

# COMM 299: SYLLABUS

## Themes in Film and Intermediate Digital Media:

### Filmmaking in Rome

**Spring Semester 2018**

Wednesdays | 2:00-5:00pm |

Prof. Mariarosy Calleri

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Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-2:00 pm

#### **Course Description**

COMM 299 "Themes in Film and Intermediate Digital Media" is a hands-on introduction to writing, directing and editing short narrative films, documentaries, music videos, promos and commercials. Students participate in the development, production, direction and post-production of a short subject from three to fifteen minutes in length. Students are encouraged to use Rome as the prime location of their projects and to explore the city and its inhabitants through the camera lens.

This class has no pre-requisites besides the desire to learn how to make a film and get familiar with digital media production.

This course introduces students to the technical, conceptual, and aesthetic skills involved in video production through the single camera mode of production. Still the most dominant mode of film and video production, the single camera mode places an emphasis on using the camera to fullest capacity of artistic expression. In addition to the multiple skills and concepts involved with the camera, the course also introduces students to the principles and technologies of lighting, audio recording and mixing, and non-linear digital video editing. Special focus is given to producing content for successful web distribution.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Communicate ideas, concepts and stories using the artform of video making.
- Understand the different phases of the entire filmmaking and digital media production process.
- Produce a short narrative, documentary, music video or promo for DVD and web distribution.

#### **Required Text / Materials**

Assigned readings posted on Sakai

Assigned readings available in the IC online library.

#### **Attendance Policy**

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy:

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one unjustified absence will be permitted. Unjustified absences besides the one allowed will result in a lowering of the final grade.

### **Evaluation**

- Participation 20%
- Midterm (screenplay and preproduction package) 40%
- Final Film Project 40%

### **Credits: 3**

### **Grading**

94-100: A  
90-93: A-  
87-89: B+  
84-86: B  
80-83: B-  
77-79: C+  
74-76: C  
70-73: C-  
67-69: D+  
60-66: D  
59 or lower: F

### **Academic Honesty**

**Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC** and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism according to the LUC Student Handbook.

### **Disabilities**

Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact me the first week of class, as well as the Senior Academic Services Advisor.

### **Proposed Schedule**

**Week One – Introduction.** General discussion of student projects. Brainstorming of story ideas. Overview of different genres. Viewing short films and student projects for evaluation. We will discuss visual styles, using locations and elements that are easily accessible, i.e. JFRC campus and the city of Rome. Students will pair up into teams.

**Week Two – From the idea to the storyline.** Students' presentations of project ideas. Each student will make a presentation of individual project, and via review, group projects will be chosen from those ideas. Getting familiar with scriptwriting, learning the fundamentals of a screenplay. Students will work in groups on creating a storyline and characters' development. Assignment of film genres to be watched and analyzed.

**Week Three – Visit to Cinecittà Studios** to understand the secrets of Great Italian Cinema.

**Week Four – From the storyline to the final script.** Presentation of group projects: storylines and treatments due. Each group will show some examples of films they want to use as reference models for their project. Script breakdown and analysis: we'll learn how to create production schedules and shooting lists from final scripts.

**Week Five – Camera, light and sound.** The grammar of film language. Overview of different directing and editing styles. Hands-on exercises on camera, lighting and sound recording.

**Week Six – Class presentations of pre-production materials.** Screenplays and production schedules due. Class discussion and final feedback on production materials before shooting. Midterm.

**Week Seven; Eight; Nine – Shooting period.** Film teams will screen dailies in class for feedback. Every film team is required to show 3 to 5 minutes of footage in class. Each student is required to present some of the work they've done, whether directing or shooting. We'll learn how to edit with Final Cut Pro.

**Week Ten; Eleven; Twelve – Editing.** Film teams will show in class rough cuts in process for feedback. Every film team is required to show 3 to 5 minutes of edited footage in class. **Sign up for individual overviews of rough cuts.** Important to add music and work on sound mix during this period, as sound work will be included in final grade.

**Week Thirteen.** Final projects due. Minor tweaking allowed until public screening at JFRC Students Film Festival. Final edits will require a finished picture and polished sound mix. Overview of marketing strategies and distribution channels for short films via traditional and online festivals.

**Final screening at JFRC Students Film Festival.** An opportunity to share our visions of the city and film work with peer students, faculty and staff.