



**COMM 206-001 . FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION II . SPRING 2024  
MKC 120 . MONDAYS 9:05-11:45AM . 3 CREDITS  
BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY**

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*Filmmaking is a chance to live many lifetimes.*  
Robert Altman

Instructor: Colleen Kelly Poplin  
cpoplin@bridgew.edu  
617-702-2653

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2p / Thursdays 11a-12p  
Maxwell Library 215B  
Sign up at [calendly.com/colleenkellypoplin](https://calendly.com/colleenkellypoplin)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Prerequisite: COMM 106. This course covers all stages of film/video production, from development through exhibition. Each student will manage and produce a short film.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through active instruction, production assignments, discussion, and screenings, this course seeks to:

- Guide the creative process of film/video projects from conception to completion
- Establish intermediate production skills in producing, directing, cinematography, sound recording, and editing
- Elucidate various crew roles with particular emphasis on the production team and the collaborative nature of filmmaking
- Instill a deeper appreciation of the art of filmmaking, including the challenges of successful execution
- Enhance knowledge of basic genres as a basis for exploring additional and original possibilities

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an intermediate level of technical competence in pre-production, principal photography, and post-production
- Articulate a story through effective concept development, planning, and execution of short film/video projects
- Display ownership of innovative ideas, project management, and creative collaboration
- Use nonlinear editing alongside image and sound elements to tell a story and/or communicate a message
- Receive, process, and implement criticism and constructively critique the work of others

## PARTICIPATION / ATTENDANCE

This course requires informed and committed participation. You will get much more out of this course if you are fully engaged.

Research indicates that using laptops in class is a significant distraction that leads to a sharp decline in academic performance. This is true not only for the primary user, but also for students sitting nearby. As such, laptops are fine when we are researching or doing group work, but they are not allowed during lectures or screenings. Do your peers a solid and comply.

Since we only meet once per week and do a significant amount of work in class, I am compelled to have an attendance policy. Two absences or less is fine. Three absences wipe out all points allotted to your participation grade (15% of overall grade). Four or more absences means, in the wise words of Gandalf, you shall not pass.

## COURSE READINGS

All handouts and readings will be available on Blackboard. Everything I distribute in class will also be uploaded to Blackboard.

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

You will have access to BSU cameras, lights, microphones, Adobe Premiere software, and other equipment for your projects. Equipment access is limited, so reserve all gear as early as possible. We will go over the equipment checkout process in greater detail in class. If you would like to use your own camera, microphones, lights, etc., let's have a conversation.

I purposefully skip assigning a textbook to help you afford two things:

- One external hard drive, at least 1TB (you could go for 500GB, but you'll likely need 1TB+ in future courses)
- One or two SDXC memory card(s), at least 128GB (you could go for 64GB, but you'll likely need 128GB+ in future courses)
- *Recommended:* [Adobe Premiere Pro Complete Beginner's Guide](#)
- *Recommended:* production is easier with a multi-tool (I have a Swiss Army Evolution 11)

## GRADING

This course is based on the principle that the more you practice, the better you become. Use every assignment to communicate what is important to you and take risks. You will earn your grade via the following:

Participation	15%
Conceptual Review Quiz	10%
Production Project: The Remake	25%
- Collaboration plan / pre-production	
- Principal photography	
- Completed project	
Production Project: The Interview	25%
- Interview questions / pre-production	
- Principal photography	
- Completed project	

93 to 100% = A
90 to 92.9% = A-
87 to 89.9% = B+
83 to 86.9% = B
80 to 82.9% = B-
77 to 79.9% = C+
73 to 76.9% = C
70 to 72.9% = C-
67 to 69.9% = D+
63 to 66.9% = D
60 to 62.9% = D-
0 to 59.9% = F

Production Project: The Short Film 25%

- Proposal / pre-production
- Individual rough cut meeting
- Completed project

We screen each project the day it is due, and I also provide detailed video feedback to each student project. Late projects negatively impact both course objectives. If a project is not ready to screen on its due date, it will be docked ten points and will receive limited feedback. If a project is more than one week late, it will be docked twenty points and will receive only a grade with no feedback.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Further details on all assignments will be shared in class. Blackboard will help you stay organized.

### **Conceptual Review Quiz (10% of final grade)**

We will spend the first couple weeks reviewing the skills learned in COMM 106. You will then demonstrate your learning through a written assessment of basic production concepts. Details will be shared in class.

- Conceptual Review Quiz (2/5)

### **Production Project: The Remake (25% of final grade)**

As a production team, you will plan and execute a remake of an existing work shot by shot. Select a 2- to 3-minute scene from any film or television series. Rotate through crew positions and be willing to work in front of the camera. Pay careful attention to recreating the technical and aesthetic qualities of your scene. YouTube will be used for submission. Details will be shared in class.

- Collaboration plan / pre-production (2/5)
- Principal photography (2/12)
- Completed project (2/21)

### **Production Project: The Interview (25% of final grade)**

You will be assigned one of your classmates to interview for at least 30 minutes. What makes them who they are? You will assemble a 2- to 3-minute rough cut interview string and present to your peers for feedback. You will then incorporate feedback and add B-roll and/or archival material to produce a finished profile piece. YouTube will be used for submission. Details will be shared in class.

- Interview questions / pre-production (2/26)
- Principal photography (3/11)
- Completed project (3/18)

### **Production Project: The Short Film (25% of final grade)**

You will create a 2- to 3-minute short film of any form and subject. The parameters for this project are purposefully open so that you can further develop your own personal style and voice. You will present your proposal and/or script to the class for feedback. You will also screen a rough cut in individual production meetings with me and incorporate the feedback we discuss into your completed project. YouTube will be used for submission. Details will be shared in class.

- Proposal / pre-production (4/1)
- Individual rough cut meeting (4/22)
- Completed project (4/29)

## DRAFT SCHEDULE

Syllabus is subject to change, but you will always be informed. See Blackboard for more details.

Week 1: January 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Get to know each other</li><li>- Syllabus review</li><li>- Discuss equipment checkout process; check out editing lab</li><li>- Review of basic production skills</li></ul>
Week 2: January 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review of basic production skills, continued</li><li>- Discuss Conceptual Review Quiz</li></ul>
Week 3: February 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Conceptual Review Quiz</b></li><li>- Discuss production project: The Remake</li><li>- Collaborative work for The Remake</li><li>- Pre-production outline and storyboard of selected scene</li></ul>
Week 4: February 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Majority of principal photography shot</li><li>- Peer review of dailies vs. original scene</li><li>- Next Monday is Presidents' Day; see you on 2/21</li></ul>
Week 5: February 21 (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Production Project: The Remake due</b></li><li>- Screen The Remake projects and provide feedback</li></ul>
Week 6: February 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discuss production project: The Interview</li><li>- Interview subjects assigned</li><li>- Lecture on the art of the interview</li><li>- In-class workshop on crafting questions</li><li>- Next week is Spring Break; see you on 3/11</li></ul>
Week 7: March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Interview string complete with 2- to 3-minute rough cut</li><li>- Peer review of interview rough cut</li><li>- Discuss the use of archival footage and B-roll</li><li>- In-class production workshop</li></ul>
Week 8: March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Production Project: The Interview due</b></li><li>- Screen The Interview projects and provide feedback</li></ul>
Week 9: March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discuss production project: The Short Film</li><li>- Pre-production planning</li><li>- Script development</li><li>- Peer review of proposals / scripts</li></ul>
Week 10: April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pre-production: production checklists / storyboards / schedules</li><li>- In-class production workshop</li><li>- Schedule individual rough cut meetings</li></ul>

Week 11: April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I am traveling for the total eclipse. Course plans TBD.</i></li> <li>- Majority of principal photography shot; post-production started</li> <li>- Next week is Patriots' Day; see you on 4/22</li> </ul>
Week 12: April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual rough cut meetings</li> <li>- In-class post-production continued</li> </ul>
Week 13: April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Production Project: The Short Film due</b></li> <li>- Screen The Short Film projects and provide feedback</li> </ul>
Week 14: May 1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short Film feedback sessions (details forthcoming)</li> <li>- Cry about how much we will miss each other</li> </ul>

## SUPPORT RESOURCES

In the words of the Beatles, we get by with a little help from our friends. BSU offers a host of magical support resources:

### Academic Achievement Center and Student Accessibility Services

On the ground floor of the Maxwell Library, the Academic Achievement Center (AAC) provides [academic advising](#), [learning assistance](#) (both tutoring and academic coaching), and [testing services](#). There is also support available for English language learners. You can connect with [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) by [scheduling online](#), reaching out via [email](#), or by calling 508-531-2194.

### Wellness Center

The [Wellness Center](#) (Weygand Hall) offers a range of vital services and support to help you achieve physical and emotional wellness. Whether you need physical or mental health advice, assistance in a crisis, tips for managing stress, or care for a specific condition, the Wellness Center will hook you up.

### Maxwell Library

For borrowing or renewing items, access to computers, study rooms, and more, visit the [Maxwell Library](#).

### Information Technology (IT)

For all technology questions and assistance, the [Information Technology Division](#) provides [Student Technology Support](#) on the ground floor of the Maxwell Library and through the [IT Self Service Portal](#).

### Career Services

The [Career Services Office](#) can be found in the Rondileau Student Union. They offer appointments, programs, events, and resources for your future career. Side note: their website links to an external resource I recommend called [What Can I Do with This Major?](#)

### Financial Assistance

The [Financial Aid Office](#) is on West Campus in the Welcome Center. They can assist you and your family in affording the cost of your education through grants, loans, student work programs, and financial counselors. There is also a [Student Emergency Fund](#) if you need help purchasing course supplies. If you are having trouble accessing food to eat, I highly recommend BSU's Food Pantry on the lower level of Rondileau Student Union.

**Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX**

The [Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator](#) work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and fair climate. Their [website](#) has a page for [Title IX](#) and a page for Discrimination and Harassment for reporting concerns of sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment, or protected category-based discrimination and harassment. Additionally, the Sexual Violence Advocacy and Support Center is a *confidential* support resource for anyone who has experienced sexual, gender-based, or relationship violence or stalking. Seek support via this form: [SVAS Center Support Form](#)

**Pride Center**

BSU's Pride Center supports gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students and their allied peers to foster a campus climate of inclusion and equity. Visit the [Pride Center website](#) to learn more about their services and events.