

TVR 3871 Elements of Television Field Production
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK--BROOKLYN COLLEGE
Study Abroad in China Program

Instructor: Prof. Young Cheong, (Or, to be assigned)

Course Description

1. The aim of the course is to provide students participating in the Study Abroad in China program a framework for understanding for Single Camera Production.
2. Through a series of classroom lectures and screenings students will be introduced to the equipment and techniques used in single camera production. Laboratory exercises and student projects will provide the opportunity for hands-on practical application of the idea discussed.
3. The course provides students the opportunity to work in a great range of production techniques and tools of the medium, including, electronic media production theory, computers, the creative process of scripting, lighting design, graphics, audio and post production.
4. Studying aboard in China will give students a new canvas to produce their films in a Chinese setting. Students will not only explore the diversity of Chinese culture but also be able to document and create a story of their experience.

Course Objectives & Outcomes

1. This is a production course designed to familiarize you with the technical and aesthetic elements necessary in producing single camera programs for television.
2. Students will learn about Chinese history, religions, and cultures with excursions to major cultural, religious and historical sites.
3. The exercises and demonstrations are designed for you to solve production problems on-location in China and achieve specific goals.
4. Through lectures and demonstrations students will be introduced to the equipment and techniques used in single camera production, laboratory exercises and student projects will provide the opportunity for hands-on, practical application of the ideas discussed.
5. This course will provide you with the opportunity to work in a great range of production techniques and tools of the medium, including, electronic media production theory, computers, the creative process of scripting, graphics, audio and post production.

Class Format

Fifteen (15) class sessions will be scheduled, with each session lasting for approximately 3 hours. Some sessions will take place in physical classroom settings, but others will take place on-location at historical sites in the Chinese cities. Since this is a production class, many of the classes will include in-class exercises and on-location shoots.

If you are a CUNY student, a Blackboard account has been reserved for you. Before using it, you must first set the account up. You need to create an account in Blackboard at <http://portal.cuny.edu>. You are required to complete the above process one week before departure for China.

The schedule of class meetings and the locations may not be announced until the group's arrival in China and may be subject to change, sometimes with short notice. Due to the condensed nature of this course, the class may also meet on weekend and evenings when necessary.

All the side trips are additional wonderful opportunities for students to make on-location shoots of cultural sites and beautiful scenery. If your finances allow, you can consider taking advantage of the side trips while taking this course with the China program.

The instructor reserves the right to make necessary adjustments to the class schedule and evaluations in response to the changing events throughout the course of the program in China.

Recommended Textbooks

Jordan, L (2011) Final Cut Pro X: Making the Transition. Berkeley, California: Peachpit Press.

Kenworthy, Chris (2006). Digital Video Production Cookbook. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media.

Braverman, Barry (2010). Video Shooter: Storytelling with HD Cameras. Burlington, MA: Focal Press

Rabiger, Michael (2009). Directing the Documentary. Burlington, MA: Focal Press

Ball, James (2010). From Still to Motion. Berkley, CA: New Riders

Materials: A 32 GB SDHC memory card and 1TB firewire or USB3 external hard drive. DSLR camra or small HD Video camera. Macbook laptop.

Graded Assignments:

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Attendance and participation | 40% |
| 2. Video Diaries | 10% |
| 3. Montage | 10% |
| Final project | 20% |
| 4. Final examination | 20% |

Assignments

All class projects are collaborative in nature, however the work that you complete has to be your own. In-class projects not listed on the syllabus may be assigned.

Video Diaries: The Video Diaries will be a way for you to document your experiences

throughout the trip, and will supplement your final project.

Montage: Introduce a Chinese location using techniques we have discussed in class. For this project no sound will be used, and it will be ultimately edited to music.

Final Project: Write/produce a 7-10 minute documentary that will include your video Diaries along with B-roll.

Exams

Exams will cover all technical and theoretical material covered in the class. Students will be responsible for all readings handed out and editing works viewed in class. Questions related to these materials will appear on exams. Your final documentary script is a part of your final exam. All final scripts are due no later than the scheduled final exam period.

Course Requirements and Expectations

1. Attendance is mandatory. It is imperative that you attend class. Each absence will lower your grade by half a letter grade. More than three absences or excessive lateness could result in an "F" or "WU" grade.
2. Preproduction is essential to the success of every project. You are expected to spend a great deal of time outside of class working on their projects.
3. Deadlines are deadlines. Projects that are turned in late will result in a grade reduction from the grade the project would have received.
4. Projects that are not submitted result in a zero.
5. The midterm and final exam must be taken on the dates scheduled. There will be no make-up exams.
6. Pre-Production is essential. Students are expected to spend a great deal of time outside class preparing their projects.
7. Students are expected to submit fully researched typed scripts properly formatted to industry standards. Treatments must be typed and double-spaced.
8. Teamwork is essential to producing well-organized, creative programs. You will be expected to put as much effort into crewing for your colleagues' projects as you would expect of them for yours. You must work in two different crew positions in addition to producing, directing, and editing your own projects.
9. Absolutely no eating, drinking, or gum chewing in the studio or editing suite
10. As this course is part of the study abroad program, attendance and participation will account for 40% of the grade. All students are strongly advised that their behavior and attitude during the program will affect their final grade for the course.

Date	Topic		Assignments
Class 1	<i>Lecture:</i> Go over syllabus. General video understanding.		Handout

Class 2	<i>Lecture:</i> Advanced camera. Introduction to Final Cut Pro. <i>Lab:</i> On-Location Shooting (In class exercise #1). Capturing and viewing.	F-stop, shutter speed, frame rate, white balance, etc.	
Class 3	<i>Lecture:</i> Editing overview with Final Cut Pro.	Scene assembly	
Class 4	<i>Lecture:</i> Video workflow, storage, and basic transitions. <i>Lab:</i> Editing assignment #1 with Final Cut Pro.		
Class 5	<i>Lecture:</i> Basic Lighting Theory. <i>Lab:</i> Interview lighting. Screening: Montage projects.	Field lighting	<i>Due:</i> Video Montage
Class 6	<i>Lecture:</i> Audio, microphones and sound sync. <i>Lab:</i> Sound recording using shotgun, livelier, handheld and wireless.		
Class 7	<i>Lecture:</i> Shooting and editing for Documentary. Introduction to mid-term. <i>Lab:</i> Editing with still images (Ken Burns Style). <i>Screening:</i> Shadow Storytelling	B-roll	
Class 8	<i>Lecture:</i> Continuity and advanced editing. <i>Lab:</i> Shooting for continuity.		
Class 9	<i>Lecture:</i> Titles and text. <i>Lab:</i> Using titles and creating a credit sequence		<i>Due:</i> Proposal for Final Project
Class 10	Lecture Content Midterm <i>Screening:</i> Mid-term projects. <i>Lecture:</i> Color correction fundamentals.	Midterm Exam	
Class 11	<i>Lecture:</i> Shooting and Editing for Slow & Fast Pace <i>Lab:</i> Shooting for Slow and Fast Pace		
Class 12	<i>Lecture:</i> Fine Editing for Final Cut Pro. <i>Lab:</i> Adjusting frames per second. <i>Screening:</i> Dialogue/Action Scenes		
Class 13	<i>Lecture:</i> Visual Effects: Designing and Using Television Graphics. <i>Demonstration:</i> Chroma Key Effect		<i>Due:</i> Rough cut for final project
Class 14	Review of Student Works Screen Programs & Footage Critique		

	<i>Lab: Distribution and compression.</i>		
Class 15	Final Examination <i>Screening: Final Projects</i>		<i>Final Project</i> <i>(7-10 minutes)</i>

* This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Assignment of Keeping Journals

An important goal of the program is to enable each student to explore and experience China in his or her own individual ways, such that you can obtain maximum academic benefits from this China trip. Keeping a journal during the trip will help serve that purpose well.

You will be keeping a journal during the trip and submit the journal entries as part of the trip and course participation to their course instructor (with a copy to Prof. Lu, the program director); see the instructors' email addresses below. Here are some guidelines:

How to Write a Journal Entry

1. Describe a **specific, very meaningful, phenomenon or incident** that you observe or experience during the 2-3 days in a city, something that caught your attention and has an impact on you personally, culturally or intellectually, or something that has touched you deeply. Do not just list what you have done during the days (which will give you no credit). Tell us the story, with descriptive details, of a meaningful **intercultural encounter/instance**. This should be the 1st paragraph.
2. Then, in the 2nd paragraph, analyze or reflect upon that. Write down your reflections and thoughts on that experience or observation from a cross-cultural or intercultural perspective. If you are in one of those non-language classes, try to tie that to what you have read in the textbook(s) or what we are discussing in class.
3. In the 3rd paragraph, summarize or conclude this journal entry by making connections to a larger picture of what you have read, heard and studied previously in other classes, or even what you have experienced back in America and/or other contexts.
4. Each entry should be about 3 paragraphs in length. However, you are free to organize your ideas in what you believe to be creative ways; it is not a good idea to write one journal entry in only one paragraph.

How and When to Submit

1. Write an entry about every 3 days; a total of 5 (FIVE) journals are expected of you during the trip:
 - a. ONE entry for visit to Beijing
-- To be submitted on the day when you arrive in 2nd city of Xi'an
 - b. ONE for visit to Xi'an
-- To be submitted on the day when you arrive in Nanjing
 - c. TWO entries during stay in Nanjing (including side trips if any)
-- To be submitted every 6 days

- d. ONE final entry for visit to Suzhou and Shanghai
 - To be submitted no later than 10 pm on the eve of departure from Shanghai
 - This final journal entry should be a bit longer than the previous ones. You need have 2 additional paragraphs in which to reflect on the overall trip experience: your gains from the trip, the impact of the trip on you, your recommendations for the trip, etc.
2. Submit your journals via email to the instructor via email:
 - a. Email each entry to the instructor, with a copy to: ChinaJournals@yahoo.com
 - b. And, if you are taking a class with another professor, also copy that professor.
3. At the beginning of each journal, please clearly indicate:
 - a. the course #(s),
 - b. course title(s), &
 - c. the professor(s) of the course(s), if you are taking more than one course
4. Name each journal entry clearly, by making the subject of the message as Journal #1 (#2, #3, #4, etc.) from XXXX (your full name).
5. In one email message, only send one journal entry by way of **copy & paste** (Do not send it as attachment, please). Send each journal entry separately; Do NOT attempt to include more than one journal entry in one message.

Grade and Reward

1. The professor will read your journals and respond if needed. If your journals are well written, professors may use them to replace some assignment(s) of the course, at the professors' discretion.
2. If you are taking more than one course, you still only write a total of FIVE journal entries; be sure you email each entry to both instructors if you are taking two courses from two professors.
3. The journals are part of the trip and course participation grade.
4. If you have been doing an exceptionally good job with the journals, the professors will give you extra credit (as much as 10% of the grade) for the course(s), at the professors' discretion.