



Undergraduate Course Syllabus

COM 128: Language and Practice of Media Arts

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

This is an introduction to the practice of media production and the study of visual media literacy. The course examines the fundamental components and structure of moving image texts, explores how dynamic relationships between those elements convey meaning, and then exercises that knowledge through media production.

Production design, language, technology, and methods will be discussed enabling all students in the class to have a common language of image analysis and creation. Readings and discussions on topics such as cinematography, narrative meaning, image and sound design, editing, genres, and culture will be included. Creative interpretative and expression of ideas will be exercised in the production of media.

Course Outcomes

- Utilize time-based media development processes that ensure cohesive storytelling
- Explain video, text, and audio production choices using basic time-based production terminology
- Make deliberate creative production choices that successfully bring clients' concepts to fruition
- Apply composition and design elements in creating time-based media targeted to specific audiences

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Language and Practice of Media Arts (eBook)

McGraw-Hill Create

Latest Edition

ISBN: 978-1-308-76987-5

MBS Direct SKU #: 2086433

Optional Resource:*The Digital Filmmaking Handbook*

Schenk, Sonja and Ben Long

Cengage Learning

5th Edition

ISBN: 978-1-305-25871-6

http://ezproxy.snhu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=798230&site=eds-live&scope=site&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_Cover

Software: Video editing software is required for this course. Which software you will use in this course is up to you; however, Adobe Premiere Pro is highly recommended. It is included in Adobe Creative Cloud. Subscription is available for purchase [here](#). Alternate choices include Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, or other software.

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	4	50	200
Workshop	1	75	75
Videos	2	75	150
Final Project Part I			
Milestone One	1	25	25
Milestone Two	1	75	75
Milestone Three	1	75	75
Storyboard and Overview	1	125	125
Final Project Part II			
Milestone One	1	100	100
Pitch Presentation and Short Web Video	1	175	175
		Total Course Points:	1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Total Points: 1,000				
Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Points Equivalent	
			Lower	Upper
A	93-100	4	930	1000
A-	90-92	3.67	900	929
B+	87-89	3.33	870	899
B	83-86	3	830	869
B-	80-82	2.67	800	829
C+	77-79	2.33	770	799
C	73-76	2	730	769
C-	70-72	1.67	700	729
D+	67-69	1.33	670	699
D	60-66	1	600	669
F	0-59	0	0	599
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
IP	In Progress (past end of term)			
W	Withdrawn			

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Campaign Objectives <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapters 1 and 2 1-1 Discussion: Introductions and Identifying a Client's Needs 1-2 Final Project Part I Milestone One: Your Campaign Pitch
2	Scripting <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapter 3 2-1 Discussion: Good Storytelling 2-2 Final Project Part I Milestone Two: Script

3	Storyboarding <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapters 4 and 5 3-1 Workshop: Storyboard Reverse Engineering
4	Shot Angle and Lighting <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapters 6, 7, and 8 4-1 Final Project Part I Milestone Three: Shot List 4-2 Video: Visual Elements, Image Composition, and Lighting
5	Business, Ethics, and Law of Film <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapter 9 5-1 Discussion: Copyright and Fair Use 5-2 Final Project Part I: Storyboard and Project Overview
6	Sound <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapter 10 6-1 Video: Sound-Only Storytelling 6-2 Reminder: Begin Filming
7	Editing <i>Language and Practice of Media Arts</i> , Chapter 11 7-1 Final Project Part II Milestone One: Rough Edit 7-2 Continue Work on Final Project Part II
8	Presentation and Persuasion 8-1 Final Project Part II: Pitch Presentation and Short Web Video 8-2 Discussion: Creative Collaboration and Networking

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities.

As soon as you become aware of a disability, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC. Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed.

Contact Information:

Online Accessibility Center

Phone: 866-305-9430

Email: oad@snhu.edu

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the [Disability Services](#) webpage.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

Student Work Samples

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please email assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu.