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MART 578.01: Film Projects

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MAR 579 (01)

Film Projects

School of Media Arts

Autumn 2014 - The University of Montana, Missoula

Professor Michael Murphy - McGill 229

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a project-based course that combines actors and directors in the collaborative creation of a short film. The model for the collaborations comes from directors like Mike Leigh (*Naked*, *Secrets & Lies*, *Vera Drake*) who works in a non-traditional fashion in order to generate script, plot and characters through improvisation. Actors will be cast with a director, who will then work with them in the creation of a 5-10 minute film, which will be shot by the end of the semester.

Aside from the creation of a project, the following areas will be dealt with both from an actors and a director's perspective:

- METHODS OF IMPROVISATION
- CHARACTER LAYERING AND DEVELOPMENT
- THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT
- USE AND REITERATION OF LOCATION
- USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER TRAITS
- IN-DEPTH BACKSTORY
- ANALYSIS OF FILMS BY CASSAVETTES, LEIGH AND OTHERS WORKING IN NON-TRADITIONAL METHODS

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.

THIS IS A LABORATORY/PRODUCTION CLASS. IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU ATTEND EACH SESSION. THERE WILL ALSO BE REHEARSALS OUTSIDE OF CLASS THAT ARE A PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORK FOR THIS CLASS, IN THE SAME WAY YOU WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE HOMEWORK IN ANY CLASS. THESE OUT-OF-CLASS SESSIONS/SHOOTS, WILL REQUIRE BETWEEN

1 AND 4 HOURS PER WEEK.

THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/1339>

DIRECTING /ACTING FOR THE CAMERA SCHEDULE

Week #1 August 26	View <i>Happy-Go-Lucky</i> , dir. Mike Leigh Thematics exercise/ Directors Discuss Mike Leigh interview and Discuss goals/criteria/schedule ASSIGN: JOURNAL (ACTORS) SCENARIO LOG (DIRECTORS) RABIGER EXERCISE: AUTOBIOGRAPHY (ALL) THEMATIC (DIRECTORS) CASTING: Directors and Actors joined!
Week #2 Sept. 2	LABOR DAY Share and discuss autobio exercise and potential story/character ideas ONLINE! Friday: Interview Actors 1
Week #3 Sept. 9	Scenario/Character/Thematic ideas "Casting" of actors Improvisation and backstory Character assignments/Improv Backstory only Assignment: Personal Objects/Locations Friday Meet with actors for Casting Re-interview
Week #4 Sept. 16	Scenario Development/Backstory reports/location possibilities Continue scenario development Immediate Backstory improves
Week #5 Sept. 23	Development Improv
Week #6 Sept. 30	Shooting Week #1 New scenarios Improv and prep
Week #7 Oct. 7	Shooting Week #2 New scenarios Improv and prep
Week #8 Oct. 14	Shooting Week #3 New scenarios Improv and prep

Week #9 Oct. 21	Shooting Week #4 New scenarios Improv/prep
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Week #10 Oct. 28	Shooting Week #5 New scenarios Improv and prep
Week #11 Nov. 4	Beginning edits
Week #12 Nov. 11	Beginning edits
Week #13 Nov. 18	Beginning edits
Week #14 Nov. 25	Thanksgiving
Week #15 Dec. 2	Intermediate edits
Final Class!	<u>View Final Cuts Films</u>

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR THE FACE-TO-FACE PORTION OF THIS HYBRID CLASS. **THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES.** YOU ARE ALLOWED 3 ABSENCES OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. ON THE 4TH ABSENCE YOU GRADE WILL DROP 5 PTS. ON THE 5TH, 10 PTS. ON THE 6TH, 15PTS., ON THE 7TH YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE CLASS.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT and the STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS SHOULD INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>