

MCOM 35203-0001
FILM WORKSHOP
Fall 2025 Course Information

Professor: John C. Dailey, Ph.D.
E-Mail: John.Dailey@uafs.edu
Vines 155
479-788-7929

Virtual Office Hours: [MW 1:00-2:00, TR 2:00-3:00](#) <<< Schedule A Meeting
Classroom / Class time: Baldor 122, TR, 9:30 - 10:45

Required Textbook –

Katz, Steven (2019). *Film Directing Shot By Shot: visualizing from concept to screen*.
Studio City, CA: Michael Wiese Productions ISBN-13: 978-1615932979

Prerequisite: MCOM 1203 Introduction to Media Communication

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Digital film projects based upon emergent technology, styles, and developments where students assume one or many roles in a production team and work collaboratively. Course may be repeated once for a total of six credit hours, as project topics vary.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Collaborate to produce works on digital film.
2. Analyze problems in the creative process.
3. Devise solutions to common cinematic problems during production.
4. Evaluate resulting efforts for effectiveness and weaknesses.
5. Develop a personal working process
6. Deliver finished cinematic products to the public.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills:

Students will analyze problems and develop solutions using digital industry tools.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate both with other team members during the projects, and with the audience using the tools of visual storytelling.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. On location shooting
- B. Team-oriented production process
- C. Start to finish filmmaking
- D. Solving common problems in production
- E. Self-generated idea realization

COURSE OVERVIEW

This workshop provides a practical introduction to the filmmaking process, covering fundamental concepts and skills in screenwriting, production, and post-production. Students will gain hands-on experience through collaborative projects and develop a foundational understanding of cinematic storytelling and technical film elements.

Evaluation Criteria:

Assignments	Points	Due
1. AI Storyboard	100	9/18
2. Shotlist	100	10/02
3. Opening Scene	115	10/23
4. Final Project	150	12/11
Blog Discussion (15 points/week)	135 - -	DUE MONDAYS @ MIDNIGHT
Engagement & Participation	<u>100</u>	
TOTAL:	600 points	

Project Note:

The instructor reserves the right to keep copies of student projects to be used for future classroom instruction.

Deadlines: The due dates for projects are **not** flexible. Due to the limited availability of facilities and the high demand placed on this equipment by the other lab classes, late projects will not be accepted and Incompletes will not usually be granted. Situations involving an illness or emergency will be dealt with on an individual basis.

All projects will be graded on the extent to which an intended message is effectively and creatively communicated. In addition, the grade for each project will be based on the quality of pre-production planning, raw material, the final edit, and individual participation. Projects will be produced in teams and each member of the team will evaluate the performance of the other members. The entire class will informally critique all projects.

Equipment Use: *Students who willfully or through negligence misuse and/or damage UAFS equipment or facilities will fail the class and will be required to reimburse costs for equipment/facility repair or replacement to the Department. Students who fail to adhere to media lab rules may have lab privileges suspended and may suffer project and/or course grade penalties depending on the severity of the infraction.*

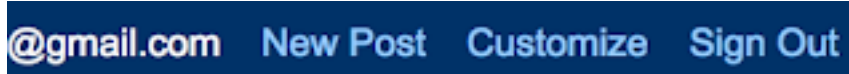
Our Class Blog (15 points per week = 135 points)

<https://mcom35203-01fs25.blogspot.com/>

A TOTAL of 9 required posts for the semester... ONE PER WEEK on Mondays by Midnight.
Note: "Makeup Posts" after a chapter's "CLASS DISCUSSION START" will not count towards the total!

POSTING INSTRUCTIONS

Click The "New Post" Link In The Upper Right Corner....



- 1) Title your post like this:
YourFirstName__Chapter# - Example: John__Chp1
- 2) Create a label for yourself w/ your First and Last Name...
EXAMPLE: Dr_John (found on the right under Post settings).
Twirl left arrow up to add your label.
OR Click on your already created label.
- 3) **ONE POST per person PER CHAPTER by CLASS TIME** on the day that the chapter is being discussed - SEE THE SYLLABUS.
- 4) **START YOUR POST BY MENTIONING A KEY IDEA** you are "reflecting upon, expanding, countering, etc." from the reading for that chapter.
- 5) **NEXT, FIND A LINK** to a resource on the web which supports your idea (AI search is OK!).
Check to see if someone else has already posted the LINK you had in mind...
>> *Think of these links as "conversation starters"* 😊 <<
- 6) **ADD YOUR LINK.**
- 7) Add a **BRIEF STATEMENT** which summarizes your link.
- 8) **HIT "Publish".**
- 9) **SAVE YOUR COMMENTS TO OTHER POSTS TO SHARE IN CLASS** instead of on the blog.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes as specified in the course syllabi. **Attendance is required EVERY TUESDAY and THURSDAY on scheduled in-class sessions.** I expect you to be in class on time. **You will lose 10 points for each class that you miss.** It is the responsibility of the student to promptly notify their instructor when unable to attend class. **Illness, family emergencies, or college-sanctioned activities can sometimes cause you to miss class. Absences may be excused if you discuss the activity (in advance, if possible) with the instructor.** The decision about whether to excuse an absence lies with the instructor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (AVOIDING PLAGIARISM)

Plagiarism is often defined as representing the words or ideas of another person as your own in any academic exercise. In the academy, plagiarism is seen as the equivalent of theft. The University identifies a number of actions, including plagiarism, as forms of academic dishonesty. Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the *Student Handbook* and make certain that you understand the term plagiarism and its consequences. During the semester, we will discuss how to avoid plagiarism through the proper use of documentation. If you have any questions about what is or is not plagiarism, ask me.

AI USE

NOTE: Except as noted in class, I shall consider any and all use of ChatGPT or other AI-based tools as willful acts of plagiarism. Such AI technologies rely on ingesting previous work, often without the author's permission.

ADA STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), UA Fort Smith seeks to provide reasonable accommodations and services to students who have documented exceptionalities. Students who believe they are eligible to declare a disability for the purpose of requesting and receiving accommodations must submit all required documentation of their disability to Dana Andreassen, Director of Student Disability Services, for validation. Ms. Andreassen will develop an individualized plan for reasonable accommodation in learning and testing for all students qualifying for accommodation. Ms. Andreassen can be reached at 479-788-7577.

FERPA STATEMENT

According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, you have certain rights with respect to your educational records, including the right to inspect your own educational records, to request an amendment if you believe them to be in error, and the right to consent to disclosure of your records (with certain exceptions). Please refer to the UA-Fort Smith catalog for more information.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT SERVICES

Writing Center

The UAFS Writing Center is located in the Old Gym, around the corner from ROTC, and across the street from the RAWC. You can consult the Writing Center Web site from the UAFS home page and schedule appointments online through uafs.mywconline.com.

The Writing Center is staffed with undergraduate and professional writing tutors who will meet with you online or in-person for appointments and on a walk-in basis. Writing Center tutors DO NOT proofread, check spelling, or edit your work for you. They DO work with you to develop your writing skills so that you can better revise, proofread, and edit your own written work or oral presentations. If you have questions, you can contact the Writing Center through email at WritingCenter@uafs.edu or call 479-788-7228 for assistance.

Academic Success Center

The Gordon E. Kelley Academic Success Center (ASC) provides programs designed to meet individual student needs not met through the general curriculum. Currently, the ASC is located in Room 202 of the Vines Building. Students may contact ASC staff at 479-788-7675.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Students who have questions or concerns about their grades, the course, or an assignment are encouraged to see their instructor as soon as possible. If not satisfied with that discussion, students may see the Chair of the department (if there is an acting Chair). If not satisfied with that discussion, students may see the appropriate Dean. If not satisfied with that discussion—or to dispute an official course grade, students should contact the Academic Integrity Committee.

RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus and/or schedule when necessary to meet learning objectives, to compensate for missed classes, or for similar reasons.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Discussion / Activities</u>
Week 1 August 19 August 21	Introduction PICK CREWS	Hello...
Week 2 August 26 August 28	Chapters 1 & 2 OUR GEAR	<i>Visualization / Production Design</i>
Week 3 September 2 September 4	Chapter 3 NO CLASS	<i>Storyboards</i>
Week 4 September 9 September 11	Chapter 4	<i>Visualization</i> Scripts Picked / Casting Call Ads
Week 5 September 16 September 18	Chapters 6 LAB DAY	Introduction to LTX Studio Pro
Week 6 September 23 September 25	Chapter 8 STORYBOARDS DUE	<i>Shot Flow</i> CASTING CALLS
Week 7 September 30 October 2	Chapters 9 - 12 LAB DAY	<i>Staging</i>
Week 8 October 7 October 9	Chapters 13 - 14 SHOTLIST DUE	<i>Depth / Camera Angles</i> FIELD PRODUCTION
Week 9 October 14 October 16	Chapters 17 - 20 NO CLASS	<i>Camera Movement</i> FIELD PRODUCTION
Week 10 October 21 October 23	Chapters 7 & 21 NO CLASS	<i>Editing / Transitions</i> FIELD PRODUCTION
Week 11 October 28 October 30	OPENING SCENES DUE FINALIZE - CREW ROLES	FIELD PRODUCTION
Week 12 November 4 November 6	WATCH DAILYS NO CLASS	FIELD PRODUCTION

COURSE SCHEDULE (cont.)

Week 13

November 11
November 13

WATCH DAILYS
NO CLASS

FIELD PRODUCTION

Week 14

November 18
November 20

LAB DAY
LAB DAY

Rough Editing
Rough Editing

Week 15

November 25
November 27

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS
THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 16

December 2
December 4

LAB DAY
LAB DAY

Rough Editing
Rough Editing

FINALS WEEK

Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.
FINAL PROJECT SHOWCASE