

## **CT 355 Cinematography - Fall 2019 - York College**

<http://ct355fall19.wordpress.com>

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Office Hours: by appointment

### **Course Description**

: This course encompasses a series of projects involving all aspects of producing both motion picture and documentary cinematographic techniques. Technical knowledge and artistic application will be applied to specific camera and lighting equipment, emphasizing photographic quality and the evocation of emotion through compelling imagery. 3 Credits, 4 Hours

**Course Objectives:** The course is designed to enable the student to: 1) Understand complex camera operation; 2) diagnose composition and framing; 3) make competent lens choices; 4) plan complex camera movement; 5) determine proper exposure for a multitude of situations; 6) identify and replicate dynamic lighting; 7) navigate group collaboration; 8) successful blocking; 9) continuity in all aspects of visual storytelling.

**Students will produce several shorts during the semester, applying their skills learned in this course. Limited editing and audio recording will be done.**

### **Recommended Readings:**

- Digital Cinematography: Fundamentals, Tools, Techniques & Workflows; David Stump, ASC
- Cinematography - Theory and Practice; Blain Brown
- The ASC Manual - Tenth Edition; Edited by Michael Goi, ASC
- Set Lighting Technician's Handbook; Harry Box
- American Cinematographer Magazine; Monthly Publication The 5 C's of Cinematography; Joseph V. Mascelli
- The Visual Story - Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV & Digital Media; Bruce Block
- Painting with Light; John Alton, ASC

- Reflections; Benjamin Bergery
- ICG Magazine; Monthly Publication
- Rabiger, Michael. Directing the Documentary. Amsterdam: Focal, 2004. Print.

**Recommended, But not Required:**

Bernard, Sheila Curran. Documentary Storytelling: Making Stronger and More Dramatic Nonfiction Films. Amsterdam: Focal, 2007. Print.

**Materials:**

32GB SD Cards with a speed class of 10 or above.

32GB 1TB Hard drive. USB 3.0

Required readings will be distributed via PDF and posted on our class blog.

<http://ct355fall19.wordpress.com>

Here is 2018 Course Blog for reference: <http://daniel-phelps.com/ct355f18/>

**Outside of class participation:**

**Production Assignments:** All production work is geared toward the application of in-class exercises. The Production Deadlines are made clear to you as assignments posted on the class blog. Not meeting the deadlines of the production schedule will affect your project and your grade.

**Equipment Loan:** All the equipment used in class is loaned to you for the production of your documentary. All equipment is managed through the York College Equipment Stockroom in 4G03. Because the equipment is a limited resource, it may be reserved up to two weeks in advance of use and taken-out for a maximum 48 hour period. You are responsible financially for the equipment in your possession. You are also responsible for the timely return of equipment. Late returns and/or damaged equipment can result in the loss of access to equipment and failure of the class.

## **CT355 CLASS SCHEDULE**

Course dates and weeks subject to change

### **Class 1 - Monday, August 27th**

- Introduction to class & CT Equipment Briefing.

Monday September 2nd - No Class (Labor Day)

### **Class 2 - Wednesday, September 4th**

- Role of the cinematographer.
- Shot size, Composition, Framing.
- Screening of a short film

### **Class 3 - Thursday, September 5th (Classes follow a Monday schedule)**

- Digital Video, Sensors, Codecs, Frame rate, Interlaced vs Progressive.
- Demo of camera equipment

### **Class 4 - Monday, September 9th**

- Exposure, F-Stop, Shutter speed, ISO/Gain, Zebra.
- Camera hands-on and exposure exercise

### **Class 5 - Wednesday, September 11th**

- Focus, Lens choice, Zoom and Depth of Field
- Color Temperature and White Balance
- Camera hands-on and Focus, Zoom, Depth of Field and WB exercise

### **Class 6 - Monday, September 16th**

- Pitching session of character shooting assignment 1

### **Class 7 - Wednesday, September 18th**

- Camera shooting outside and inside the campus
- Viewing and critiquing

### **Class 8 - Monday, September 23th**

- Camera movement
- Static camera, Panning/Tilting, Dolly, Handheld
- Clips viewing

### **Class 9 - Wednesday, September 25th**

- Camera movement exercise
- Viewing and critiquing the clips

Monday, September 30th - No classes scheduled

### **Class 10 - Wednesday, October 2nd**

- Viewing and critiquing of assignment 1 (Character shooting)

→ *Assignment 1 (Character shooting) due on October 2st*

### **Class 11 - Monday, October 7th**

- Pitching session of location shooting assignment 2

Wednesday, October 9th - No classes scheduled

Monday, October 14th - No classes scheduled

### **Class 12 - Wednesday, October 16th**

- Film screening and discussion

→ *Documentary Log due October 16th*

### **Class 13 - Monday, October 21st**

- How cinematographers and gaffers use light to tell a visual/emotional story.
- Lighting techniques
- Lighting example clips

### **Class 14 - Wednesday, October 23rd**

- Color temperature, lighting, white balance
- Types of lighting units
- How to control light ?
- Intro to Grip equipment, gels, diffusion, bounce board...

### **Class 15 - Monday, October 28th**

- Hands-on introduction to lighting
- Hands-on intro to grip, gels and diffusion

### **Class 16 - Wednesday, October 30th**

- Interior camera and lighting exercise using artificial light

**Class 17 - Monday, November 4th**

- Exterior camera and lighting exercise using natural light

**Class 18 - Wednesday, November 6th**

- Viewing and critiquing interior and exterior students clips
- Viewing and critiquing of assignment 1 (Character shooting)

→ *Assignment 2 (location shooting) due on November 6th*

**Class 19 - Monday, November 11th**

- Viewing and critiquing assignment 2 (location shooting)

**Class 20 - Wednesday, November 13th**

- Pitching session of the final project (assignment 3)

**Class 21 - Monday, November 18th**

- Shooting & Continuity rules
- Screen direction
- 180 Degree Line
- Camera continuity exercise

**Class 22 - Wednesday, November 20th**

- Coverage and blocking
- Hands-on demo: blocking a scene

**Class 23 - Monday, November 25th**

- Color correction

**Class 24 - Wednesday, November 27th**

- Class editing session

**Class 25 - Monday, December 2nd**

- Class editing session

**Class 26 - Wednesday, December 4th**

- Class editing session

**Class 27 - Monday, December 9th**

- Rough cut viewing of the final project (Assignment 3)

### **Class 28 - Wednesday, December 11th**

- Rough cut viewing of the final project (Assignment 3)

### **Class 29 - Monday, December 16th**

- Final Project Presentations

### **Class 30 - Monday, December 18th**

- Final Project Presentations

### **Grading**

Project #1 (Person) : 25%

Project #2 (Place) : 25%

Project #3 (Final) : 25%

Class Participation/Analysis/Testing : 25%

- If you have 3 or more unexcused absences during the semester you grade will be automatically dropped 5% or your total grade (excused absences must be cleared with the professor prior to the class)
- Projects not delivered on-time will be docked 25% for every week they are late. If you miss the project deadline, you have 7 days to turn in the project for 75% , 14 days for 50%, 21 days for 25%, etc...

### **York College Policy on INC –**

<https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/policies/grading-policies>

A student who, because of extenuating circumstances, has not taken the final examination and/or completed the work for the course and has a passing average may be assigned an INC grade.

The student, in consultation with the instructor, has up to 10 weeks in the subsequent semester to complete the work and have the grade resolved even if not registered in the subsequent semester.

Grade changes resolving INC grades must be received by the Office of the Registrar by the last day of the 10th week of classes of the subsequent semester. (See Academic

Calendar for exact due date) Grades received after the deadline will not be processed unless the student has obtained approval from the Committee on Academic Standards.

The grade of INC is not considered in computing the academic index. However, if a grade change is not received by the Office of the Registrar within the above specified limits, the grade of INC is changed to FIN . This grade is considered an F grade when computing the academic index. When compiling the Dean's List INC grades are calculated as F.

### **CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity –**

<https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-integrity-officer>

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion from the College.

Some examples for academic dishonesty include Cheating (e.g., using notes during a closed book exam; changing graded exam and returning it for more credit, etc.), Plagiarism (e.g., using another person's words without quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source; internet cut & paste techniques without proper attribution, etc.), Obtaining Unfair Advantage (e.g., stealing, reproducing or circulating examination materials; depriving other students of access to library materials, etc.), and Falsification of Records and Official Documents (e.g., forging signatures of authorization; falsifying information on an official college document, etc.).

Under this policy all faculty members need to promptly report all incidents they consider to be academic dishonesty on the College's Faculty Report Form and shall submit the Form to the College's Academic Integrity Officer. A faculty member who suspects that a student has committed a violation of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy shall review with the student the facts and circumstances of the suspected violation whenever possible prior to making a determination triggering submission of a Faculty Report Form. Depending on the particular suggested resolution, the Report Form will either be filed by the Academic Integrity Officer, or will lead to a follow-up investigation and proceedings before the College Academic Integrity Committee, during which the student will have an opportunity to be heard, the right to present witnesses on his/her behalf, and the right to question the faculty member accusing him or her of academic dishonesty.

The College's Academic Integrity Officer is Assistant Provost Holger Henke (2H07). He can be reached at [hhenke@york.cuny.edu](mailto:hhenke@york.cuny.edu) or at 718-262-5338.

**York College Policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities –**  
<https://www.york.cuny.edu/student-development/star/faculty>

CUNY York College is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations to participate and complete requirements for this class, contact the STAR Program (Specialized Testing & Academic Resources), services for students with disabilities (Academic Core Building (AC), Room 1GO2, 718-262-2191/3732) for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.