

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester A in 2008 / 2009**

This form is for completion by the *Course Co-ordinator*. The information provided on this form will be deemed to be the official record of the details of the course. It has multipurpose use: for the University's database, and for publishing in various University publications including the Blackboard, and documents for students and others as necessary.

Please refer to the *Explanatory Notes* attached to this Form on the various items of information required.

Part I

Course Title: The Art of Editing

Course Code: SM2002

Course Duration: One Semester

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level: B3

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims:

Editing is an art of composing space (as totality or fragment, continuous or discontinuous) and time (linear or non-linear) through the arrangement, assembly and interaction of images (static or dynamic) and sounds (on screen or off screen), and an art of visualizing rhythm and tempo as emotional flow or movements of intensities. A good editing sense is basic requirement for a film or video editor, and is absolutely necessary for one to structure creatively a cinematic work. For broadly speaking, all creative works on film, video and image-related media acquire meaning, artistic

expression and impact in ‘montage’, the juxtaposition of images, and sounds. This course aims to teach students the basic knowledge or concepts of editing, and develop their editing sense in practical editing assignments.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1	Understand the basic concepts and aesthetics of editing, and demonstrate through critical analysis how good or bad a cinematic work is constructed through the editing of its images and sounds.	
2	Acquire the technical knowledge of using the Avid system’s basic editing functions and apply it to practical editing work.	
3.	Cultivate and possess a good editing sense that is important and necessary for a professional editor.	
4.	Perform various kinds of editing work – action sequence, dialogue scene, music video and trailer.	

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students’ achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1	Lectures on the concepts and art of editing, using excerpts from film classics to demonstrate in depth the complexity of editing that result from various kinds of focus and emphasis.	
CILO 2	Lectures and demonstrations in the workshop sessions that teach the technical knowledge of using the Avid editing system and all its basic functions.	
CILO 3	In-class presentation by students of their editing works, followed by critique and discussions. Practical editing demonstrations will be conducted by teacher in class, in the re-editing of student’s work.	
CILO 4	A series of editing assignments to ensure students to gain practical experience in editing various genres of cinematic work.	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1, 3	Students' critique and discussions of fellow students' editing exercises in class. Student is required to write a piece of critical analysis to demonstrate his/her knowledge and sense of editing.		
CILO 2, 3, 4	Students' performances in the four editing exercises assigned to them, to see how efficient, creative, imaginative and accurate they are as editor.		

Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations (Attachment) and to the Explanatory Notes.

100% coursework

Each student is to complete four editing assignments that focus on different aspects of editing – action continuity, dialogue, music video, and trailer. How competent, effective and imaginative their editing performances are will be evaluated at the end of the semester.

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-...F)

Grading is based on performance in assessment tasks / activities.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Work of the Editor

Editing Sense

Creative elements in an Image (for editing)

Action Continuity

Construction and deconstruction of Space

Structuring Time

Composition of Tempo

Assembly of Shots

Continuity and Discontinuity

Spatial and Temporal Articulations

Modes of Transition

Rhythm and Beat

Montage

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

The Film Form – Sergei Eisenstein. Harvest Books

The Film Sense – Sergei Eisenstein. Faber and Faber

Theory of Film Practice – Noel Burch. Princeton University Press

The Aesthetics and Psychology of the Cinema – Jean Mitry. Indiana University Press

The Technique of Film and Video Editing – Ken Dancyger. Focal Press

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