

COURSE OBJECTIVES: A film director must be conversant with all of the arts, crafts and technologies that go into making a motion picture. A film director must be an effective communicator and decision maker. These broad skills and areas of knowledge are developed across the film production curriculum. This Introductory Film Directing course deals specifically with a important areas of knowledge that are not dealt with in depth in any of the other film production courses.

The overall objective of this course is to introduce the student to the interpretive concepts, language, and processes that a director is responsible for when collaborating with others. The main objectives of the course are:

- 1) Develop the skill of interpreting dramatic material,
- 2) Learn the basics of the actor's craft in order to effectively guide performance,
- 3) Develop the ability to effectively critique performance in filmic terms, and
- 4) Develop visual story telling skills.

These objectives are supported by reading, lecture, and written assignments, developed with laboratory experience, and tested by examination.

TEXT: **DIRECTING: Film Techniques and Aesthetics**, Michael Rabiger, Fourth edition, Focal Press.

ASSIGNMENTS:

THEME ASSIGNMENT: A one page paper that analyzes the theme of a current motion picture. The assignment is done according to a prescribed format.

TELL A STORY PROJECT: A three part assignment that uses visual film vocabulary to tell a story from a narrative writing source.

STORY AND SCENE ANALYSIS: Choose the script of a major motion picture for your in-class directing assignment. Analyze the material from a visual point of view using a tape or DVD of the film. Analyze the material from a dramatic point of view using text material as a guide. Think of this as a term paper and use standard narrative writing form. There is a handout with specific instructions.

DIRECTED SCENE. Direct and present a two character scene to the class . This should be the same scene that you have analyzed in your paper.

REHEARSAL SUMMARY & REPORT: A review of the casting and rehearsal process. Observations and analysis.

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EXAMS: Four QUIZES will be given during the semester, covering text and lecture.

ATTENDANCE: Worth 30 points of your total points.

Attendance is extremely important especially during the performance phase of the course. Every student director needs a critical audience to evaluate his or her work. It is during the critique period that students develop and hone their ability to discern, evaluate and communicate. Excluding the first class meeting, any student may have two absences without penalty. After that, each absence will result in -5 points from the 30 possible attendance points.

GRADING: To approximate your standing in the class during the semester, apply the standard Bell Curve to your points. At the end of the semester an actual curve will be calculated to determine grades. Grading uses + and -.

Attendance	30 points
Rehearsal Summary	30 points
Theme Assignment	40 points
Find & Tell a Story	50 points
Story & Scene Analysis	55 points
Directed In-Class Scene	50 points
Quizzes (3 @ 15 pts. each)	45 points
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	300 points

DUE DATES: 3 points will be taken off your grade for each class meeting that the assignment is past due.

MISSED PERFORMANCE: If for any reason you are not prepared to present your directed scene on your scheduled date you will have to reschedule and you will be penalized 5 points off of your grade. If you are not able to reschedule because of no available performance dates, special arrangements must be made with the instructor to complete this assignment.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a service agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations. Students who are approved for test taking accommodations must provide a proctor form to their faculty member signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Mayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2684.

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Larry Edmonds Cinema Books
Hollywood Blvd. East of Highland
(213) 463-3273

Samuel French Theatre & Film Books
7623 Sunset Blvd.-213-876-0570 / 11963 Ventura Blvd.-818-762-0535

www.lacasting.com

www.craigslist.com

and other web sites

CSUN Theater Department

Back Stage West, magazine

RESOURCE NOTES:

Casting:

Scripts:

CALENDAR

- January 22 TU Enrollment and Introduction.
- January 24 TH Rabiger, Part One and Part Three.
Lecture: Definitions of theme and premise.
Assign: Theme assignment. Due: February 7 (two weeks.).
- January 29 TU Rabiger: Part One and Part Three.
Lecture: Continue Definitions of theme and premise.
Film: The Godfather documentary.
- January 31 TH Rabiger: Part One and Part Three.
DRAMATURGY ESSENTIALS
Lecture: Story form and Scene form,
Dramatic units and beats.
Assign: Tell A Story, Part I. Due: February 7 (one week).
- February 5 TU QUIZ ONE – Rabiger, Parts One & Three and lecture.
Schedule performance and rehearsal dates.
Film: DGA – How To Become A Director.
- February 7 TH Rabiger: Part Five, especially chapters 17-19 and
Part Six, especially chapters 35 & 36.
PREPARING TO DIRECT
Due: Theme assignment.
Due: Tell A Story, Part I
Lecture: History and development of modern acting.
- February 12 TU Rabiger: Part Five, especially chapters 17-19 and
Part Six, especially chapters 35 & 36.
Assign: Story-Scene Analysis. Due: March 13.
Film: Casablanca scene.
Return Quiz One.
- February 14 TH Rabiger: Part Five, especially chapters 20-24 and Part Six.
Lecture: Performance analysis.
Film: On Acting.
Return Theme assignment.

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- February 19 TU QUIZ TWO – Rabiger, Parts Five & Six and lecture.
Assign: Rehearsal summary. Due: Day of individual performance.
Assign: Tell A Story, Part II. Due: February 28.
- February 21 TH Rabiger: Part Two, especially chapters 4 & 5.
SCREENCRAFT
Lecture: Visual story telling and tools.
Film: Quantum Leap – conventional, continuity coverage.
- February 26 TU Rabiger: Part Two, especially chapters 4 & 5.
Lecture: Cinematic story telling.
Film: Smoke – montage story telling.
Review Performance and rehearsal schedule.
Return Quiz Two.
- February 28 TH QUIZ THREE – Rabiger, Part Two and Lecture.
Due: Find & Tell A Story, Part II. Hand in paperwork and
Do a short pitch.
Assign: Find and Tell A Story, Part III. Due: May 8.
- March 4 TU GROUP MEETING – IN CLASS – PREP Find and Tell A Story Project.
- March 6 TH AUDITIONS: Soundstage available. Group auditions encouraged.
- 2-2:45 _____
- 3-3:45 _____
- 4-4:45 _____
- March 11 TU ~~REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.~~
- 2-2:45 _____
- 3-3:45 _____
- 4-4:45 _____

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March 13 TH

QUIZ FOUR

DUE: STORY-SCENE ANALYSIS – All students

Return Quiz Three.

PERFORMANCE BEGINS DUE: Rehearsal Summary (on your performance date).

1) _____

2) _____

March 18 and 20

SPRING BREAK

March 25 TU

REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.

2-2:45 _____

3-3:45 _____

4-4:45 _____

March 27 TH

PERFORMANCE

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

April 1 TU

REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.

2-2:45 _____

3-3:45 _____

4-4:45 _____

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April 3 TH PERFORMANCE

6) _____

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7) _____

8) _____

April 8 TU REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.

2-2:45 _____

3-3:45 _____

4-4:45 _____

April 10 TH PERFORMANCE

9) _____

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10) _____

11) _____

April 15 TU REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.

2-2:45 _____

3-3:45 _____

4-4:45 _____

April 17 TH

PERFORMANCE

12) _____

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13) _____

14) _____

April 22 TU

REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.

2-2:45 _____

3-3:45 _____

4-4:45 _____

April 24 TH

PERFORMANCE

15) _____

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16) _____

17) _____

April 29 TU

REHEARSAL: For students performing on Thursday.

2-2:45 _____

3-3:45 _____

4-4:45 _____

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May 1 TH 18) _____

19) _____

20) _____

May 6 TU X1) _____

X2) _____

X3) _____

May 8 TH SCREEN TELL A STORY FILMS

May 13/15 FINAL EXAM WEEK.