

Syllabus HSS 411-012 - DIRECTING FOR THE CAMERA	
Instructor: Rodney Reyes	
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<p>"Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf.</p> <p>Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu</p>	
Office Hours:	Kupfrian Hall 113, Thursdays 1-3pm and/or by appointment
Prerequisites:	All Lower Division and 300 level Humanities GUR requirements. Can take the 300 level HUM/LIT/HIST/PHIL during the same semester.
Instructor Information:	I will respond to all emails/Inbox messages within 24 hours. Quizzes, homework, and discussions will be graded weekly. I will deliver feedback for major course assements in class or online using Canvas or by e-mail.
Required readings:	MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Joseph Gibaldi, Modern Language Association, 6th ed., 2003 (Either this manual or the APA manual is required for the course.) Excerpts from: "Master Shots" by Kenworthy; Five C's of Cinematography by Mascelli; Screenplay - The Foundations of Screenwriting by Field; Filmmaker's Guide to Production Design by LoBrutto; How to Use Color in Film by Studio Binder and more
Required Viewings:	There will be no books assigned. However, you will be required to watch the films assigned. I will provide a link for most if not all the films assigned. Otherwise the films assigned are available for rental off of iTunes, Amazon, Youtube or Netflix. Videos from YouTube; Short Films from Short of the Week., Omleto and more
Homework:	Homework will be assigned throughout the semester.
Technical Requirements:	A YOUTUBE or VIMEO account is required for this course.You will use those channels to upload your Visual Exercises for viewing. A Smartphone or Digital Camera that records HD VIDEO is required. Visual Exercise assignments require the ability to record video. Access to Editing Software. Camera Equipment may be loaned out from instructor.
Expecations for Class Etiquette:	Students are expected to follow NJIT's Code of Student Conduct. Students should be polite, active participants and respect their instructor, classmates, as well as ideas or opinions that differ from their own. While scholarly debates are encouraged, they should not become personal attacks.
Course Objective:	The study of directing for cinema wherein students will explore directing concepts through the pre-production, principal photography and post-production process. Students will explore such concepts such as Mise En Scene, analyzing script, working with actors, blocking and moving camera, etc.
Method of Instruction:	Watch films and videos. Lecture and class discussion. Screenings, discussion and creative exercises. Directing exercises and creative assignments will be given throughout the course culminating in a final project directed by students with an original screenplay.
Participation is mandatory	Assignments for that class date must be completed on that date. Unexcused absences will count against your participation grade. 3 unexcused absences will lower your overall participation grade by a percentage; If you have extenuating circumstances for any reason and miss a class you must contact the Dean of Student's Office.
Policies:	Late assignments may be accepted with permission.
SESSION ONE	JAN 17: INTRODUCTION TO CLASS AND SYLLABUS DISCUSSION
SESSION TWO	JAN 19: THUNDER ROAD SCREENING; BREAK-DOWN OF FILM
SESSION THREE	JAN 24: HOW TO READ AN IMAGE/MISE-EN SCENE DISCUSSION
SESSION FOUR	JAN 26: MISE-EN SCENE WORKSHOP
SESSION FIVE	JAN 31: GENRE DISCUSSION; GENRE ASSIGNMENT ASSIGNED
SESSION SIX	FEB 2: CAMERA MOVEMENT DISCUSSION AND WORKSHOP

SESSION SEVEN	FEB 7: DIRECTING EXERCISE #1 "ONE TAKE" PRESENTATION	WEEK 4
SESSION EIGHT	FEB 9: WRITING EXERCISE; DAY IN THE LIFE VIDEO ASSIGNED	
SESSION NINE	FEB 14: DAY IN THE LIFE VIDEO PRESENTATION	WEEK 5
SESSION TEN	FEB 16: SCREENPLAY FORMAT INTRODUCTION	
SESSION ELEVEN	FEB 21: SCREENPLAY FORMAT PART 2	WEEK 6
SESSION TWELVE	FEB 23: GROUP WORK: WRITE A SHORT FILM	
SESSION THIRTEEN	FEB 28: DIRECTING EXERCISE #2 "2 CHARACTER SCENE" PRESENTATION; PITCH-DECK DISCUSSION	WEEK 7
SESSION FOURTEEN	MAR 1: PITCH-DECK WORKSHOP; "YOUR PITCH DECK" ASSIGNED	
SESSION FIFTEEN	MAR 6: "YOUR PITCH DECK" PRESENTATION; WORKING WITH ACTORS DISCUSSION	WEEK 8
SESSION SIXTEEN	MAR 8: PRODUCTION DESIGN WORKSHOP; PREPARATION FOR PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY	
	MAR 13: NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK
	MAR 15: NO CLASS	
SESSION SEVENTEEN	MAR 20: DIRECTING EXERCISE #3 PRESENTATION; INTRODUCTION TO SOUND DESIGN	WEEK 10
SESSION EIGHTEEN	MAR 22: SOUND DESIGN WORKSHOP	
SESSION NINETEEN	MAR 27: SOUND DESIGN ASSIGNMENT PRESENTATION; LIGHTING AND COLOR DISCUSSION	WEEK 11
SESSION TWENTY	MAR 29: NO CLASS	
SESSION TWENTY-ONE	APR 3: EDITING DISCUSSION	WEEK 12
SESSION TWENTY-TWO	APR 5: EDITING WORKSHOP	
SESSION TWENTY-THREE	APR 10: DIRECTING EXERCISE #4: ROUGH CUT PRESENTATION	WEEK 13
SESSION TWENTY-FOUR	APR 12: SCREENING OF SHORT FILMS AND CRITIQUE	
SESSION TWENTY-FIVE	APR 17: RE-CREATE SCENE GROUP WORKSHOP	WEEK 14
SESSION TWENTY-SIX	APR 19: TRAILER WORKSHOP	
SESSION TWENTY-SEVEN	APR 24: DIRECTING EXERCISE #5 "REDUX" PRESENTATION	

SESSION TWENTY-EIGHT	APR 26: POST-PRODUCTION WORKSHOP	WEEK 15
	APR 30: FINAL SHORT FILM PRESENTATION AND Q&A	
QUIZ	There will be quizzes on the week of post-viewing film discussions in duration between 15-20 minutes each depending on the film.	
ASSIGNMENTS:	There will be additional assignments throughout the semester in class and as homework. Below are assigned assignments.	
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:	DIRECTING EXERCISE 1: ONE TAKE; DUE FEB 7	
	DIRECTING EXERCISE 2: 2 CHARACTER SCENE; DUE FEB 28	
	ADAPTATION VIDEO DUE: MAR 8	
	DIRECTING EXERCISE 3: "TBD" DUE MAR 20	
	DIRECTING EXERCISE 4: ROUGH CUT; DUE APR 10	
	DIRECTING EXERCISE 5: REDUX; DUE APR 24	
	FINAL SHORT FILM PROJECT & PRESENTATIONS; APR 30	
GRADING	15% Assignments/Attendance/Participation, 45% Directing Exercises 5, 15% Adaptation Video, 30% Final Short Film Project	
GRADING SCALE	100 - 92.5 A, 92.4 - 85 B+, 84.4 - 80 B, 79.9 - 77.5 C+, 77.4 - 70 C, 69.9 - 60 D, 59.9 - 0 F	
	This syllabus may be subject to updates throughout the semester.	
	RV:1-19-24	