FMA 20 Course Outline as of Summer 2025

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: FMA 20 Title: DIGITAL FILMMAKING
Full Title: Introduction to Digital Filmmaking
Last Reviewed: 9/22/2025

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	4.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	4.00	Lab Scheduled	3.00	6	Lab Scheduled	52.50
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	6.00		Contact Total	105.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00 Total Student Learning Hours: 210.00

Title 5 Category:	AA Degree Applicable
Grading:	Grade or P/NP
Repeatability:	00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:	
Formerly:	MEDIA 20

Catalog Description:
Students will receive an intensive introduction to the fundamentals of digital filmmaking, including: writing and structuring a story, developing a shooting script, basic camera, sound and lighting techniques, editing, and post-production processes. Students will develop the basic skills to work as a member of a production crew.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Concurrent Enrollment in CS 74.22 and MEDIA 10 and MEDIA 18

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Students will recieve an intensive introduction to the fundamentals of digital filmmaking, including: writing and structuring a story, developing a shooting script, basic camera, sound and lighting techniques, editing, and post-production processes. Students will develop the basic skills to work as a member of a production crew. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Concurrent Enrollment in CS 74.22 and MEDIA 10 and MEDIA 18
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**	Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**	Effective:	Inactive:

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2011	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2011	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Plan, organize, and execute the production of a short digital video project.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Design and create a video/film project.
2. Compose a short script with proper formatting.
3. Employ the terminology of digital filmmaking in a production context.
4. Plan, organize, and execute the production of a short digital video/film project.
5. Operate basic digital video and audio equipment.
6. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of single camera coverage techniques.
7. Apply basic methods and techniques directing actors for the camera.
8. Work as part of a film crew.
9. Assemble a fine cut using basic practices and strategies of digital video editing.
10. Demonstrate a basic understanding of sound design to complete a project.

Topics and Scope:

I. Introduction to Writing Short Story Projects and Spec Spots
   A. Development of an idea and structure
   B. The pitch
   C. The rough draft
   D. Rewriting
   E. Final drafts
II. Introduction to Pre-Production
   A. Script breakdown and analysis
   B. Budgeting

C. Location scouting
D. The rehearsal process
E. Mise-en-Scene
F. Art direction
G. Storyboards

III. Introduction to Digital Film Production
A. Scheduling and call sheets
B. Camera rehearsals
C. Blocking and staging
D. Crew positions
E. Set procedures and protocol
F. Production equipment
G. Directing actors for camera
H. Coverage
I. Moving camera
J. Mise-en-Scene
K. In-class production workshops

IV. Introduction to Post-Production
A. Editing software
B. Logging
C. Assembly cuts
D. Rough cuts
E. Fine cutting
F. Picture lock
G. Sound design and editing
H. Final prints for screening

All topics are covered in the lecture and lab portions of the course.

Assignment:

Lecture-Related Assignments:
1. Reading from texts and manuals (10-20 pages per week)
2. Written self-evaluations
3. Written peer critiques

Lab-Related Assignments:
1. Preparation of 1-3 short script(s) (2 to 6 pages in length) and storyboard(s)
2. Exercises related to coverage, camera operation, sound recording, and editing (Performance exams)

Lecture- and Lab-Related Assignments:
1. Quizzes (4-12) and a final exam
2. The creation of an original film, from script to screen

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Script(s) and storyboard(s); self-evaluations; peer critiques	Writing 10 - 20%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Individual or group short digital video project	Problem solving 10 - 20%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Individual or group short digital video project; performance exams	Skill Demonstrations 30 - 60%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes; final exam	Exams 10 - 20%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Class participation	Other Category 10 - 30%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Voice & Vision: A Creative Approach to Narrative Film and DV Production. 3rd ed. Hurbis-Cherrier, Mick. Focal Press. 2018