

FA 350: Project in Film

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DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for students enrolled in the Film Studies Certificate Program, who have successfully completed the 3 core courses (FA 341 History of Cinema, FA 348 Introduction to Film Analysis, FA 349 Film Theory) and who have a semester-long project they want to realize. This project can be a film studies or a filmmaking project: intensive directed research and writing of a paper or the production of a short film and its written analysis, or any other film-related project and its written analysis. Therefore, it is assumed that the participant has an adequate background in film studies and is ready to embark on a semester long project of her/his own design.

PROCEDURES:

We will meet each week one-on-one or as often as needed. These meetings will include project presentations, screenings of excerpts, and discussions. Since this is an independent project course, it will be guided by your specific needs and challenges you face during the semester. I will be available to you by appointment only to discuss any matter related to this course. You can always reach me via e-mail.

Readings: There is no required text but there might be assigned readings and handouts throughout the course tailored to each student's specific needs. Naturally you are required to do all the assigned readings.

Term Project: Each student is required to plan and execute a term project (usually one of the two options below) and present and discuss their work in three phases:

(A) a research/theoretical paper

OR

(B) a production

1. First phase: Preparation

- a. proposal
- b. literature/film search
- c. bibliography/filmography

2. Second phase: Research

- a. reading & research
- b. outline

3. Third phase: Writing

- a. first draft
- b. second draft

1. First phase: Pre-production

- a. proposal
- b. treatment/script
- c. complete proposal and pre-production folder

2. Second phase: Production

- a. shooting and screening of raw footage
- b. post-production prep work

3. Third phase: Post-production

- a. Rough cut (editing script, assembly cut, first cut)
- b. Final cut and an analysis paper

Work-in-progress reports: Every week before we meet, each student is required to submit a project progress report via e-mail.

Presentation of Assignments: All written assignments should be typed (1.5-spaced, 10-point font) and printed on A4 paper. When applicable, proper footnotes, references and/or bibliography are required. The first page of your assignment should always contain this information:

- your name**
- course code and title**
- assignment title** (to specify which assignment it is)
- date of submission**

All written assignments should be submitted on paper, as well as e-mailed to me by the due dates. Always keep a copy for yourself.

All video assignments should be submitted online (Vimeo recommended). Online submissions should have the same information (**your name, course code and title, assignment name, date of submission**). **Make sure to test your online submissions in advance.**

Due dates must be observed. Late submission of assignments is not acceptable.

Participation: As this is a project course, your participation is crucial and you are responsible for your own progress. You are expected to attend all meetings and do all the reading, writing, or production assignments, as well as to present your own work effectively. EACH TIME BEFORE WE MEET YOU WILL PRESENT A PROGRESS REPORT VIA E-MAIL.

ASSESSMENT:

Important Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's work or ideas as if they were your own. When it is necessary or desirable to use other people's material you should adequately acknowledge whose words or ideas they are and where you found them (giving the complete reference details, including page numbers). If you submit a written assignment where you make use of other people's work (from books or articles, the Internet, DVD contents/covers, friends, etc.) without acknowledging it and attempting to pass it off as your own you will fail this course and you may also be subject to disciplinary action by the university.

Grades:

Based on her/his performance, each student will receive a letter grade, calculated using the assessment method below:

Participation (includes progress reports):	35%
Term project:	
First phase	25%
Second phase	20%
Third phase	20%
Total	100%