

Course Overview:

This course will give students a chance to participate in the group production of a creative work, namely, a pseudo-documentary film. Students will participate in the planning, writing, storyboarding, acting and filming, and editing of the film, which will be screened late in the semester for the Department of English Language & Culture.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop their skills in producing a single polished product as the result of a collaborative process of group work.
2. Students will work on skills often considered peripheral to -- but actually central to -- academic success, such as planning, outlining, coordinating, and articulating a vision for a shared project.
3. Students will perform research in order to improve the quality of their final product.
4. Students will consider an audience radically different from themselves, and thus consider how to articulate their ideas, concerns, and beliefs to that audience.
5. Students will produce an amateur film which will be uploaded to the Internet for a worldwide audience, and may be submitted to film festivals in Korea for competition at some point in the future.

Teaching method:

Classes will involve analysis of excerpts from documentaries and fiction films, discussions of audience and narrative structure, planning and coordination sessions, feedback, script-writing and editing, and a great deal of group work. Your participation and contribution to group work -- inside and outside of class -- will be a significant part of your grade; in order to ensure that your contributions outside of class are considered, peer-evaluation will be a part of assessment.

Homework

Homework for this class falls under several different categories.

Class participation in critical discussion as part of the decision-making process for the project.

Brainstorming ideas for the film, based on an original concept provided for the class.

Drafting and editing an outline and scripts for the film.

Creating, scheduling, and carrying out shooting and production.

Editing the film for online and offline viewing.

Writing and speaking critically of the process after it is completed.

Textbook:

N/A. No textbook will be used, but students will be expected on occasion to watch videos or read articles outside of class. Links will be provided when possible.

Assessment

As you can see below, this course has no examinations.

Classroom "Meetings" Participation – 15%

Project Contribution (self- *and* peer-assessed) – 60%

Homework –10%

Midterm Report – 5%
Final Report – 5%
Department Events Attendance: 5%.

However, a 0% in any of the above marks will result in an incomplete grade. Students must at least attempt all homework assignments in order to complete the course.

My contact information:

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Class Website: <http://gordsclass.com>

Course Outline:

The following is extremely tentative and subject to change at any time, but it should give you an idea of what's planned.

Week 1: Introductions, Paperwork, etc.
Week 2: Screening *American Zombie* & Discussion.
Week 3: Scenario Assignment, Planning & Discussion, Script Outline & Drafting Begins.
Week 4: Script Work & Editing.
Week 5: Script Work & Editing.
Week 6: Storyboarding & Test Shots.
Week 7: Storyboarding & Test Shots.
Week 8: Midterm Week – Midterm Progress Report & Self-Assessment due.
Week 9: Shooting & Video Editing Workshop.
Week 10: Shooting.
Week 11: Shooting .
Week 12: Shooting Finished. Editing, Trailer Production (upload to Youtube).
Week 13: Editing.
Week 14: Editing, Subtitling, Cover Art, Screening.
Week 15: Wrap-up, Final Self-Assessments Due.
Week 16: Exam Week (No Exam).

References for this course:

The following films will be good examples of false-documentary films:

American Zombie

Spinal Tap

Cloverfield

2003 Best of 21 Korean Short Films OR *If You Were Me*

Students are encouraged to watch a few of these before the semester, to save time, since all of them will be up for discussion during the semester. I will add links to screenwriting software and video editing software on the website near the beginning of semester.