

# Course Syllabus – ATEC 3330

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## Course Information

Course: ATEC 3330.002 – Digital Video Production I

Semester: Fall 2016, Aug. 22 – Dec. 15, 2016

Tuesday 1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Room: ATC 3.601

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## Professor Contact Information

Sharon Hewitt

**Email:** sharon.hewitt@utdallas.edu

**Office location:** ATC 2.706

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. by appointment

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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to digital video production. Students will learn shooting, editing, and nonlinear post-production techniques through in-class exercises and working individually to produce short video projects. A variety of delivery environments may be explored, including web, mobile, and DVD.

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## Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be expected to:

- Understand basic camera features, functions, and settings.
  - Identify and apply foundational elements and principles of design when composing shots.
  - Properly expose subjects using available light.
  - Acquire field audio, both naturally occurring sounds and during subject interviews.
  - Research a topic, source subjects for interviews, prepare questions and conduct subject interviews.
  - Edit video using non-linear post-production software programs.
  - Deliver finished video projects online.
  - Become familiar with new and emerging video technologies and forms of video.
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## Required Course Materials

- Portable external hard drive – 1T (estimated price: \$60 - \$100)
- Cameral memory card – Class 10 speed, 32GB (estimated price: \$15 on Amazon)
- Card reader - (estimated price: \$30)
- Headphones – (estimated price: \$20)

### **Suggested Course Materials and Textbook**

- Digital video camera (Canon Vixia HF R700, estimated price \$300)
  - Personal computer or laptop with non-linear video editing software
  - *Digital Cinematography: Fundamental Tools, Techniques, and Workflows*, David Strump, ISBN 9781136040129 (available online at McDermott Library)
  - *The Filmmaker's Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for the Digital Age*, Fourth Edition (2013), Steven Ascher, et al. ISBN 9780452297289.
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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

#### **Week 1 August 23**

- Student Introductions
- Course Introduction
- Basic camera features, functions and settings
- Composition: Introduction
- Premiere Pro demonstration

*Assignment 1 assigned: Intro to composition*

Due Aug. 30 before class

#### **Week 2 – August 30**

- Advanced camera features, functions and settings
- Composition: Framing interview subjects
- Lighting basics

Critique of Assignment 1

*Assignment 2 assigned: Framing subjects – a series of shots*

Due Sept. 6 before class

#### **Week 3 – September 6**

- Professional audio
- Acquiring coverage
- Preparing interview questions and interviewing subjects

Critique of Assignment 2

*Assignment 3 assigned: Short subject interview (with coverage)*  
Due Sept. 13 before class

#### **Week 4 – September 13**

Critique Assignment 3

Students edit Assignment 3 in-class to implement critique feedback and pair up with a partner to critique the revisions.

*Mid-Term Assigned: Produce longer subject interview*  
Due Oct. 11 (Week 8) before class

#### **Week 5 – September 20**

- Approaches to perception

*Assignment 4 (in-class): Perception & convergence exercises*

*Assignment 5: Shoot visual interpretations*  
Complete in-class Sept. 27

#### **Week 6 – September 27**

- Types of documentary films explored
- Related excerpts viewed in class

*Assignment 5 (in-class): Edit visual interpretations in Premiere, assign keywords, and upload to platform*

#### **Week 7 – October 4**

Assignment 5 critique

- Types of documentary films explored (cont.)
- Related excerpts viewed in class
- Documentary/non-fiction narratives
- Interactive documentary introduction

#### **Week 8 – October 11**

Mid-Term Critique

- Emerging narratives and related technologies in video explored (immersive, 360, VR)

#### **Week 9 – October 18**

- Visits from professionals
- Avenues for publishing work

### **Week 10 – October 25**

- Cameras in-depth
- Advanced shooting techniques

*Final Project assigned: Documentary Short*  
Due December 6 (Week 15)

### **Week 11 – November 1**

- Pitch Final Project topic to class
- Cameras in-depth (cont.)
- Advanced editing techniques

### **Week 12 – November 8**

- Review final project footage and progress with class
- Advanced shooting and editing techniques reviewed
- In-class exercises

### **Week 13 – November 15**

- Advanced shooting and editing techniques
- In-class exercises

### **Week 14 – November 29**

Review final progress with class

### **Week 15 – December 6**

- Final Project Due
- Viewing Final Projects

**\*\*\* Final exam date and time TBA (December 9 – 15) \*\*\***

## **Grading Policy**

Students will be assessed on attendance, 6 in-class and outside assignments, a mid-term project, and a final project.

#### Grading Scale

Letter	% Score	GPA
A+	98 – 100	4.00
A	94 – 97	4.00
A-	90 – 93	3.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33
B	83 - 86	3.00
B-	80 – 82	2.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33
C	73 – 76	2.00
C-	70 – 72	1.67
D	60 – 69	1.00
F	< 60	0.00

Allocation of Grades	
Attendance	15%
Assignments	30%
Mid-term project	25%
Final project	30%
Total	100%
The criteria that will be used for evaluating assignments and projects will be presented, discussed and explained during class before you are expected to begin work.	

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#### Course & Instructor Policies

##### Late Work

Late assignments are not accepted and subject to a grade of zero. A request to turn an assignment in late may be made in advance under extreme circumstances. If approval is granted, the assignment will incur a 10-point drop in grade each day it is late.

##### Attendance

Attendance is expected and important to the successful completion of this course. Each unexcused absence or attending any class for less than its full duration, will result in a drop of one grade point. Absences may be excused in extreme circumstances providing a 24 hour notice is sent by email prior to class, or in extreme circumstances, no later than 24 hours following class.

##### Email

Please use your UT Dallas email account to communicate with the instructor. Emails received from private accounts will not receive a response due to FERPA regulations. Include the course number in the subject line and identify yourself in the email body. Please respond within 24 hours to emails received from instructor

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#### UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***