



FILMMAKER'S CLASS

FILMMAKER'S CLASS C01

Sept 23rd – Dec 2nd

Fridays 4:30PM – 6:30PM

The Documentary Center

Located inside The 3030 Arts Building

3030 East Olympic Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90004

323.485.0283

www.thedocumentarycenter.org



Course Overview:

The FILMMAKER'S CLASS aims to familiarize first time documentary film directors with the basic skill sets, workflows, applications, as well as film & audio equipment, associated with professional documentary pre, pro, & post production for feature films.

The FILMMAKER'S CLASS meets 2 hours a week for 11 weeks and includes discounted rates on office and equipment rental, as well as services.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:

Class 1: Class Intro/Film Intros/Determining Your Project's Focus / Determining Your Project's Form

Week 2:**Class 2: Project Outline / Production Plan****Week 3:****Class 3: Basic Camera operation & Sound / Shooting for Verite****Week 4:****Class 4: Lighting for Interview / Shooting for Interview****Week 5:****Class 5: Media Organization / App Intro / Basic Intro to Edit****Week 6:****Class 6: Highlighting Transcripts / Scripting for Documentary****Week 7:****Class 7: Pulling Bites / Pass system for Interview & verite****Week 8:****Class 8: First Construction / Pass System for Rough Cut****Week 9:****Class 9: Audio Pass / Cutting For Time****Week 10:****Class 10: Score / Title****Week 11:**

Class 11: Fine Cut / Export / Exhibition

Glossary of course topics:

Topic Proposal One Sheet:

The topic proposal one sheet is a one-page paper outlining the proposed topic. It is comprised of 2 paragraphs, along with two photos that visually describe the topic.

The purpose of the Topic Proposal One sheet is to identify the “sublayer” or focus of your piece and then describe it from macro to micro with 2 photos and 2 paragraphs thus creating a solid foundation for the visual and verbal story telling of your piece.

Casting Spreadsheet:

The Casting Spreadsheet is a document listing all potential subjects and their call history.

The casting spreadsheet is an essential document for any casting endeavor, but it is especially necessary for any major casting push or any topic that is especially difficult to cast.

Initial Story Outline:

The initial story outline is a basic one-page outline detailing a possible beginning, middle, and end for the story arc of the subject that has been cast.

This document is based on conversations the student has had with the subject and prepares the student as much as is possible for any reasonably conceivable turn the story could take.

This document is not generated in order to bend events to itself, but rather to prepare the student for various outcomes of events, thus enabling the student to be better prepared to think on his or her feet in the field.

Shoot Schedule:

The Shoot Schedule is a one or two page document detailing the verite' shoot that the student has scheduled with their subject.

The shoot schedule should have a very clear directive, such as "Cover the outcome of Bobby's meeting with Claire", as well as containing an hour-by-hour accounting of the schedule of the day.

Addresses, contact information, and directions for the crew should be included.

Interview Questions:

The interview questions document is a list of proposed questions the student will ask the subject during the interview.

These questions must be very carefully considered in order to achieve the most coherent and emotionally compelling material possible while remaining respectful and in good standing with the subject.

Project Files (basic set up):

Proper project file set up is crucial to establishing a healthy workflow for your project as well as remaining focused over the long term.

Footage Transcription Document:

The Footage Transcription Document is strictly formatted so as to document with precise accuracy every word that is said in the footage. It is interlaced with time code from the footage.

The paper edit will be founded on this document later in the course.

Project Files (Logging & Media Organization):

For this assignment students will turn in their Premiere Pro Project files to ensure that the footage shot in the field has been logged and organized properly.

Revised Story Outline:

The revised story outline is a revision of the initial story outline taking into account the events that have been captured on film by the student.

The revised story outline will be the guiding mechanism for the highlighting of the transcriptions and the paper edit.

The revised story outline gives the student the opportunity to synthesize the content captured on film and allows them to begin the process of communicating the story of the subject.

Highlighted Transcript:

Based on the course of direction determined by the revised story outline, the student will highlight content found within the footage transcription document.

This document will contain first pass material outlining content that the student feels clearly communicates the story, identity, and emotional journey of the subject as it pertains to the revised story outline.

Paper Edit:

The paper edit is essentially “driving directions” for the editor and begins the student on the path to story producing. It is a document one or two pages in length that contains two columns: one verbal and one visual.

The verbal column will contain each statement pulled from the highlighted transcript with time code from the beginning of the scene to the end.

In the visual column is the visual correspondent of every entry in the verbal column, such as, “On Camera Interview”, “Verite’ - Joe enters doctors office”, ect.

This document is an essential step before editing begins and is essentially a typed version of the final scene.