



**CMST 291: MAKING MOVIES (5 Cr)**  
**Spring 2010 – TTh 12:30-2:40 A130**

**Instructors:**

Ron Austin – [ron.austin@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:ron.austin@bellevuecollege.edu)

Louise Amandes – [louise.amandes@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:louise.amandes@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Online resources located at:** My BC <http://mybcc.net/>

---

**Course Description:**

This course introduces the basic techniques and equipment used in pre-production and production of making a low budget independent movie. Some of the techniques that we study will be universal to most films. Students will work together in groups to bring an existing script to a finished digital video short. In addition, we will look at theoretical and historical aspects of filmmaking.

**Required Text:**

There is no required text book. We will review online content, as well as printed hand outs. There will be assigned reading most weeks. We will have group discussions and projects based on the reading or viewing of films.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

1. Work together on a group film production.
2. Demonstrate how to use an SLR camera along with other cameras such as an HVX.
3. Demonstrate basic lighting techniques for a variety of situations.
4. Understand how to use audio equipment to record good dialogue.
5. Assist in creating a short script and a storyboard.
6. Describe how to analyze and compose a shot.
7. Demonstrate an understanding for theories of cinematography.
8. Demonstrate an understanding for theories of film editing.
9. Use editing software and techniques. Distribute final work in a variety of formats.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of some key historical aspects of film production.
11. Use appropriate languages of film when describing and analyzing a scene.

## **Grading:**

Total Points: 600

Assignments 200 points total

Assignments will be directly related to production of the film. They may also include writing, story boarding, meetings, and production.

Journal: 100 points

You will have journal entries about once a week. There will be about 10 total entries.

Quizzes: 200 points

There will be three quizzes during the quarter.

Participation: 100 points

Participation is based on attendance, submitting work on time, and behavior.

## **Final Grading (percent of 600 points)**

93-100%=A

90-92=A-

88-89=B+

83-87=B

80-82=B-

78-79=C+

73-73=C

70-72=C-

65-69=D

(percentages less than 65% will receive an F)

---

## **Student Behavior**

Politeness and professional behavior are expected in class. Copyright and Plagiarism: If you are found to have cheated or copied for any assignment or exam you will forfeit your grade for the assignment. This also applies for unprofessional conduct within a group. You also risk receiving a failing grade for the course for unprofessional conduct on a team or for cheating.

## **Submitting Assignments**

Journals will be posted as blog entries to an online site of your choice. Assignments will usually be the completed film projects and will be presented to the class. Quizzes will be completed during class.

## **Late Work**

Assignments and projects submitted late will be graded down 15% automatically. Assignments, such as your film productions, will not be accepted later than three days after the due date. You are responsible for backing up your own work. Losing your work to loss of data is NOT an excuse.

## **Student Services**

Disability Resource Center: Location B132, Phone 425-564-2498

Counseling Center: Location B234, Phone 425-564-2212

Student Programs: Location C212, Phone 425-564-6150

Many other services are available to students. These are listed at:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/resources/services/>

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Week 1   | Introductions, course overview. Topic: Basic language of film   |
| Week 2   | First film project assigned. Class topic: Genre and narrative.  |
| Week 3   | Camera equipment introduction. Class topic: frames, and images  |
| Week 4   | Present first film project. Second film project assigned. Class topic: script and story analysis. Quiz 1. |
| Week 5   | Class topic: Crew positions, timelines, Story boarding.   |
| Week 6   | Class topic: Working with actors, locations, and lighting.  |
| Week 7   | Production time as needed. Class topic: Editing basics and theory.  |
| Week 8   | Production time as needed. Class topic: music. Quiz 2.  |
| Week 9   | Production time as needed. Class topic: Special effects and title sequences                               |
| Week 10  | Preview rough cuts. Class topic: Digital delivery and festivals   |
| Week 11  | Final editing of films. Quiz 3  |
| Week 12  | Final Presentation of films (last day June 12th)  |
| <p>Note that the instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule and syllabus as needed. Because of the nature of this class it is likely that topics will shift from this calendar. But this will serve a guideline.</p> |   |