

Film 2998
Digital Film Production 1
October 18, 2021

Assignment #2 - Camera

1. **White Balance exercise** – You can alter the white balance (WB) of the camera in different ways. Using the <Set WB> function, change the colour of the white balance to the following colours to reproduce the light of different times of day. HINT: if you use a blue colour to white balance with, the image will look the complementary colour of orange. Shoot a shot with this colour balance and describe on camera what you did to get it.
 - a. Orange – sunrise colour (CSI Miami look)
 - b. Blue – a cooler coloured light maybe early in the morning if the sun is not up yet.
 - c. Day for night – with the blue coloured white balance, use manual exposure to reduce the exposure by 2 stops.

2. **Shoot Classic TV coverage of a scene**

Television shows are typically shot using 5 different shots: wide shot, medium shot, close up, over the shoulder and cutaway. They use this formula to shoot quickly covering 7-8 pages of script a day. Your group will use 2 actors for this exercise.

The group will determine the action in the scene – it could be a couple breaking up, a student asking for a loan or returning a late library book or anything you come up with. You will have one character enter the scene and approach the other, they will talk and then one character will exit the scene. You can block it however you like in the location you choose.

You will do a minimum of 5 shots.

- 1) Master shot – a wide shot that captures the entire scene
- 2) Over the shoulder shot on character 1 for whole of dialogue (dialogue should be at most 4-6 lines – shoot all dialogue with each camera angle).
- 3) Over the shoulder shot on character 2 for whole of dialogue
- 4) Medium close up on Character 1 for whole of dialogue
- 5) Medium close up on Character 2 for whole of dialogue

If you like you could do a cutaway (glass on table, clock or whatever).

EDITING – each student will edit their own cut of the footage.

3. **Motion Picture Coverage of a scene**

As described above TV depends on speed of shooting. Movies are shot at a slower pace and often use more imaginative shooting techniques. For this part of the

assignment, you will shoot the exact same scene as above, but you will explore different shot types that we talked about in class to create a more cinematic version of the scene. Try to think of 8-10 shots that you can use to get coverage of the scene. One strategy is to think of shots to cover the scene up to a certain point, for instance you could dolly with the character entering the room and arrive at the second character in a 2 shot. You could get a high angle shot of the room and see the 1st character approach the second. You could frame character one and move the camera off them to reveal character 2 entering the room.

You could get a shot from a low angle looking up if you have a loan officer in a powerful position, then you could shoot a high angle of the student asking for the loan to make them look powerless. Another strategy is to think of isolating part of the character's body to add tension to the scene. A CU of hands wringing says something about the mental state of your character. A CU profile of a character's eyes could indicate an emotion. In *The Good, the Bad and The Ugly*, the climactic finale gunfight show isolated parts of the 3 gunslingers to build tension before the shootout.

Each student will edit their own *cinematic* version of the scene. We will view your edited cuts in class and discuss how each version worked out for you.

Deliverables

Students will work in their group to shoot footage for this assignment, and each student will provide their own version of the 3 exercises to me on a digital medium.

1. White balance exercise (3 shots)
2. Classic TV – edited movie file using all 5 shots.
3. Motion picture coverage – edited movie file using most or all of the shots done by the group.

This assignment is due in 4 weeks – November 15th

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone 455-1632 or email: tony@nbfilmcoop.com