, completion of work, participation in critiques and class discussions and the general willingness to try. Make each project meaningful to yourself!
- Each assignment will culminate in a critique, which will consist of pinning up your work. Being prepared for these critiques, both with your completed work and your readiness to participate in the discussion surrounding your and your peers' artwork is a meaningful part of the process of creating art. Attending the critique, even if your project is incomplete/late, is extremely important.
- If you are submitting work past the posted deadline, it is super important that you communicate your circumstances with me so that we can work out a plan for you to grow and succeed in this art class!
- Incompletes are rarely issued. If 75% of the semester's work/deliverables and participation have been completed with a satisfactory grade, and incomplete may be issued.

## Grading Breakdown

### Semester Requirements:

- |                   |           |                      |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| • Weekly comment. | 30 points | 20 points            |
| • Quizzes.        | 20 points | participation online |
| • Final Project   | 30 points |                      |

**Extra Credit:** 05 points

Extra Credit will be offered throughout the semester for various points at a maximum of 10 points for the entire semester. Points will be added up and a letter grade will be issued according to this scale to the right:

A+	101+
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	50-59

## How to Contact the Instructor

**Zoom Link:** Zoom link will be provided

During office hours, I will attempt to have my Zoom open and available for us to connect. But, I might be working with a student in a studio or otherwise not in front of a computer. If you are trying to Zoom in and I am not responding, please text me and let me know!

**Email:**

Email can be sent through UNM email ([jsims01@unm.edu](mailto:jsims01@unm.edu)). PLEASE: in the subject line, write the class number, for example - "ARTS 1210". I will check email regularly and plan to respond to emails/messages within 48 hours/2 business days. At some points in the term, my inbox gets quite full, but I do want to hear from you! If you email me and don't hear back from me within two business days, please send a follow-up email. I will appreciate the gentle reminder.

**Phone:**

I am not available via phone call for this course. But, you can text me (no calls please) to my personal cell phone if needed at anytime: 505-681-4009. This and Remind are probably the best way to contact me for fastest response.

**Office Hours:**

Mondays 12pm -2 virtual\* & Wednesdays 11pm - 1pm on-campus, and by appointment

## Support Information, Resources, & Tutorials

UNM-Valencia Campus provides extensive academic supports for students, and these supports are there to support you to achieve the academic success you are truly capable of. Most students access them at some point in pursuit of their degree. **There is no shame in seeking help!** I have provided a list of the academic support offices offered by UNM-Valencia below.

**Open Studio Time:**

- Located in B106 Studio/Classroom: Times and hours TBD.

**Support for UNM Canvas:**

- <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html>

**UNM-Valencia Tutoring Services:**

- Custom tutoring services are available through [The Learning Commons](#). Even online tutoring is available!

**Instructor Support:**

- Please see "How to Contact the Instructor" for methods of contacting the instructor for help.

**AccessAbility & Equal Access:**

- [UNM-Valencia's accessibility/ADA compliance](#)
- [UNM-Valencia's Equal Access Services](#)

**Mental Health and Counseling Services:** All of us need a support system, and many students benefit from the use of counseling services. I know I do! UNM-Valencia has mental health counseling as part of the [PASOS Recourse Center](#). Also, here is a [list of services available in Valencia County and around the state: https://valencia.unm.edu/students/student-resources/index.html](#). UNM ABQ Students have access to mental health counseling via the [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\) Center](#).

## Supplies

Access to a computer with a streaming service. Or the ability to watch shared video links.

DATE	TOPIC	MODULE	PROJECTS
<b>Week 1</b> <b>August 19 - 23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Film Studies</li> <li>• Defining film as an art form and its cultural significance</li> <li>• Basic elements of film analysis and terminology</li> <li>• Understanding film genres and styles</li> </ul>	Module1	Weekly discussion question
<b>Week 2</b> <b>August 26 - 30</b> <small>Last Day to Add Courses or Change Sections</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Cinema and Silent Film</li> <li>• The birth of cinema and pioneers of early filmmaking</li> <li>• The transition from silent films to sound cinema</li> <li>• Analyzing iconic silent films and their contributions to the art of storytelling</li> </ul>	Module 2	Weekly discussion question  What films do you love and why? - Written assignment.

DATE	TOPIC	MODULE	PROJECTS
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Sept 2 - 6</b> Last Day to Drop Without a "W"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Films - Classical Hollywood Cinema</li> <li>Introduction to classical Hollywood narrative structure</li> <li>The studio system and its influence on filmmaking</li> <li>Analyzing iconic narrative films from the Golden Age of Hollywood</li> </ul>	Module 3	Weekly discussion question  Golden Age Assignment
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Sept 9 - 13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Art Cinema</li> <li>Exploring the European art cinema movement</li> <li>Key directors and films that shaped the European film landscape</li> <li>Comparing and contrasting European art cinema with Hollywood narratives</li> </ul>	Module 4	Weekly discussion question
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Sept 16 - 20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experimental and Avant-garde Cinema</li> <li>Understanding experimental film as a form of artistic expression</li> <li>Analyzing avant-garde filmmakers and their innovative techniques</li> <li>The impact of experimental cinema on mainstream filmmaking</li> </ul>	Module 5	Weekly discussion question  Experimental Reaction Assignment
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Sept 23 - 27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Hollywood and the Auteur Theory</li> <li>The rise of New Hollywood and its impact on film production</li> <li>Auteur theory and its significance in film criticism</li> <li>Analyzing films by influential New Hollywood directors</li> </ul>	Module 6	Weekly discussion question
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Sept 30 - Oct 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Film Noir and Genre Studies</li> <li>The characteristics and themes of film noir</li> <li>Exploring other film genres, such as comedy, western, and horror</li> <li>Analyzing iconic films from different genres</li> </ul>	Module 7	Weekly discussion question  Describe Noir Assignment
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Oct 7 - 11</b>  <b>FALL BREAK</b> <b>OCT10-11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Film and Society</li> <li>The representation of social issues and cultural themes in cinema</li> <li>Examining films that reflect historical and societal changes</li> <li>The role of cinema in shaping public perception and opinion</li> </ul>	Module 8	Weekly discussion question

DATE	TOPIC	MODULE	PROJECTS
Week 9 Oct 14 - 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Western Cinema</li> <li>• The development of cinema in non-Western countries</li> <li>• Exploring the distinct styles and storytelling techniques in non-Western films</li> <li>• Analyzing prominent non-Western filmmakers and their contributions</li> </ul>	Module 9	Weekly discussion question  Foreign Film Find
Week 10 Oct 21 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian Film Studies</li> <li>• Akira Kurosawa</li> <li>• 2046</li> <li>• Bollywood</li> </ul>	Module10	Weekly discussion question  More than Kung Fu Film Assignment
Week 11 Oct 28 - Nov 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contemporary Cinema and Blockbusters</li> <li>• The globalization of cinema and the rise of international blockbuster films</li> <li>• Examining the impact of digital technology on filmmaking</li> <li>• Analyzing contemporary films that challenge traditional storytelling conventions</li> </ul>	Module11	Weekly discussion question
Week 12 LAST DAY TO DROP via LOBOWEB  Nov 4 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Television and Streaming in the Digital Age</li> <li>• The evolution of television and its relationship with cinema</li> <li>• The impact of streaming platforms on media consumption</li> <li>• Analyzing critically acclaimed TV shows and their cinematic qualities</li> </ul>	Module12	Weekly discussion question  Netflix Assignment
Week 13 Nov 11 - 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iconic Films and Directors</li> <li>• In-depth analysis of iconic films and their directors</li> <li>• The legacy of influential filmmakers in the history of cinema</li> <li>• Group discussion and presentations on selected films and directors</li> </ul>	Module13	Weekly discussion question  Your Iconic Film Favorite Assignment
Week 14 Nov 18 - 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Film Industry and Film Festivals</li> <li>• Understanding the film industry's structure and distribution process</li> <li>• The role of film festivals in promoting independent and international cinema</li> <li>• Examining the business aspects of film production and marketing</li> </ul>	Module14	Weekly discussion question  Local Film Find.



DATE	TOPIC	MODULE	PROJECTS
Week 15 Nov 25 - 29  Break NOV28 - 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary Films</li> <li>• The origins and development of documentary filmmaking</li> <li>• Analyzing influential documentary films and their impact on society</li> <li>• Ethical considerations in documentary filmmaking</li> </ul>	Module15	Weekly discussion question
Week 16 Dec 2 - 6	FINAL PAPER - FILM ANALYSIS DUE	Module16	Weekly discussion question  Analyze a film of your choice - Final Paper
Finals week Dec 9 - 13	Final Exam		

**Project 1: What films do you love and why? - Written assignment.**

**Objective:**

**Share what film you enjoy and why?**

**Consider:** Make sure you name the director and and film date.

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 2: Golden Age Assignment**

**Objective:**

**Whatch and Review a FULL LENGHT Movie from this era. Write you critique on it.**

**Consider:** The tone, the length and the writing of these first blockbusters. Also take into account the production methods available.

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 3: Experimental Reaction Assignment**

**Objective:**

Share with the class a 1 page review and link to an Early Experimental Film.

**Consider:** How does your current movie fit in the world of cinema as we have learned thus far? Any portions of this work seem to bleed into current films?

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 4: Describe Noir Assignment**

**Objective:**

**A written attempt to describe NOIR in your own words, backed with a specific film example.**

**Consider:** What is NOIR then and now? What makes a movie NOIR?

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 5: Foreign Film Find**

**Objective:**

Find, share and write a review of a foreign movie.

**Consider:** Movie can be current or from the Golden Age of European Cinema. What makes it stand alone? What is the social norm around filmmaking in the region you have chosen?

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 6: More than Kung Fu Film Assignment**

**Objective:**

Share and discuss an Asian film of your choice, old or new.

**Consider:** How does your current movie fit in the world of cinema as we have learned thus far? Where is it from, Why did you chose it? Explain the filmmaking.

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 7: Netflix Assignment**

**Objective:**

**Write a paper about your Netflix algorithm. What film does it think you would like, but in actuality don't. What film does it nail on the head in terms of your liking? What types of films do you enjoy and does it work?**

**Consider:** What you watch normally; as compared to what is on other peoples algorithms?

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email

**Project 8: Your Iconic Film Favorite Assignment**

**Objective:**

Share with the class a 1 page review Of your all time favorite movie.

**Consider:** What is the movie you put on the clean the house or for background noise? What film would you watch with commercials?

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email.

**Project 9: FIND AND WATCH A LOCALLY MADE FILM**

**Objective:**

Share with the class a 1 page review OF A LOCALLY MADE FILM

**Consider:** Where did you find this? Who made it?

**Process:**

Write and upload to canvas or email.

**Final Project: Final film critique paper 3-5 Pages**

**Objective:**

**A 2-3 Page paper critiquing the film world and what you have learned in class over the semester.**

**Be able to recite key words and ideas as well as the films that are influential in the history of filmmaking.**