

N456  
Digital Cinema  
FALL 2016

Media Arts and Science / Department of Human-Centered Computing  
Indiana University School of Informatics and Computing, Indianapolis

Section: 26838  
Credits: 3  
Time: Mon 3:00-5:40 PM  
Location: IT 468, Informatics & Communications Technology Complex  
535 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
First Class: August 22, 2016  
Website:  
Instructor: C. Thomas Lewis, MFA (Film)  
Office: IT 473  
Hours: Tuesday, 2-4, or by Appointment  
535 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: (317) 278-3799 (Office)  
Email: lewisct@iupui.edu  
Prereqs: N353 Intermediate Video, N354 Directorial Analysis, Production, and  
RAW Workflow  
(Recommended N357 and N356 Lighting and Field Prod.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will work with the latest digital cinema technologies and workflows to create a short narrative film. Students will develop, script, and storyboard films, then plan and execute shoots. During post-production students will employ the latest professional practices to edit, color grade, mix, finish, and author their films for final presentation.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

Through a team approach to creating a 12+-minute narrative film of the highest production values, this advanced course will provide students with extensive experience of film pre-production, production and post-production. In this course students will collaborate in teams to create a single narrative film from start to finish. This experience will directly engage with the requirements involved in a successful production. In teams, students will develop a story, script it, storyboard it, create a shooting script, then plan and execute shoots outside of class. Then in the postproduction phase students will edit, color, mix, finish, and author their films to BD for final presentation to the class.

**Recommended Text:**

Title: *Cinematic Storytelling: The 100 Most Powerful Film Conventions Every Filmmaker Must Know*

Author: Jennifer Van Sijll

ISBN: 193290705X

Copyright: 2005

Publisher: Michael Wiese Productions

**Software Used:**

Avid Media Composer, DaVinci Resolve, Frame Forge

**Teaching and Learning Methods:**

Demonstrations of various tools for advanced filmmaking

Demonstrations of production and post-production work-flow practices

Readings and discussions of narrative theory

Screenings of prior class films and excerpts from various highly regarded films

Critiques of student work at various milestones

**Learning Outcomes:**

Specific Course Learning Outcomes	PUL*	Program Level Learning Outcomes**	Assessment
1. Have created a narrative film at a highly advanced level (6*)	A, B, C	7	Both the creative and technical level evident in the final films
2. Comprehend and have applied advanced methods of effective storytelling in the planning and execution of narrative films. (2,3)	A, B	1,2,3	The artistry, organization, logic and intelligibility evident in both pre-production and in final films
3. Have developed advanced proficiency with the tools and technology of film production (3)	B	6	The technical production values evident in the students' final films
4. An understanding of and applied concepts of visual literacy as they pertain to relating narrative information. (2,3)	C	1	The awareness of and sensitivity to the ethical considerations of representation. Mastery of cinematic space.
5. Comprehend and demonstrate advanced proficiency in aspects of pre-production, production and post-production of narrative films. (2,3)	B	3, 7	The production values evident in the students' final films.
* Number indicates category in Bloom's Taxonomy of cognitive domains.	*See Below	** See List of MAS Learning Outcomes Below	

## **Principles of Undergraduate Learning (PULs):**

Learning outcomes are assessed in the following areas:

Major Emphasis

- A. Core communication: written, oral and visual skills
- B. Integration and application of knowledge

Minor Emphasis

- C. Values and Ethics

Please visit <http://www.iport.iupui.edu/selfstudy/tl/puls/> to learn more.

## **Undergraduate Media Arts and Science Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of the Media Arts and Science undergraduate program will demonstrate expertise in the following core competencies essential to success as an informatics, computing and information technology professional specializing in new and interactive media:

1. Understand digital media and its effective use as a form of communication
2. Communicate ideas effectively in written and oral form to a range of audiences
3. Work effectively as a member of a team to achieve a common goal
4. Analyze a problem, identify and evaluate alternatives and plan an appropriate solution
5. Appreciate the history, theory and traditions of digital media. Evaluate media from multiple perspectives using the theories, concepts and language of digital media
6. Demonstrate mastery of the concepts, techniques and tools in one or more digital media specialties
7. Apply knowledge and skills to develop professional quality digital media productions in a timely manner and utilizing best practices and standards
8. Explain the impact of digital media on individuals, organizations and society
9. Acknowledge diverse opinions regarding professional, ethical, legal and social issues with a global perspective
10. Appreciate the need for lifelong learning and have a plan for continuing professional development

Please visit <http://www.iport.iupui.edu/selfstudy/tl/puls/> to learn more.

Specific Teaching Objectives:

- To teach creative methods of narrative storytelling through the medium of HD video technology: developing story ideas, translating ideas into a visual medium, and effectively structuring a story.
- To thoroughly experience the requirements of pre-production, production and post-production, as put into practice making 15+-minute narrative films.

- To give advanced experience of the tools involved in video production: cameras, lights, grip equipment, microphones and editing & presentation software.
- To give advanced experience with advanced lighting techniques including 3- point lighting and color temperature.
- To provide a comprehensive and advanced understanding of techniques involved in the successful depiction of cinematic space.
- To provide an advanced understanding of the HD video signal, including a fluency in the terminology associated with HD video technology and production.
- To develop techniques with AVID Media Composer and DaVinci Resolve including the use of picture profiles and LUTs.

#### Core Technical Competencies:

- How to plan and coordinate for a successful shoot
- How to plan and work on location
- How to light on location for dramatic entertainment
- How to operate a BlackMagic Cinema Camera using RAW DNG format
- How to record production audio
- How to work with tapeless video acquisition
- How to coherently represent cinematic space
- How to operate the tools involved in video production: lights, grip equipment, microphones and monitors.
- How to sync picture with sound
- How to edit dramatic narrative material with Avid Media Composer.
- How to finish a project after the final creative decisions have been completed, including the use of DaVinci Resolve for color grading.

#### Class supplies:

- Blank Blu-ray Discs/DVDs/Cases
- External Fire Wire Hard Drive – 1TB minimum
- Headphones (for editing in lab)
- Leather work gloves for handling lights

## EXPECTATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND POLICIES

### **Attendance:**

The success of the course depends on the consistent attendance of everyone. Genuine reasons like medical concerns will be taken into consideration with proper doctor certification. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class and possibly at the end. **Canvas is used for attendance and is graded like an assignment.** Canvas calculates tardies at 80%.

Only the following are acceptable excuses for absences: death in the immediate family (e.g. mother, father, spouse, child, or sibling), hospitalization or serious

illness; jury duty; court ordered summons; religious holiday; university/school coordinated athletic or scholastic activities; an unanticipated event that would cause attendance to result in substantial hardship to one's self or immediate family. Absences must be explained with the submission of appropriate documentation to the satisfaction of the instructor, who will decide whether missed work may be made up. Absences that do not satisfy the above criteria are considered unexcused. To protect your privacy, doctor's excuses should exclude the nature of the condition and focus instead on how the condition impacts your attendance and academic performance.

Missing class reduces your grade through the following grade reduction policy: You are allowed two excused or unexcused absences. A third absence, unless excused, results in a 10% reduction in your final course grade. More than three absences result in an F in the course. Missing class may also reduce your grade by eliminating opportunities for class participation. For all absences, the student is responsible for all covered materials and assignments.

### **Incomplete:**

The instructor may assign an Incomplete (I) grade only if at least 75% of the required coursework has been completed at passing quality and holding you to previously established time limits would result in unjust hardship to you. All unfinished work must be completed by the date set by the instructor. Left unchanged, an Incomplete automatically becomes an F after one year.

<http://registrar.iupui.edu/incomp.html>

### **Deliverables:**

You are responsible for completing each deliverable (e.g., assignment, quiz) by its deadline and submitting it by the specified method. Deadlines will be presented in class and/or supplementary documents accessible through Canvas. Should you miss a class, you are still responsible for completing the deliverable and for finding out what was covered in class, including any new or modified deliverable. In fairness to the instructor and students who completed their work on time, a grade on a deliverable shall be reduced 25%, if it is submitted late and a further 10% for each 24-hour period it is submitted after the deadline.

### **Exams/quizzes:**

- There could be quizzes, surprise and otherwise.
- Quizzes will happen at the beginning of class. There will be no extensions for lateness and no make-ups for absences.
- There will be no grade change unless there is a proof of mathematical miscalculation.

### **Class Assignments:**

Assignments include storyboards produced using Frame Forge software, readings assigned from the various texts, and the films produced.

**Participation:**

All students are expected to participate by answering questions, asking questions and actively discussing projects during lecture. Students are expected to participate in the film shoots, and to vary the capacity in which they work. Your active participation is crucial for class morale. See further information about class participation under Grading Information.

**Tentative Weekly Schedule:**

Week 1	Introduction/Course Expectations Story Presentation
Week 2	Story Development Story Discussion
Week 3	Exposure Review Beat List Due
Week 4	Tilta/Dolly Demo Script Rough Drafts Due Editing Work Flow
Week 5	Shape Camera Lecture/Demos Final Drafts Due
Week 6	Start Story Boards Pre-Production Meetings IKAN camera demo Storyboards Due Storyboard Milestone
Week 7	Production Starts
Week 8	Film Screening
Week 9	Production Meetings
Week 10	Production Meetings
Week 11	Production Meetings/ Resolve
Week 12	Production Wraps/ Resolve
Week 13	Post-Production/Resolve
Week 14	Post-Production Rough Cut Due
Week 15	Finishing/Authoring Starts
Week 16	Film Screening Films Due Post-Production Peer Review Due

**Grading Information:**

75% For your final film  
20% For all production milestone grades.

10% Class participation/attendance and quiz/test grades make up the balance.

Class participation refers to the frequency AND quality of your contributions as seen in your presentation of ideas, your contribution to discussions, your enthusiasm to participate with the hands-on aspects of production.

Instead of a peer review you will be required to maintain a logbook of the time spent on your film. A logbook consists of the hours spent during a given day, a description of the tasks completed (including challenges faced and how you dealt with them), the location, and a running total of your accumulated time.

I will not accept ANY assignments after 1 week following the original due date. Class ends at 5:40, you have until 5:40 the following week to submit a late assignment and still get a small amount of credit.

Grading Scale:

97-100	A +
93-96	A
90-92	A -
87-89	B +
83-86	B
80-82	B -
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D -

### Instructions for Checking out Equipment

- The Equipment Room is IT 259
- Do not wait until the last minute to reserve a camera.
- Equipment reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance.
- Review the equipment check-out policies at:  
<http://soic.iupui.edu/technology/policies/equipment/>

### Reserve available equipment at:

<https://soic.iupui.edu/app/support/reserve/equipment/?casticket=ST-840770-cpHBu4txyPW2nIXsl2rb-casprd02.uits.iu.edu>

Accessing IT270 lab for after school hours

To get access to the IT270 after 9 pm weekdays or 6 pm weekends, you will need to print a request form from: <http://informatics.iupui.edu/technology/labs/>

Fill in the form, get my signature, and then submit the form to Mike. Once your Jagtag is scanned, you will be able to enter the lab after school hours.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of IUPUI is to provide for its constituents excellence in

- Teaching and Learning
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Civic Engagement

With each of these core activities characterized by

- Collaboration within and across disciplines and with the community
- A commitment to ensuring diversity, and
- Pursuit of best practices

IUPUI's mission is derived from and aligned with the principal components – Communities of Learning, Responsibilities of Excellence, Accountability and Best Practices – of Indiana University's Strategic Directions Charter.

## **STATEMENT OF VALUES**

IUPUI values the commitment of students to learning; of faculty to the highest standards of teaching, scholarship, and service; and of staff to the highest standards of service. IUPUI recognizes students as partners in learning. IUPUI values the opportunities afforded by its location in Indiana's capital city and is committed to serving the needs of its community. Thus, IUPUI students, faculty, and staff are involved in the community, both to provide educational programs and patient care and to apply learning to community needs through service. As a leader in fostering collaborative relationships, IUPUI values collegiality, cooperation, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship as well as honesty, integrity, and support for open inquiry and dissemination of findings. IUPUI is committed to the personal and professional development of its students, faculty, and staff and to continuous improvement of its programs and services.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students should aspire to the highest standards of academic integrity. Using another student's work on an assignment, cheating on a test, not quoting or citing references correctly, or any other form of dishonesty or plagiarism shall result in a grade of zero on the item and possibly an F in the course. Incidences of academic misconduct shall be referred to the Department Chair and repeated violations shall result in dismissal from the program.

All students are responsible for reading, understanding, and applying the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct and in particular the section on academic misconduct. Refer to The Code > Responsibilities > Academic Misconduct at <http://www.indiana.edu/~code/>. All students must also

successfully complete the Indiana University Department of Education “How to Recognize Plagiarism” Tutorial and Test. <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd> You must document the difference between your writing and that of others. Use quotation marks in addition to a citation, page number, and reference whenever writing someone else’s words (e.g., following the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association). To detect plagiarism instructors apply a range of methods, including Turnitin.com. <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/libinfo/turnitin>

### **Academic Misconduct:**

1. Cheating: Cheating is considered to be an attempt to use or provide unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any form and in any academic exercise or environment.
  - a. A student must not use external assistance on any “in-class” or “take-home” examination, unless the instructor specifically has authorized external assistance. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of tutors, books, notes, calculators, computers, and wireless communication devices.
  - b. A student must not use another person as a substitute in the taking of an examination or quiz, nor allow other persons to conduct research or to prepare work, without advanced authorization from the instructor to whom the work is being submitted.
  - c. A student must not use materials from a commercial term paper company, files of papers prepared by other persons, or submit documents found on the Internet.
  - d. A student must not collaborate with other persons on a particular project and submit a copy of a written report that is represented explicitly or implicitly as the student’s individual work.
  - e. A student must not use any unauthorized assistance in a laboratory, at a computer terminal, or on fieldwork.
  - f. A student must not steal examinations or other course materials, including but not limited to, physical copies and photographic or electronic images.
  - g. A student must not submit substantial portions of the same academic work for credit or honors more than once without permission of the instructor or program to whom the work is being submitted.
  - h. A student must not, without authorization, alter a grade or score in any way, nor alter answers on a returned exam or assignment for credit.
2. Fabrication: A student must not falsify or invent any information or data in an academic exercise including, but not limited to, records or reports, laboratory results, and citation to the sources of information.
3. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work, including the work of other students, as one’s own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered “common

knowledge” may differ from course to course.

- a. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment.
- b. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:
  1. directly quoting another person’s actual words, whether oral or written;
  2. using another person’s ideas, opinions, or theories;
  3. paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
  4. borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
  5. offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment
4. Interference: A student must not steal, change, destroy, or impede another student’s work, nor should the student unjustly attempt, through a bribe, a promise of favors or threats, to affect any student’s grade or the evaluation of academic performance. Impeding another student’s work includes, but is not limited to, the theft, defacement, or mutilation of resources so as to deprive others of the information they contain.
5. Violation of Course Rules: A student must not violate course rules established by a department, the course syllabus, verbal or written instructions, or the course materials that are rationally related to the content of the course or to the enhancement of the learning process in the course.
6. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: A student must not intentionally or knowingly help or attempt to help another student to commit an act of academic misconduct, nor allow another student to use his or her work or resources to commit an act of misconduct.

## **OTHER POLICIES**

1. IUPUI course policies: A number of campus policies governing IUPUI courses may be found at the following link:  
[http://registrar.iupui.edu/course\\_policies.html](http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html)
2. Classroom civility: To maintain an effective and inclusive learning environment, it is important to be an attentive and respectful participant in lectures, discussions, group work, and other classroom exercises. Thus, unnecessary disruptions should be avoided, such as ringing cell phones engagement in private conversations and other unrelated activities. Texting, surfing the Internet, and posting to Facebook or Twitter during class are generally not permitted. IUPUI nurtures and promotes “a campus climate that seeks, values, and cultivates diversity in all of its forms and that provides conditions necessary for all campus community members to feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued” (IUPUI Strategic Initiative 9). IUPUI prohibits “discrimination against anyone **for reasons** of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital

status, age, disability, or [veteran] status” (Office of Equal Opportunity). Profanity or derogatory comments about the instructor, fellow students, invited speakers or other classroom visitors, or any members of the campus community shall not be tolerated. A violation of this rule shall result in a warning and, if the offense continues, possible disciplinary action.

3. Bringing children to class: To ensure an effective learning environment, children are not permitted to attend class with their parents, guardians, or childcare providers.
4. Disabilities Policy: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of accommodations needed for the course. Students requiring accommodations because of a disability must register with Adaptive Educational Services (AES) and complete the appropriate AES-issued before receiving accommodations. The AES office is located at UC 100, Taylor Hall (Email: [aes@iupui.edu](mailto:aes@iupui.edu), Tel. 317 274-3241). Visit <http://aes.iupui.edu> for more information.
5. Administrative Withdrawal: A basic requirement of this course is that students participate in all class discussions and conscientiously complete all required course activities and/or assignments. If a student is unable to attend, participate in, or complete an assignment on time, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor. If a student misses more than half of the required activities within the first 25% of the course without contacting the instructor, the student may be administratively withdrawn from this course. Administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial, and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and a student who has been administratively withdrawn from a course is ineligible for a tuition refund. Contact the instructor with questions concerning administrative withdrawal.