

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
COMM 5305 – Video Workshop – Video Editing

FALL 2021
Tues/Thurs
12:30pm – 1:45pm
Motion Capture Soundstage

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Regular Office Hours:

By appointment only via Zoom until my
kids are vaccinated, thanks to COVID-19.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Video Editing is the process by which moving images and sounds are placed together in a specific order for the purpose of telling a story. The form doesn't really matter: recapping the action of a *Call Of Duty*-style first-person shooter is the same job as building a 30-second advertising trailer, editing an episode of television, or cutting a fiction feature or documentary. The raw materials remain the same: moving images and sounds.

In this class, we will explore the basic elements of video editing, types of edits, effective editing patterns, and the artistic and philosophic underpinnings of same. We'll use Apple's Final Cut Pro X as our learning platform. The dirty secret – one of them; there are many – of professional editing is that the platform (Avid, Final Cut, Adobe Premiere, Etc.) is merely a tool. The art and skill of editing is in the hands and mind of the editor, and the software merely brings about what's in the imagination of the artist. Everything else is just marketing.

This is an introductory course. Advanced topics, such as compressed output, motion graphics, and compositing, are beyond the scope of this class. Individual study of these topics is encouraged, but cannot be supported in-class, given the goals of the course.

Editing is a time-intensive activity. This class, particularly the later projects, will require hours in front of the computer well beyond class time. For this reason, the readings end at mid-semester. Lab time will be available outside of class. Plan your schedule accordingly. Lab time will be available outside of class.

AS THIS IS A GRADUATE-LEVEL CLASS, I will expect longer, more in-depth production work, graduate-level writing in your papers, and I will assign a unit of the class for you to teach, under my supervision.

Communication Program **Student Learning Outcomes**

SLO 1: Students will be able to analyze communication content for argument, including identification of major elements, such as claim, warrants, and data.

SLO 2: Students will be able to effectively construct messages appropriate to audience, purpose, and context; including electronic media technologies.

SLO 3: Students will be able to apply Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts to the analysis of communication situations.

PREREQUISITES

None.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this class, students will:

- Demonstrate a working vocabulary of editing and filmmaking terminology
- Identify and justify significant variations in editing style and strategy – explain “why” a particular edit works.
- Demonstrate beginner-level mastery of Apple’s Final Cut Pro X
- Articulate the functions of editing as a storytelling tool.
- Evaluate and critique merit and functionality of editing patterns of various kinds of visual storytelling on a case-by-case basis.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) Terminology / Definitions Quiz
- 2) Mid-Term Paper – “The Murch Paper”
- 3) Trailer Editing Project
- 4) Freeform Editing Project
- 5) Teaching unit
- 6) Full participation in class discussion / critique

Required Textbooks for this class:

In the Blink of an Eye
Murch, Walter; Silman-James Press 2001

Materials Required:

None

CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines

Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	Aug 24	Introduction. Review Syllabus, Assignments, and Deadlines. Expected outcomes. Review of jobs in the editing marketplace
2	Aug 26	Screening: watch <i>The Cutting Edge: The Magic of Movie Editing</i> (Dir. Wendy Apple, 2004).
3	Aug 31	
4	Sept 2	Begin reading Murch <i>In the Blink of an Eye</i> .

- 5 Sept 7 Begin cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 6 Sept 9 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 7 Sept 14 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 8 Sept 16 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 9 Sept 21 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 10 Sept 23 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 11 Sept 28 Finish reading Murch *In the Blink of an Eye*.
- 12 Sept 30 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 13 Oct 5 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 14 Oct 7 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 15 Oct 12 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 16 Oct 14 First Cut *Julius Caesar* screening.

MID-TERM PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS.

- 17 Oct 19 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 18 Oct 21 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 19 Oct 26 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 20 Oct 28 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 21 Nov 2 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 22 Nov 4 Second cut *Julius Caesar*
- 23 Nov 9 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 24 Nov 11 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 25 Nov 16 Cutting *Julius Caesar*
- 26 Nov 18 Screen Fine Cut *Julius Caesar*
- 27 Nov 23 Last notes

Nov 24-26 NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

- 28 Nov 30 Picture lock *Julius Caesar*

**DEC 8 FINAL EXAM – 10:15am-12:15pm MoCap
Paper on Lessons Learned due 12:14pm**

GRADING

Assignments are valued as follows:

1) Quizzes	10%
2) Mid-term paper	20%
3) Trailer Assignment	20%
4) Freeform Assignment	25%
5) Teaching Unit	15%
6) Class participation/Attendance	10%

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship.

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

LATE PAPERS

Deadlines are an inescapable part of responsible, professional, adult life. Late papers will lose a letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

If you discover, *a week or more in advance*, that you have multiple deadlines converging on the same day, you may request a change in deadline> Such a change may be granted at the instructor’s discretion. Once the deadline has passed, it’s too late to ask for exceptions. Manage your time and deadlines wisely.

TARDINESS / ABSENCE POLICY

Attendance is 10% of your grade. That’s the difference between an “A” and a “B”...or an “F” and a “D.”

TARDINESS

Class BEGINS EXACTLY AT THE APPOINTED TIME. It is your responsibility to be prepared to begin BEFORE the class starts.

Three instances of tardiness is equivalent to one absence. See below for the class absence policy.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PRESENT AT THE START OF CLASS* – ON THE HOUR. **PLAN ACCORDINGLY**. ON-TIME is EARLY!

*Exceptions will be made only for those with classes located in RAS whose end time makes on-time arrival impossible.

Punctuality is essential in this business. Tardiness will not be tolerated.

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.