

CTPR 506 FILM PROJECT

Students collaborate in groups of four. Additional crewmembers cannot be recruited or paid. The film must be produced economically and cannot create a financial burden for the group. Non-graduate production students must work in groups with at least two production majors. Students are expected to collaborate in a professional, mature manner and share the responsibilities of making their film. The film screenings are a critical component of 506 and are part of the final exam. Attendance at these screenings is absolutely mandatory.

A. SCRIPT

1. Write a simple story/script with a structure that lends itself to an intensity build as it has been discussed in class. The story requires a clear exposition, a conflict that builds in intensity to a climax, and a brief resolution. Keep the story simple. The story can be any genre or style.
2. Using the Principle of Contrast & Affinity in conjunction with the visual components, create a film with a visual structure that supports the story and its structure. The purpose of the film assignment is to demonstrate a control of the visual components, so the script should reflect that goal. Do not write a script that is overly complex, beyond the scope of the class or too expensive to produce.
3. The story's principal characters must be people. Drawings, animals, pets, toys, mannequins, statues and puppets don't count as a person. Students may not act in their own project.
4. The story should be set in a place where the film group has control over the physical location, the visuals and actors. Because the film cannot use any dialogue or spoken words, the script must create a situation that will allow for this limitation.
5. The completed film's time length is three to five minutes (3-5 minutes) absolute maximum including titles & credits. The film must be produced in color and with a horizontal aspect ratio approximately 16:9.

B. VISUALS

1. All footage must be original. Do not photograph computer, smartphone or TV screens or show footage from films, television, computer games or the Internet. Use of AI is prohibited. Animation and Interactive students should discuss their film project's content and approach with Professor Block.

2. Do not tell your story using on-screen text. Do not photograph inserts of words, computer screens, emails, texts, smartphones, signs, books, etc. A single title card & credits are permitted.

3. Your finished project must be submitted on a portable drive as an mp4 or mov file. Compressed files are fine. Color bars & tones are not necessary.

C. SOUND

1. Sound is not a requirement. Do not use any dialogue or spoken words in any language on or off screen. Song lyrics, voice-overs and narration are prohibited. Don't capture actors talking and then delete the sound. Your movie can be silent but music or sound effects are fine.

D. PHYSICAL PRODUCTION

1. Minimal SCA production equipment (cameras, lights, etc.) and editing facilities may be available although other production classes can have priority.

2. 506 film groups must obtain USC/SCA insurance and a production number. Each 506 film group must go online and register for a production number.

3. Groups must abide by all USC/SCA rules for prep, on-set safety, hazardous shooting situations, permits, work-hours, SAG regulations, insurance, production and postproduction. Students cannot operate equipment they are unfamiliar with or are unqualified to use.

4. Filming permits issued by FilmLA and, if necessary, other authorities are mandatory for every 506 production. Police, Fire Departments and other officials have the right to refuse access to locations, and alter or shut down any production even if you have a proper permit.