

<b>TVFT 531A</b>	<b>Motion Picture Pre Production/Production</b>	<b>Winter 2012</b>	<b>M 6:10-10:00</b>	<b>Mus 255</b>	<b>4 Units</b>
<b>2nd Year MFA Prod</b>	<b>Alan Bloom</b>	<b>abloom@calstatela.edu</b>	<b>OH: M4-6 W1-2:30</b>	<b>Mus 251</b>	<b>Phone: 343-4209</b>

## **COURSE Description:**

**TVFT 531A Motion Picture Pre Production/Production (4):** Narrative Film Production. Prepares students to work in the collaborative environment of the professional filmmaker and through the varying phases of preparation and production.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1.** To produce and direct "film style" projects in the field with a realistic understanding of resources, capabilities and goals.
- 2.** To gain experience in the planning and execution of "film style" production.
- 3.** To understand pre-production and production processes.
- 4.** To function in a crew position contributing as a team member to the completion of projects.
- 5.** To engage in critical self-evaluation as it applies to one's work on one's own project as well as one's work on other projects.
- 6.** To prepare students for careers in production by emphasizing technical proficiency and creative artistry in film;
- 7.** To provide students in production with the intellectual and historical background central to their development as media artists and scholars;

## **COURSE PROCEDURES :**

- 1.** Each student/team will preproduce and begin production on a "Film Project".
- 2.** Each student will participate in crew positions on other student projects.
- 3.** Each student will lead the class in regular sessions relating to the progress being made on their projects
- 4.** Each student/team will manage their own screening and critique sessions in class.
- 5.** Each student will participate in other student's critiques.

## **COURSE Requirements:**

**1. Project:** Students are required to have original ideas for their projects in class no later than 1/23/12. Projects will be determined during the first three weeks of the quarter. Individual students are not required to direct, but may have other significant responsibilities on the project or projects. Responsibilities considered significant may include but are not limited to Producer, Production Manager, Cinematographer, Editor or Director; there is flexibility as it relates to size of teams and crew assignments. Students must cast (if necessary) and start shooting (EVEN IF IT IS ONLY AUDITIONS, LOCATION SCOUTS AND CAMERA TESTS) by fourth week of the quarter for screening in the fifth week of the quarter. Original content is due in class every week and student performance includes a pedagogical element where students explain how & what you have done and are doing on their projects. Shooting on projects can continue through fourth week of Spring Quarter but it is expected that post will commence shortly after production begins.

**2. Written/printed materials:** You are expected to keep your crew advised, in writing, of the nature of their responsibilities. You are expected to brief your crew before your production day(s) so that they may be fully prepared. Please have a copy of your production materials/book for the professor on screening days.

**3. Participating in Productions:** Every student must participate in productions. Students are expected to demonstrate a positive and healthy attitude at all times. You are expected to be committed to the successful completion of all projects, not just your own.

**4. Production Needs and Limitations:** Please remember that successful projects work within the production limitations to achieve a coherent, aesthetic and entertaining solution. Students are required to have access to their own hard drives for post production. While equipment (camcorders, tripods and lights) may be checked out during the assigned production weeks the professor **strongly advises** you to have outside access to a camera.

**5. Crewing:** All students are expected to seek out crew positions on other student field productions. Students will receive credit for each position served on another student's field project.

**6. DVDs:** All students are expected to purchase DVDs and tape for their exercises and projects. All exercises and projects must be handed in, on the final day, at the end of the quarter, on clearly labeled DVDs. Both DVD and DVD case must have a clearly and cleanly printed label with the following information indicating:

- 1) Title(s), Dates of completion;
- 2) Project lengths,
- 3) Name of director/producer.

On this DVD the students will provide finished copies of all their projects with the standard bars/tone, slate (CG) and countdown at the beginning of the package. At the conclusion of each DVD the student will record a complete list of credits.

**7. Team Work:** All creative and personal differences must be worked out amicably outside of class, these issues and your ability to deal positively with them is a measure of your maturity and professionalism.

**8. Critique Sessions:** Each student will present their completed exercises and projects to the class at critique sessions on days scheduled by the professor. All students are expected to be open minded at these sessions, to participate fully and welcome criticism from their classmates and professor. Remember it is more important to learn from one's mistakes than to simply celebrate a project's completion be it successful or otherwise. Students must demonstrate a willingness to accept criticism as part of the ongoing creative production process.

**Note:** There is no eating in class, use of headphones, cell phones, beepers or disruptive behavior.

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## GRADING SYSTEM:

Scores on specific assignments will be awarded up to a maximum as follows:

<b>GRADING SYSTEM:</b>	
<b>Critique management, Class &amp; Crew Participation</b>	<b>30 Points</b>
<b>Progress on Original Project and Report</b>	<b>70 points</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

## Grade Symbol Explanation & Grade Points Earned

**A Superior:** 4.0 per unit value of course

**A- Very Good:** 3.7 per unit value of course

**A/A-: superior work:** Original, thorough, and stylistically outstanding; you have gone significantly above and beyond what was expected of you throughout the class on every assignment and in participation. The class learned something valuable from you. **In the case of A-**, there are one or two very minor errors.

**B+ Better Than Average:** 3.3 per unit value of course

**B+: Good work:** You have exceeded expectations on some of the assignments. There are very few errors; the nature and amount are reflected in the +/- range. There may have been problems with consistency over the course of the term.

**B Satisfactory/Average:** 3.0 per unit value of course

**B: Average work:** You have done what was expected of you, no more, no less. There have been errors in some assignments: the nature and the amount are reflected in the +/- range. There may have been problems with consistency over the course of the term.

**B- Unsatisfactory:** 2.7 per unit value of course

**C+ Unsatisfactory:** 2.3 per unit value of course

**C Unsatisfactory:** 2.0 per unit value of course

**Below average:** You have done less than what was expected. Performance may have been inconsistent, or there may have been no improvement, despite warnings, over time.

**C- Failing:** 1.7 per unit value of course

**D+ Failing:** 1.3 per unit value of course

**D Failing:** 1.0 per unit value of course

**D- Failing:** 0.7 per unit value of course

**F Failing:** 0.0 per unit value of course

**Failure:** You have failed to meet even the minimum expectations of the course.

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## **Schedule:**

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#### **Week One**

**Monday, January 9: Class Requirements and Initial Ideas**

#### **Week Two**

**Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

#### **Week Three**

**Monday, January 23: Project and Team Set Up**

#### **Week Four**

**Monday, January 30: Project Preproduction Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Week Five**

**Monday, February 6: First Screenings (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Week Six**

**Monday, February 13: Screenings and Post Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Week Seven**

**Monday, February 20: Screenings and Post Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Week Eight**

**Monday, February 27: Screenings and Post Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Week Nine**

**Monday, March 5: Screenings and Post Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Week Ten**

**Monday, March 12: Screenings and Post Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

#### **Final**

**Monday, March 19: Final Quarter Screenings and Progress Reports (Pedagogical/Critique Process)**

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### **Note:**

The instructor reserves the right to change the course outline, requirements and/or schedules as needs arise. Students are expected to demonstrate a positive and healthy attitude at all times. Students must demonstrate a willingness to accept criticism as part of the ongoing creative production process. Personal differences must be worked out amicably outside of class. Conflict has no place in the classroom, these issues and your ability to deal positively with them is a measure of your maturity and professionalism. If these problems intrude into the classroom environment it will be weighed against your final grade.

### **Email:**

Cal State L.A. officially communicates to students using electronic mail (e-mail) and other methods. E-mail provides a cost-effective, timely, and environmentally sensitive means of communicating University business and academic information. Students are expected to access their Cal State L.A. e-mail account on a regular basis so that official university, college and department communications are delivered and received in a timely manner, and students do not miss important communications. If you wish to forward your Cal State L. A. email to another account, follow the link for instructions on how to do that: [http://www.calstatela.edu/its/docs/pdf/forwarding\\_emails.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/its/docs/pdf/forwarding_emails.pdf)

**Note:** Faculty and students are held accountable for official information sent to their university issues email accounts.