

# Foundations of Production

## FILM 2330.001

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### COURSE INFORMATION

Number        FILM 2330.001  
Title         Foundations of Production  
Meetings     Monday 4:00 PM – 6:45 PM  
Location     ATC 2.101  
Credit Hours   3

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor    Ryan (Jun) Park  
Email         Ryan.Park2@utdallas.edu  
Office         ATC 1.907  
Office Hours   Monday 2 PM – 4 PM  
                     Tuesday 11 AM – 1 PM  
                     By Appointment

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the fundamentals of film production through hands-on experience. Students will explore the creative, technical, and collaborative processes involved in making a film, from developing an idea and preparing for a shoot to working on set and completing a project in post-production. The course covers essential filmmaking terminology, crew roles, set procedures, visual storytelling, camera, lighting, sound, and editing. Through production exercises and collaborative projects, students will gain a practical understanding of how films are planned, produced, and completed.

### OBJECTIVES

**Critical Thinking (CT)** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

**Communication (COM)** – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

**Teamwork (TW)** – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

**Social Responsibility (SR)** – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

### EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Develop and present original story ideas through pitches, treatments, and visual concepts.
2. Break down a script into a workable shooting schedule, shot list, and storyboard.
3. Operate basic camera, lighting, and sound equipment and apply foundational concepts of exposure, focus, composition, continuity, coverage, and clean audio recording.
4. Assemble raw footage into a coherent short scene using non-linear editing software.
5. Give and receive constructive feedback in a group screening and critique setting.'

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS

No Textbook is required for this course.

### Recommended Text

Long, Ben and Schenk, Sonja. *The Digital Filmmaking Handbook (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Hingham, MA: Cengage Learning PTR, 2021

### Required course materials

- Camera media (memory cards) for assignments and projects.
- Students may use UTD production equipment and, when permitted for an assignment, a personal camera or smartphone.
- A portable SSD or hard drive for editing.
- Post-production software (Adobe Premier Pro or Davinci Resolve).

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

- Participation (10)
- Production Book (10)
- Script (10)
- Visual Storytelling Exercise (10)
- Cinematic Production (Midterm) (20)
- Final Pitch & Proposal (10)
- Final Project (30)

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **GRADES**

|            |             |                 |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| A 93-100   | A- 90-92.99 | B+ 87-89.99     |
| B 83-86.99 | B- 80-82.99 | C+ 77-79.99     |
| C 73-76.99 | C- 70-72.99 | D+ 67-69.99     |
| D 63-66.99 | D- 60-62.99 | F 59.9 or below |

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance and participation are essential because much of the course is built around in-class screenings, discussions, hands-on production activities, equipment training, workshops, and collaborative work. Students are allowed one no-questions-asked absence during the semester. Missing more than one class will affect the participation grade, and more than three absences may result in failing the course.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Punctual attendance is expected. Repeated tardiness will affect the participation grade. Arriving more than 20 minutes late, leaving early without approval, failing to return after a scheduled break, sleeping during class, or missing a substantial portion of an in-class production activity may count as an unexcused absence.

If you know that you will need to miss class, please communicate with me as early as possible.

## **DUE DATES AND LATE WORK**

Assignments are due by the date and time listed in Canvas unless otherwise noted. Students are responsible for confirming that work has been successfully submitted. Late assignments may be accepted with a grade deduction unless otherwise stated in the assignment guidelines. In-class exercises, production activities, screenings, critiques, and other participation-based work generally cannot be recreated or made up because they depend on the participation of the class and production team. If circumstances prevent you from completing an assignment on time, contact me before the deadline whenever possible.

## **STUDENT HOURS**

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me individually to discuss assignments, project ideas, creative challenges, or concerns related to the course. To schedule an appointment, send me an email and include two or three possible meeting times that work for you. Student hours may be held in person or virtually through MS Teams depending on availability.

## **CLASSROOM AND ONLINE ETIQUETTE**

A successful learning environment requires mutual respect among students and the instructor. Students are expected to communicate professionally, listen respectfully to different perspectives, and contribute to an environment in which everyone can participate. Disruptive, disrespectful, harassing, or intimidating behavior will not be tolerated.

This expectation also applies to online communication associated with the course. Harassment, personal attacks, trolling, or other behavior that interferes with a productive learning environment is inappropriate.

Because filmmaking is highly collaborative, students are also expected to treat classmates, performers, interview subjects, equipment, locations, and production spaces with professionalism and respect.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Mobile devices should be silenced before class begins and should not be used for unrelated activities during class.

Because this is a production course, phones, laptops, cameras, tablets, and other devices will frequently be used as part of demonstrations, research, production exercises, screenings, and other course activities. When technology is being used for class purposes, students are expected to remain focused on the activity.

Laptops may be used for note-taking and course-related work. When lecture slides or other instructional materials are available, they will generally be posted through eLearning.

## **UT DALLAS SYLLABUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The University's policies and procedures constitute an additional portion of this course syllabus. Students are responsible for reviewing these policies, including information concerning grading options, withdrawal from courses, academic integrity, accommodations, and other University requirements. Please visit: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

## STUDENT SERVICES AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

UT Dallas provides a variety of academic support resources for students. Please visit: <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>

Students who believe they may need accommodations should contact the AccessAbility Resource Center and follow the University's procedures for requesting formal accommodations.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work submitted in this course must represent your own work and your own contribution to the production process.

Students are expected to properly acknowledge outside sources, copyrighted materials, collaborators, and the creative contributions of others. Plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation of another person's work, or other violations of UT Dallas academic integrity policies may be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct.

Because filmmaking is collaborative, students will often work together on productions. Collaboration that is part of an assigned production is encouraged. However, students must accurately represent their own responsibilities and contributions when submitting individually graded work.

## AI

Unless an assignment specifically states otherwise, generative AI tools may not be used to create material submitted as the student's own work.

Certain uses of AI may be permitted for activities such as brainstorming, organizing ideas, production planning, or editing student-created material when explicitly approved by the instructor. We will discuss acceptable and unacceptable uses when relevant to individual assignments.

Students remain responsible for the originality, accuracy, legality, and ethical use of everything they submit. When an assignment permits the use of generative AI, students may be required to disclose how and where the technology was used.

Unauthorized use of generative AI on graded work may be treated as an academic integrity issue and referred to the appropriate University office.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week             | Topic                                                                                                                                            | Deliverable                     |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Week 1<br>08/24  | Introduction<br>Syllabus and course overview                                                                                                     |                                 |
| Week 2<br>08/31  | Discussion: Short Film #1 – Ayanna<br>Lecture: Elements of storytelling in film<br>Overview of the film production process                       |                                 |
| Week 3<br>09/07  | <i>LABOR DAY</i>                                                                                                                                 |                                 |
| Week 4<br>09/14  | Screening: Short Film #2 – Ted<br>Lecture: Story Development & Idea Formation,<br>Research & Planning / Scriptwriting<br>- Share ideas for final | Share final ideas               |
| Week 5<br>09/21  | Screening: Short Film #3 – Evan<br>Lecture: Pre-Production / Producing a film                                                                    | Pre-writing /<br>Beat Sheet     |
| Week 6<br>09/28  | Screening: Short Film #4 – Ken<br>Lecture: Visual Storytelling<br>Activity: Cinematic Interview Production                                       | Script 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft    |
| Week 7<br>10/05  | Screening: Short Film #5 – Pan<br>Lecture: Casting & Auditions<br>Activity: Table Reads                                                          | Visual Storytelling<br>Exercise |
| Week 8<br>10/12  | <b>MIDTERM – Cinematic Production</b><br>Project Screening<br>Critique & Discussion                                                              | Midterm Project                 |
| Week 9<br>10/19  | Screening: Short Film #6 – Noora<br>Lecture: Production – Camera & Sound -<br>Activity: In-class production                                      |                                 |
| Week 10<br>10/26 | Screening: Short Film #7 – Tylen<br>Final Project Pitch                                                                                          | Final Pitch & Proposal          |
| Week 11<br>11/02 | Workshop: Cinematography & Lighting                                                                                                              | Final Script                    |
| Week 12<br>11/09 | Workshop: Production Rehearsal                                                                                                                   |                                 |
| Week 13<br>11/16 | Workshop: Production Workshop                                                                                                                    | Final Pre-Production            |
| 11/23            | <i>THANKSGIVING BREAK</i>                                                                                                                        |                                 |
| Week 14<br>11/30 | Post-Production & Color Correction and Grading                                                                                                   | Production Book                 |
| Week 15<br>12/07 | <b>FINAL PROJECT</b><br>Project Screening<br>Critique and Discussion                                                                             | Extra credit materials          |