



**COMM 106-001 . FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION I . FALL 2023
MKC 120 . THURSDAYS 8-10:40AM . 3 CREDITS
BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY**

Filmmaking is a chance to live many lifetimes.
Robert Altman

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Maxwell Library 215B

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2pm
Thursdays 12-1pm
Sign up at calendly.com/colleenkellypoplin

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces a range of foundational terms, concepts, and skills in film and video production. It combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on learning, providing foundational knowledge and experience on a broad range of equipment for subsequent video work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Develop basic media production skills, emphasizing the importance of conscious creative choices and strategic planning
- Provide a conceptual, creative, and technical foundation in preparation for advanced film and video production coursework
- Stimulate natural creativity and integrate media-making as a tool for personal expression
- Encourage quality and innovation in media production and offer opportunities for creative collaboration
- Challenge traditional creative and critical approaches to the expressive uses of time-based media

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Comprehend and utilize essential film and video production concepts and technology
- Employ newly acquired film and video production skills to pursue creative expression
- Exhibit deeper understanding of the technical and aesthetic concepts underlying the making of media
- Understand how to best utilize the production resources available at Bridgewater State University
- Know how to receive, process, and implement criticism and constructively critique the work of others

PARTICIPATION / ATTENDANCE

This course requires informed and committed participation. I expect you to come to class ready to actively collaborate. You will get approximately a bajillion times more out of this course if you are fully engaged. Since we only meet once per week and do a significant amount of coursework in class, two absences will wipe out all points allotted to your participation grade (15% of overall grade). Three absences will lower your final grade by a full letter. Four (or more) absences means you will fail the course. That said, I recognize that life happens. Each of you will receive two *OMG Passes*. Each *OMG Pass* can be used to dismiss one absence or get a 48-hour extension on an assignment with no questions asked. At the end of the semester, any remaining *OMG Passes* can be cashed in for 10 points added to the assignment of your choice.

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. You may also use your own camera. Smartphones are allowed on certain projects, but not all. I will be clear which is which. Equipment access is very limited, so reserve equipment as early as possible. We will go over the equipment checkout process in greater detail in class.

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%
Concept Quizzes	25%
- 1: Camera functions and operations	
- 2: Composition and basic cinematography	
- 3: Audio fundamentals	
- 4: Essentials of lighting and editing	
In-class Production Workshops	15%
- 1: Camera <i>Jeopardy!</i>	
- 2: Motivated lighting	
Production Projects	25%
- 1: The Long Take	
- 2: The Sound Story	
- 3: The Archival Edit	
Practical Final Exam*	20%

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

ASSIGNMENTS

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

Concept Quizzes (25% of final grade)

Our production learning is loosely broken into four units, with the acknowledgement that each of these concepts overlap and bleed into one another. After each functional unit outlined below, you will have an in-class quiz. These are not meant to torture you, but to ensure that the most important knowledge buries itself in your brain. Details will be shared in class.

- 1: Camera functions and operations (9/21)
- 2: Composition and basic cinematography (10/5)
- 3: Audio fundamentals (10/26)
- 4: Essentials of lighting and editing (11/16)

In-class Production Workshops (15% of final grade)

Production Workshops are done collaboratively during our regular course time. You will be required to function as a team through the gamification of camera terms and the design and execution of a motivated lighting scenario. Teams will be formed on the spot for *Jeopardy!* and teams will be created one week in advance for the motivated lighting exercise. Details will be shared in class.

- 1: Camera *Jeopardy!* (9/21)
- 2: Motivated lighting (11/16)

Production Projects (25% of final grade)

Production Projects are done individually and provide the opportunity for personal creative expression. The Long Take is a cinematography exercise completed in one continuous shot. The Sound Story is a portrait of a place or person using only sound. The Archival Edit is a one-minute film using only archival footage. YouTube will be used for submission. Details will be shared in class.

- 1: The Long Take (10/12)
- 2: The Sound Story (11/2)
- 3: The Archival Edit (11/30)

Practical Final Exam (20% of final grade)

We will have a practical final exam, meaning you will demonstrate your ability to apply the semester's learning to an actual production scenario and related questions. You will complete your practical final exam through an individual meeting with me. This may sound intimidating, but you'll be comfortable with me by then, I promise. You will be able to sign up for a timeslot starting November 30th. The exams will be held throughout the last two weeks of the semester. I am still working out the scheduling details and I will confirm with you as soon as possible.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

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

Week 1: September 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Get to know each other- Syllabus review- Check out editing lab / discuss equipment checkout process- Collaborative Playtime: A Tale of Nine Shots
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Week 2: September 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture and equipment demo - Camera functions and operations
Week 3: September 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-class Production Workshop: Camera Jeopardy! - Concept Quiz: Camera functions and operations - Composition and basic cinematography
Week 4: September 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Composition and basic cinematography, continued - Discuss The Long Take
Week 5: October 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept Quiz: Composition and basic cinematography - Audio fundamentals
Week 6: October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Project: The Long Take due - Screen The Long Take projects and provide feedback
Week 7: October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture and equipment demo - Audio fundamentals (continued) - Discuss The Sound Story
Week 8: October 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept quiz: Audio fundamentals - Collaborative Playtime: Foley
Week 9: November 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Project: The Sound Story due - Listen to The Sound Story projects and provide feedback
Week 10: November 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture and equipment demo - Essentials of lighting and editing - Discuss The Archival Edit
Week 11: November 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-class Production Workshop: Motivated lighting - Concept Quiz: Essentials of lighting and editing
Week 12: November 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production Project: The Archival Edit due - Screen The Archival Edit projects and provide feedback - Review for final exam and sign up for timeslot - Cry about how much we will miss each other
Week 13: December 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical Final Exams (individual timeslots)
Week 14: December X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical Final Exams (individual timeslots)

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.