

# CIS 365: Digital Film

## Course Description

This semester we will develop a deep understanding of video production and non-linear film editing. This course focuses primarily upon the development of digital film and the theory surrounding the analysis and criticism of film.

***Please note that the primary focus of this course is not solely the development of technical skills.***

Rather, this course is designed to function as thorough exploration the theories of visual communication and film criticism. With these understandings, your production work will be more effective and contain more value.

## Student Outcomes

As a student in this course, you will develop a further understanding of film narrative, digital storytelling, and digital media development. You will also come to grasp the more advanced concepts of non-linear film editing. In addition, you will begin to think critically upon how digital technologies impact the nature of film and storytelling today.

## Reference Materials

Texts for this class will present in the form of films that we watch all term. But in addition, the following book is required. Several Internet resources will also be provided as readings throughout the term at <http://courses.samfee.net/>.

Stockman, S. (2011). *How to Shoot Video That Doesn't Suck: Advice to Make Any Amateur Look Like a Pro*. Peachpit Press. ISBN-13: 978-0761163237. \$11. (Kindle \$8).

[PS: Watch the 3 minute promo video on the Amazon page.]

## Grading and Assignments

Student assessment for this course will take the form of a comprehensive evaluation of electronic materials, oral presentations, writing assignments, peer assessment, homework assignments, and course participation. Specifically, your grade for the course will be determined by the evaluation of these projects:

30-Second Commercial	10%
Notes on Film	20%
Storyboard Materials	20%
20-Minute Short Film	30%
Participation	20%

**A note on Participation:** this component of grading can be subjective and confusing. Simply put - Participation reflects your engagement with the content during class, preparation before class, and availability/contributions to your group outside of class. This score is compiled through my own observations and peer assessments. Do not assume 100% Participation. Assume 75% and work to get your grade to the level you desire.

## Schedule

This course meets each T/W at 1:15 in room 215 of the Technology Center. There is a small lab available 24/7 via card swipe in room 216. Please note that readings should be completed *before class* on the day they are listed.

February 1	Film: <i>The Matrix</i>	
February 6	Film: <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i>	Read: Notes on Film Handout
February 8	Film: <i>The Usual Suspects</i>	Read: Stockman, Parts 1 & 2
February 13	Discussion/Lab: Commercial Examples, Basic DV, and iMovie	
February 15	Film: <i>The Life of David Gale</i>	Read: Stockman, Parts 3 & 4
February 20	Lab: Commercial Projects	
February 22	10 Minute Film School	
February 27	Film: <i>Fight Club</i>	Read: Stockman, Part 5
March 1	Lab: Planning the Short Film	<b>Commercial Due</b>
March 6	Film: <i>The Butterfly Effect</i>	
March 8	Film: <i>Eternal Sunshine</i>	Read: Stockman, Part 6
March 13	Lab: Short Film Planning Work	
March 15	NO CLASS	

March 20/22	SPRING BREAK
March 27	NO CLASS
March 29	Lab: Planning the Short Film, Outlining and Basic Storyboarding
April 3	Lab: Storyboard Materials
April 5	Film: <i>Vanilla Sky</i> <b>Storyboard Materials Due</b>
April 10	Film: <i>The Secret Life of Walter Mitty</i>
April 12	Film: <i>Interstellar</i>
April 17	Lab: Shotting Initial DV
April 19	Film: <i>Inception</i>
April 24	Lab: Shotting Initial DV
April 26	Film: <i>Memento</i>
May 1	Lab: Non-linear Editing
May 3	Lab: Short Film Project Work
May 8	Film Presentations <b>Short Films Due</b>

## Final Notes

Final grades will be negatively impacted by more than three absences. You will lose one point from your *final* grade for the course for each absence in excess of three. There are no “excused” absences. There are only these three. Any late work will be docked one full letter grade (i.e. 10 points) each day. There are no exceptions to this rule. You must turn in each assignment to receive a final grade for this class.

I won't bother to give you information unless you actually need to know it. In return, I ask that you actually read it, and make your best effort to understand and remember the details.

Texting in class is rude and disrespectful to both your peers and the instructor. This includes reading texts as well as sending them. I'm probably not going to call you out on it - this isn't high school - I'm just going to deduct 5% from your participation grade. Each time.

Please note that you may not record or capture any classroom interactions through any means unless you seek permission of the instructor in advance.

Taking responsibility and ownership for your data will make your experiences in computing much less taxing! I am not the repository of your work. So, make sure you make copies for yourself, as I will not be able to provide them later in the term, or later in your academic career.

Finally, please note that this document represents the minimum that you need to know about the course. For additional details and information, you should consult the online course information at <http://courses.samfee.net/>.