

**DIRECTING THE TV DRAMA/COMEDY
CTVA 442 SPRING 2009**

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Quinn Saunders
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CLASS HOURS: Friday 8 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.
OFFICE HOURS: Mon 1:45-3:15 pm; Weds 1:45-3:15 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced television directing course emphasizing dramatic formats. Producing and directing live and recorded studio situation comedy and drama programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To create a portfolio quality 10 minute project as a Producer, Director, D.P, Production Designer or Editor.

TEXT: The One Hour Drama by Robert Del Valle

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

CTVA 442 is a class in multi-camera, live-to-tape television directing, in which students stage, rehearse and direct and produced a professional final 10-minute production. Adequate preparation outside of class time is absolutely necessary in order to successfully complete this course.

Prerequisites for this class are CTVA 440 (or CTVA 350); and 240, 340, and 341. Concordantly, students are expected to start this class with a basic understanding of the directing process.

Students are expected to hone their production skills in camera operation, directing camera, directing actors, producing, casting, set design, editing. Lectures, labs and exercises throughout the course are designed to refine those skills necessary to produce a polished final portfolio production.

CTVA TELEVISION OPTION CODE OF CONDUCT:

All the rules and regulations set forth in the signed Television Option Code of Conduct agreement are to be adhered to by all Television Option Production students, their talent, actors and guests in the classroom, studio or on location environment.

FUNDING:

It is RECOMMENDED, but not required that each student **submit at least \$300** to the budget for their project. This is a portfolio project for you. The average film student at CSUN spends \$3000 on their portfolio project. In addition, you should seek to raise additional funding for your project through fundraisers and other campaigns under the direction of your producer, and I will be happy to help you with this.

ATTENDANCE:

All students are expected to attend all classes and lab sessions. There will be NO MAKE-UP of lab assignments without prior consent of the instructor. Unexcused absences as well as tardiness will be considered in your final grade. **THREE unexcused absences will result in FAILURE.** (Three lates, or leaving class early will equate to one unexcused.) Attendance is taken daily and it is the student's

to encourage professionalism, participation and fair treatment for all. Disruptive, unprofessional behavior will be counted as an unexcused absence. Class or project switching is prohibited without prior consent of the instructor.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE ON ONE OF THE THREE SHOOT DAYS WILL RESULT IN FAILURE.

IN-STUDIO POLICY:

All cell phones, personal digital assistants, blackberries, palms, ipods or any other electronic device must be turned OFF once a student enters any of the studios. These devices are not only disruptive but also interfere with the microphones. If a student must receive an urgent call, the student is to set the cell to vibrate and leave the studio before answering the call. During production days all students must wear closed toed shoes for safety. The first time a student wears inappropriate shoes the student will receive a warning. Any further infractions on the closed shoe policy will result in the student leaving class and receiving an unexcused absence. Also, there is no food or drink allowed in any of the studios or control booths.

Professional Behavior: is expected at all times in the course of work related to this class. Disruptive, unprofessional behavior in this class will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior will be dealt according to the university regulations and be referred to the Dean of Students.

Academic Dishonesty: In conjunction with examinations, projects and written assignments, it should be noted that severe penalties--including failure in the course and even expulsion from the University--may be applied for any infraction of accepted academic rules of honesty. Among other things, it is understood there shall be no sharing of information on any examination; there shall be no reference to any notes during any test (unless otherwise announced); and all work on each written assignment shall be an individual and original effort--except where collaborative team projects are specifically designed.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services 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 Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2684.

FINAL PRODUCTIONS:

For the Final Productions, students will be broken into **three (3) groups**. Two groups will have 7 members, and one group will have six. Each group will consist of One Director, Two Producers, Two Cinematographers, an Editor, and a Sound person. The groups with six members will not have a dedicated Sound person.

The student Producers and Director will pick these crewmembers and their positions from the other students in this class (only).

Each production Team will produce a ten minute final senior portfolio project. These

the last group will have time to edit before their final version. All Productions are due to on the final day of class.

Students will edit and polish their final productions in the Final Cut Pro edit bays at CSUN or on their own computer systems. Final productions and all supporting materials must be delivered on DVD/Blu Ray, as a QT file, and on DVC Pro on the last day of class.

Unless there is a compelling reason not to do so, all productions will shot on the RED ONE HD camera.

PEER REVIEW

Each student is required to write a 1-2 page evaluation of each of the other five key members of their team, and then assign them a letter grade as to their performance in the role assigned to them: Director, Producer, D.P., Sound, Editor.

EVALUATION

All grades are based on actual hands-on work in class. There are no tests and no additional assignments. No extra credit. Plus or minus grading based on total points.

Pitch: 25

Final Production: 200

Final Production Package: 200

Peer Review: 125

Total Points: 550

****SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS**

WEEK	Topic
1 8/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Syllabus ▪ Professionalism and work ethic: what is expected. Show up on time, etc. ▪ Submit Pitches ▪ Watch 442 examples
2 9/4	<p>8 AM SPEAKER: TONY CAREY, Producer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 Finalists re-pitch. Vote on final four. ▪ Vote on final four. ▪ Discuss Funding, Bank Account, Fundable.com <p>Assignment: FIRST DRAFT DUE (COPIES FOR CLASS)</p>
3 9/11	<p>NO CLASS – FURLOUGH DAY</p> <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final script due next week
4 9/18	<p>RED Camera Workshop for D.P.s with Nate Pena</p> <p>Production Meetings—Settle on the look of the show/Casting: Group 1: 9:30-10:15 Group 2: 10:15-11 Group 3: 11-11:45 Group 4: 11:45-12:30</p> <p>Assignments: POST CASTING NOTICE IN BACKSTAGE AND CASTNET Producer: Budget and Shooting Schedule. Director: Script Breakdown for Camera and Actors D.P.: Lighting Plan Prod Des: Floorplan and Script Breakdown for Costume and Props. Timeline for Set Construction Sound: Plan for production sound microphones. Breakdown of SFX for Post that might be grabbed on location.</p>
5 9/25	<p>SPEAKER: TBA</p> <p>ASSIGN CREW ROLES for final production:</p> <p>Production Meetings—Review previous Assignments, Discuss Title Sequence: Group 2: 9:30-10:15 Group 3: 10:15-11 Group 4: 11-11:45 Group 1: 11:45-12:30</p> <p>Assignments: Photos of props and wardrobe Script, Schedule and Permits for Title Sequence</p>

<p>6 10/2</p>	<p>SPEAKER: TBA</p> <p>SHAWN KU, Director of “American Mall”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post Production—Multi-camera Editing ▪ Graphic design for their final projects. ▪ Sound design for their final project <p>Production Meetings: Group 1: 8am to 9 Group 2: 9-10</p> <p>10am Amy Byer Group 3: 11:30-12:15 Group 4: 12:15-1:00</p> <p>Assignment: SIGN UP FOR EDITING TIME Prepare actor presentation for class. Set construction off-campus.</p>
<p>7 10/9</p>	<p>PRODUCTION SCHEDULING – LAB WORK BEGIN REHEARSING SCENES OUTSIDE OF CLASS</p> <p>SPEAKER: 12pm Michael Curran, Casting Assistant Warner Bros TV</p> <p>Group 4: 9:30-10:15 Group 1: 10:15-11 Group 2: 11-11:45 Group 3: 11:45-12:30</p> <p>Repair Flats</p> <p>Assignment: Actor Releases Location Releases Sound Editing Composing Lighting package Cameras Title Sequence Graphics</p>
<p>8 10/16</p>	<p>SCENE presentation with actors</p> <p>All four scenes – Group 1: 8:15 am; Group 2: 9:45 am; Group 3: 11:15 am; Group 4: 12:45pm</p> <p>SET SAFETY DVD</p>
<p>9 10/23</p>	<p>FINAL SCENE PRODUCTION 1 --</p>
<p>10 10/30</p>	<p>FINAL SCENE PRODUCTION 2</p>

11 11/6	FINAL SCENE PRODUCTION 3
12 11/13	1ST CUTS DUE
11/20	THANKSGIVING BREAK---NO CLASS
13 11/27	SPEAKER: Jeff Luini, Production Supervisor (Time TBD) SCREEN 2ND CUTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion ▪ Continue Editing
14 12/4	SCREEN FINE CUTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dialogue, Sound, and Music Editing Titles DISCUSS SOUND PRIOR TO MIX
Finals Week	FINAL SCREENING-- All production materials and packages due.