

SM2211: CINEMATOGRAPHY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Cinematography

Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

Course Number

2211

Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SM2704 Creative Media Studio II

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Cinematography I is a production workshop designed to give intermediate level undergraduate students hands-on training about moving images. The course aims to introduce students the topics and techniques of cinematography and lighting.

Students are expected to acquire the cinematography techniques such as camera movement, camera angles, action continuity and composition. Students are expected to apply the knowledge and skill in their video production.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Manage independently the operation of digital camera	x		
2	Apply the technical knowledge and skill in production of digital video	x	x	x
3	Identify and demonstrate cinematography skill and rules in creation e.g: framing, composition, camera movement and continuity.		x	x
4	Understand and demonstrate basic lighting set up skills with digital camera	x	x	x
5	Demonstrate basic audio recording skills with digital camera	x	x	
6	Transform basic technical competence into a unique style or personal signature			x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)	
1	Lecture	Lecture on digital camera operation In-class practices on camera technical operation	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	3 hrs/wk
2	Lecture	Lecture on technical knowledge of digital video	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3 hrs/wk
3	Demonstration and Practice	Demonstration on cinematography skill and students practice Critiques students' works	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	3 hrs/wk for 3 weeks
4	Demonstration and Group Project	Demonstration: lighting set up and students practice Critiques students' works	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	3 hrs/wk for 3 weeks

5	Demonstration and Group Project	Demonstration: Dolly and Mini Jib movement with digital camera operation Students practices	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3 hrs/wk for 3 weeks
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignment 1: written assignment on digital video technical knowledge	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	10	What is color-temperature, the definition of F-stop, and the definition of light	Yes
2	Assignment 2: practical assignment on camera movement and framing	1, 3, 6	20	Capturing moving images (individual)	No
3	Assignment 3: Interview shooting on difference location	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20	Interview in different situation (market, food mall, busy street, highway, train station, landscape building)	No
4	Assignment 4: Shoot a scene with lighting set up	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	20	Shooting a scene with maximum 2 lights only (5 shots: harsh / soft, warm / cool, night scene) (Group project with role shifted)	No
5	Assignment 5: Final assignment: 5 min production. Students expected to apply the technical skill and lighting knowledge in their project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20	5 minute production - maximum 4 lights (group)	No
6	In- class participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	10	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Written Assignment

Criterion

This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate various resources Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition
- Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature
- Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion
- Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition
- Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently
- Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Fair organization with adequate structure and composition
- Relevant points made to the subject matter in question
- Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion

Marginal (D)

- Weak content, limited use of resources
- Poor organization, structure and composition
- Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
- Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms

Failure (F)

- Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
- No organization, structure or/and composition
- Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions
- Fail to respond to other comments

Assessment Task

2. Practical Assignment

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's proactively turning theory into praxis, to transform course material into self-owned authorship.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Work has strong affective quality and the articulation of personal styles and signature
- Excellent appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Work raises questions and instill insights about the process of conception, creative strategization and production Innovative exploration by combining knowledge from different disciplines (e.g. mathematics, psychology, physics, anthropology, etc.) to create an inter-disciplinary project
- Efficient adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available with constructive adjustment

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Strong appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available and constructive feedback/ suggestions

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Basic appreciation and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Limited ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Marginal (D)

- Marginal appreciation of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Marginal ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Limited adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Failure (F)

- No appreciation of the aesthetics and expressive qualities of the medium
- Fail to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Minimal adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Additional Information for AR

All A+/A/A- grade assignment should comply with the highest performance of Discovery-oriented learning.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Camera, f-stop, lighting, color temperature, technical, white balance, cinematography, focal-length, depth of field, framing, layer, interview shot, shot size, three point lighting, color with light.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Understanding and Creating Sophisticated Images - Angela Faris Belt.
2	Storaro: Writing With Light-Colours-Elements by Vittorio Storaro, ASC
3	Matters of Light and Depth by Ross Lowell
4	Lighting for Digital Video and Television, 3rd Edition by John Jackman
5	Digital Cinematography by Paul Wheeler

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Cinematography : Image Making for Cinematographers and Directors - Blain Brown
2	Painting With Light - John Alton