AESTHETICS/FILM & ELECTRONIC MEDIA  Spring 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The study of the theoretical basis behind visual grammar of motion pictures, which when utilized, will make artistic decisions in film and video productions far less arbitrary, and facilitate the precise analysis of aesthetic variables in media productions.

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course will familiarize you with the impact and theories behind motion picture aesthetics. Students will be asked to examine a large variety of image making styles and techniques; learning how to analyze new media visually, independent of politics and other forms of social bias. The objective is for students to apply these techniques in the creation of their own new media projects.

*** TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ***

TOPICS/READINGS

01/28  Course Review --- Expectations, Goals, Definitions

02/04  Lighting

02/11  Color

02/18  Two Dimensional Composition, Quiz One

02/25  Depth and Volume

03/03  Motion, Quiz Two

03/10  Visualization, Catch-up
      Assignment: Scene Breakdown One Due

03/17  Spring Break --- No Class

03/24  Editing and Sound

03/31  History of 20th Century Aesthetic Thought: Part One, Quiz Three

04/07  History of 20th Century Aesthetic Thought: Part Two, Quiz Four

04/14  History of 20th Century Aesthetic Thought: Part Three
      Assignment: Scene Breakdown Two Due

04/21  History of 20th Century Aesthetic Thought: Part Four

04/28  History of 20th Century Aesthetic Thought: Part Five. Quiz Five

05/05  History of 20th Century Aesthetic Thought: Part Six

05/12  American Cinema Aesthetic Legacy: Genres, Motifs & Waves
05/19 **FINAL**: Quiz Six --- **Assignment: Montage Breakdown**, Quiz Six

Note: I reserve the right to slow the course down and change the order of the presentation of the material.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

(1) Sight Sound Motion: Applied Media Aesthetics (Eighth Edition) by Herbert Zettl. Please bring your book to every class meeting since we will make reference to topics within the book.

**GRADES** – Quiz's: 20%    Scene Breakdown (one): 25%    Scene Breakdown (Two): 35%    Montage Breakdowns: 20%

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**Quizzes**: Six quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. These quizzes will concern the reading material and consist of 15 questions each.

**Scene Breakdown One**: Each student will be required to delineate their knowledge of the material by taking a pre-existing scene and using five to ten stills from the scene to map out the concepts in the course.

**Scene Breakdown Two**: Each student will be required to illustrate their knowledge of the material by taking a script for a scene and create five to ten stills from the scene to map out the concepts in the course.

**Montage Breakdown**: Each student will be required to create an original scenario (to be described in a half page treatment) and create three separate montages (using three separate montage styles, outlined in chapter 17 of your textbook) using still photographs. The montages must be at least seven images long and accompanied with a short paper describing the intended cause and effect of each montage type.

**REQUIREMENTS** -- You must attend and participate in all lectures and class demonstrations. We meet once a week for sixteen weeks and the lectures form the foundation for the entire course, so missing class is a serious matter. There will be six quizzes based on the reading and lecture material, and three scene breakdowns which will account for your entire grade.
CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attend all classes/ labs on time and stay for the entire screening.
Two unexcused missed classes and/ or screenings will lower your final grade 1 letter; three unexcused missed classes and/ or screenings will lower your final grade 1.5 letters; four unexcused missed classes and/ or screenings will lower your final grade 2 letters. Each unexcused absence after 4 will result in a ½ grade deduction.

Late arrivals and/ or early departures will lower your final grade.
Three late arrivals and/ or early departures will lower your final grade 1 letter; four late arrivals and/ or early departures will lower your final grade 1.5 letters; and so on.

Note: Leaving class during the break or before 9PM counts as an absence.

Notes: This class is dynamic by nature. The schedule is tentative meaning that assignment dates, minor requirements, and quiz materials WILL CHANGE throughout the semester. A large portion of the material that you are responsible for learning is not fully covered in your textbook, therefore you are responsible (and your grade will reflect this) for material covered in class lectures. YOU ARE NOT READY FOR CLASS IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A NOTEBOOK AND WRITING INSTRUMENT. You are expected to take notes every class, and if you miss class to copy notes from a fellow class member before the next class. Ask another student, or e-mail me about the quiz and other assignments due the class directly after the class in which you were absent.

EMF Google Group List Serve –

All EMF students are required to join the EMF Google Group List Serve at http://groups.google.com/group/TowsonEMF. This will guarantee that you receive daily postings regarding digital media, video, film, and audio production topics including festivals, special screening, guest speakers, film/video crew needs, internships, and jobs.
Use this email address (TowsonEMF@googlegroups.com) to post your own messages to the group. The main page will also archive all posts.

Instructions:
1. Create a user account and password, and be sure to use the email to which you prefer receiving mail. (You only need to sign up once and you’ll continue to receive EMF Google group emails.)

2. Please select one of the three Email options for reading the group messages:
   (a) Abridged Email (No more than 1 email per day) -- Summary of new activity each day
   (b) Digest Email (Approximately 1 email per day) -- Up to 25 full new messages bundled into a single email.
   (c) Email (Approximately 1 email per day) -- Best way not to miss important postings, as you get every message sent as it arrives
Civility

All EMF students, staff, and faculty are committed to collegial and academic citizenship demonstrating high standards of humane, ethical, professional, and civil behavior in all interactions.

We need to be aware of the relationship between our personal conduct and the quality of campus life. What we do and say always has an effect on others, whether we see it or not. Civility means more than respecting campus facilities and grounds. Civility means consistently treating people with consideration and respect. It means being courteous, polite, and fair. It means recognizing diversity and honoring differing points of view. When our behavior is guided by concern for others in our community, we are being civil. Practicing civility requires thoughtful behavior and checking our assumptions and perceptions of others’ race, gender, culture, and belief systems.

Civility Code

EMF places a priority on learning. We value the inherent worth and dignity of every person, thereby fostering a community of mutual respect. Students have the right to a learning environment free of disruptive behaviors. Faculty have the right to define appropriate behavioral expectations in the classroom and expect students to abide by them. Faculty have the responsibility to manage and address classroom disruption. Staff have the right and responsibility to define appropriate behaviors necessary to conduct any university activity free of disruption or obstruction.

We believe that in order to achieve these ideals, all EMF students, staff, and faculty are expected to exhibit and practice civil behaviors that exemplify: (1) respecting faculty, staff, fellow students, guests, and all university property, policies, rules and regulations; (2) taking responsibility for one’s choices and actions; (3) delivering correspondence – whether verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic – with respectful language and in complete sentences; and (4) accepting consequences of one’s inappropriate choices and actions.

The use offensive, threatening or abusive language, writing, or behavior will not be tolerated and can lead to academic dismissal. Further information about civility can be found in Appendix F of the university catalog.

Examples demonstrating civility in the classroom as a student include:

- Being respectful of the professor and other students.
- Not texting or using cellular phones and other electronic devices.
- Not using your laptop for activities other than class work.
- Not eating or drinking in class.
- Not reading newspapers or listening to music during the class.
- Not sleeping in class.

Examples demonstrating civility in the classroom as a faculty member include:

- Being respectful of the students.
- Attempting to understand individual student needs and learning styles.
- Discussing civil behavioral expectations during the first class.
- Taking time to talk with students whose behaviors negatively affect the classroom.
- Encouraging students to follow your civil behavior.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The EMF Department adheres to the Towson University “Student Academic Integrity Policy.” Any form of cheating or plagiarism is prohibited by the policy. Please visit www.towson.edu/studentlife/judicialaffairs/academicintegrity.html for details. Any violation of this policy will result in a failing grade for the course.

DISABILITY NOTE: Requirements for EMF Department classes follow Towson University’s disability policy; see www.towson.edu/dss for details. Any student who may need accommodation due to a disability, please make an appointment to see the instructor during the first week of class. A memo from Disability Support Services authorizing your accommodation will be required.