

CULS 5329 Film Production & Presentation (1st Term, 2025-26)

電影製作與展現

DRAFT VERSION

Day and Time: Thu, 10:30am-1:15pm

Classroom: KKB 310 Lab

Teacher: Dr. Li Tiecheng

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Office Hour: Tue, 10am-12pm

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Course Description

With the development of technologies, contemporary filmmaking has become faster and more flexible. This practical course is designed for storytellers who want to translate their ideas into compelling videos. Through pre-production, filming, to post-production, students will learn the visual-audio language, basic skills and techniques of filmmaking, including production by using Adobe Premiere etc. It consists of lectures, readings, screenings and consultations, hands-on visual projects, and mini workshops; it helps students to explore and develop their conceptual and aesthetic styles.

隨著技術的不斷提高，當代電影製作變得更加快捷和靈活。這門課開設給那些想將自己的主意和想法轉換成完整影像作品的人。通過前期、拍攝，再到後期製作，學生們可以學習到視聽語言，電影製作的基礎技術和技能，包括攝影、錄音、照明，和用 Adobe Premiere 等軟體進行剪輯等。本課由講座、閱讀、放映、討論、實際操作，以及多次小型工作坊組成，最終幫助同學們探索屬於自己的審美影像風格。

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand storytelling in visual productions.
2. To extend the students' knowledge of film genres and language.
3. To gain or improve the skills associated with video production, including writing, producing, directing, shooting, and editing.
4. At the end of the course, students will produce a compelling video work.
5. To organize a screening to show their own works at the end of the semester.
6. To learn how to spread and distribute video works.

Course Components (Learning Activities)

- Lectures
- In class discussions / with professional filmmakers
- In class exercises
- Workshops
- Screenings and talks

Course Content & Schedule

	Storytelling and Script	Film Language	Filmmaking Techniques	Editing	In class Exercise
Week 1		I	Camera		Memory Moment Describing
Week 2	I		Camera		Image Composition
Week 3			Camera		Composing shots for a scene
Week 4	II				
Week 5	III	II		I	Photomontage
Week 6	Guest Speaker: Film Producing & Market				
Week 7			Light		Light setting
Week 8		III	Sound		Sound recording
Week 9	IV			II	Script Table Read
Week 10			Storyboard		Brainstorming
Week 11				III	Discussion & Consultation
Week 12					Discussion & Consultation
Week 13				IV	Editing Practice
Week 14					Rough Cut Screening Discussion & Consultation

Week1 Sep 4

1 Introduction to the course

Ice Breakers

- Course outcomes, assessments, and schedule, etc.
- Styles of film and video (Genre)
- Crew roles and procession of filmmaking

2 Film Language I & Filmmaking techniques I: Camera

- Types of shot
- Camera angles, composition, movement, etc.
- Camera operation, use of lens, depth of field, etc.

Assignment 1: [*Film an introduction video about yourself \(2min\)*](#)
(Refer to Operational Requirements#1)

Week 2 Sep 11

1 Storytelling and Script I

- From visual to screenplay (compare)
- Telling a story visually (Using visuals and sound)
- Playwriting (Screenwriting), concept development, storytelling

Submission: Assignment 1 – Self-introduction video (2min)

2 Exercise and Grouping (4-6ppl pre group)

- Grouping – Students are to choose their groups (which they will work in for their upcoming films).
- In class Exercise: Composing shots for a scene.

- Show in class: Students' self-introduction videos

Assignment 2: *Come up with an idea for a short film, no more than 8 minutes long. Then practice how to pitch your idea in 2 minutes, which you will have to do in class next time.* (Refer to Operational Requirements#2)

Week 3 Sep 18

Introduction about our equipment

Assignment 3: *Write a 5-8 page short film script.* (Refer to Operational Requirements#3) **Assignment 4:** *(group assignment) Start writing a working diary, and submit it with the final work in week 16* (Refer to Operational Requirements#4)

Please write down the Working diary by group while or after shooting.

- Submission: Assignment 2-1, an idea of short film, no more than 300words

Week 4 Sep 25

Storytelling and Script II

- Narrative – Understand classical narrative structure.
- Characters – Understanding how to write characters.
- Submission: Assignment 2-2, based on TA and instructor's suggestion, submit an idea of short film (version II), no more than 300words

Week 5 Oct 2

1 Storytelling and Script III

- Conflict – Understanding and developing conflict in story.
- Relationship – Developing relationships in storytelling.
- Standard screenplay format

2 Editing I

- Editing Theory / Techniques
Types of Montage /How Montage works
- In class Exercise: Practice of photomontage

Week 6 Oct 9

(Could be online class)

Film Producing, Film Market & How to distribute your work

Guest Speaker: Tan Hua

- Film Censorship in different countries
- Independent Film/Video, Art Film, and commercial Film in the Global Market
- Where is your audience?
- To Prepare and organize students' own final screening in the campus
- Film industry
- New media platform
- Film/Video festival
- Art exhibition

Assignment 5: Shot list: write down the shot list with the detailed information based on one scene of a commercial film or an advertisement. (Refer to Operational Requirements#5)

Submission: Assignment 3-1: A **draft** script (Script version 1) of 5-10 pages

Week 7 Oct 16

Film Language II & Filmmaking techniques II: Lighting

- Lighting
- Color
- Lighting Techniques (Fill Light, Spot Light etc.), Diffusing light, Flagging, Effect of different lighting style

In class Exercise: Practice of light setting

Each group will be given the script by the lecturer to be filmed.

Submission: Assignment 5: Shot list

Start thinking about which role you would like to conduct for this film, and prepare your pitch, ideas, arguments, homework for why you would be best to direct, or produce, whichever role you would like. (Roles Pitch for week 12)

Week 8 Oct 23

Film Language III & Filmmaking techniques III: Sound.

- Sound design and Sound Effects
Dialogue, Ambience, Foley, and how music effect films.
- Sound & Music

In class Exercise: Practice of sound recording

Submission: Assignment 3-2: Script version 2

(One script from each group will be chosen by the lecturer to be developed and be filmed for the final project.)

Week 9 Oct 30

Editing II & Storytelling and Script IV

- Short film structure

Script Table Read: 25min for each group to read the script and discuss with the class

Week 10 Nov 6

Filmmaking techniques IV: Storyboard

Prepare for organizing the screening outside campus

- Shooting schedule
Breaking down of the script, and shoot schedule.
- To design a storyboard

Assignment 6: Everyone must create a storyboard, their own version of how they would shoot / compose the film (for final project). Work together to help each other, and create your 4 different styles / voice. (All students must work with and help / support their group members). (Refer to Operational Requirements#6)

Submission: Assignment 3-3: Group Script

In class Exercise: Brainstorming

Week 11 Nov 13

Editing III & Others

- Visual meanings behind editing
- Budgeting
Location, Wardrobe, Actors, Transport, Food, etc.
- Casting

Submission: Assignment 6 - Storyboard

Assignment 7-1: *(Individual Assignment) Prepare your pitches for the 3 x roles you would prefer to do. And. indicate your preference: For e.g.: Director 1st, DOP 2nd, Producer 3rd*

Assignment 7-2: *(Group Assignment) Prepare group proposal presentation, (each student shows their preparation for their respective role) use your storyboards, as part of your Roles Pitch for Week 10 (Refer to Operational Requirements#7)*

Consultation Before Shooting

Week 12 Nov 20

Proposal Presentation, Pitches for Roles, Shooting Preparation

Prepare for organizing the screening outside campus

- **Submission 7-1 & 7-2:**

- **Proposal presentation:**

The storyline, Characters, Film style, Storyboard, Schedule, Budget, Difficulties and Solutions, Where to screen, etc.

- **Roles pitching:**

Each student explaining their role and why they want to perform that role on the script

Roles will be chosen by this point.

Assignment 8: *(group assignment) Shoot and edit to complete the rough cut.
(Refer to Operational Requirements#8)*

Consultation Before Shooting

Shooting & Editing: Nov 21-Dec 3

Week 13 Nov 27

Production Period

Week 14 Dec 4

- **Rough-Cut Screening & Course Review**

Screening in class: Rough Cut

Assignment 9: *(group assignment) Edit to complete the final cut.*

Assignment 10: *Write a report (no more than 3,000 words in Chinese, or 5 pages in English) Refer to Operational Requirements #10*

Submission: Assignment 8 – Rough Cut

Week 16 Dec 15

Final Submissions:

Assignment 4 – Group working diary**Assignment 9 –Final Cut****Assignment 10 – Personal Report****Assessment****Attendance, Participation & In class Exercise ----- 20%****Assignments (25%):**

- Self-introduction video ----- 5%
- Film idea and pitching ----- 5%
- Short film script ----- 10%
- Shot List ----- 5%

Project (55%):

- Storyboard ----- 5%
- Proposal Presentation & Role Pitching (*Group assignment*) ----- 10%
- Rough Cut (*Group assignment*) ----- 10%
- Final Cut (*Group assignment*) ----- 10%
- Working diary and others (*Group assignment*) ----- 5%
- Report ----- 15%

No	Title	Operational Requirement
1	Self-introduction video	Film an introduction video about yourself (2min) Consider using whatever visual methods you would like, or are capable of using. Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still imagery • Drawings • Video • Animation This will be shown in class.
2	Film idea and pitching	Come up with an idea for a short film, you will only have 2 minutes to present your idea. Practice how to pitch your idea, which you will have to do in class. Write down your idea (no more than 300 words)
3	Short film script: draft, version 2, and the group script.	Write a short film script (5-10 pages). Limit the number of locations to 5(maximum), and your characters to 4 (maximum) One script from each group will be chosen by the lecturer to be developed and filmed for the final project. It will be regarded as the group script.
4	Working diary	Step by step, note the whole process of your filmmaking experience. Each filmmaking student will be required to contribute their own thoughts, experiences, and comments during this process. (<i>Group assignment</i>)
5	Shot List	Write down the shot list with the detailed information based on one scene of a commercial film or an advertisement.

6	Storyboard	To shoot still images (or animated / drawn images) and create a storyboard for shot selection / composition for your chosen script. Using images to visually demonstrate the shot composition you will use during filming.
7	Proposal Presentation & Role Pitching	Present your chosen script to class, detailing the storyline, characters, film style, storyboard, schedule, budget, difficulties, and solutions, etc. Each individual member will need to present their planning and preparation for their specific role in the production of the short film. <i>(Group assignment)</i> ; Which role would you like to manage for this film? In class, pitch your ideas, arguments, and why you would be best to direct, or produce, etc. You must pitch for 3 roles, 1 preferred to 3 least preferred.
8	Rough Cut	Producer – must submit the 1 st Rough Cut of the film, each filmmaking student must be present. <i>(Group assignment)</i>
9	Final Cut	Producer – must submit the 1 st Rough Cut of the film, each filmmaking student must be present. <i>(Group assignment)</i>
10	Report	No less than 3,000 words in Chinese /5 pages in English. Final Comments on each student filmmaker's experience, and thoughts about the entire process. Comment on your specific roles during the entire process.

Required Readings:

1. Bazin, André. *What Is Cinema*. Translated by Hugh Gray. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971.
2. Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson 著, 曾偉禎譯. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 《電影藝術:形式與風格》. 台北: 美商麥格羅希爾, 2001.
3. D. Giannetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. London: Pearson, 2017
4. D. Katz, Steven. *Film Directing Shot by Shot: Visualizing From Concept to Screen*. Calif.: Michael Wiese Productions, 1991.

Recommended Readings:

1. Brown, William. *Non-Cinema: Global Digital Film-making and the Multitude (Thinking Cinema)*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018
2. Bordwell, David. *Film Art: An Introduction*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2015.
3. Cook, David A. *A History of Narrative Film*. Third edition. New York, London: W.W. Norton, 1996.
4. Lehman, Peter. *Defining Cinema*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1997.
5. McGrath, Declan. *Editing & Post-production*. Boston: Focal Press, 2001.
6. Hayward, Susan. *Cinema Studies: The Key Concepts*. London: Routledge, 2006
7. Siapera, Eugenia. *Understanding New Media*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2012
8. Smith, Jerron. *Adobe Premiere Pro CC Digital Classroom*. Indianapolis: John Wiley & Sons, 2013.
9. Smith, Jerron. *Adobe After Effects CS6 Digital Classroom*. Indianapolis: John Wiley & Sons, 2012.
10. Turner, Graeme 著, 林文淇譯. *Film as Social Practice* 《電影的社會實踐》. 台北: 遠流, 1997.

Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. All student assignments in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes should be submitted via VeriGuide with effect from September 2008: https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx

Although cases of cheating or plagiarism are rare at the University, everyone should make himself/herself familiar with the content of this website and thereby help avoid any practice that would not be acceptable.

Section 1 What is plagiarism

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p01.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p01.htm)

Section 2 Proper use of source material

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p02.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p02.htm)

Section 3 Citation styles

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p03.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p03.htm)

Section 4 Plagiarism and copyright violation

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p04.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p04.htm)

Section 5 CUHK regulations on honesty in academic work

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p05.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p05.htm)

Section 6 CUHK disciplinary guidelines and procedures

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p06.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p06.htm)

Section 7 Guide for teachers and departments

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p07.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p07.htm)

Section 8 Recommended material to be included in course outlines

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p08.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p08.htm)

Section 9 Electronic submission of assignments via VeriGuide

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p09.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p09.htm)

Section 10 Declaration to be included in assignments

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p10.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p10.htm)