

COM4042-1 SP20 - Field Television Production

Welcome to COM 442 Field Production

If you're able to access this website, it means that you are officially enrolled in this course. Be sure to read all of the course information contained in this site, as it is critical to your success in this course. See you on Thursday afternoon!

I look forward to our Tuesday & Thursday, RLC 106, 3:00-5:40 pm class sessions this semester!

See you in class,
Dr. Hueth

Dr. Alan C. Hueth

619-849-2358

alanhueth@pointloma.edu

Office Location Cabrillo 203

Office Hours M & W, noon-1

(all preferably by appointment)

Okay to drop in--but I do have an overload and some projects this semester, so there's no guarantee when I'll be in my office. Best is to email me for an appointment. Just send me time frames of days and times you're available, and I'll pick a time that works for both of us!

Welcome to COM 442 Field Production -- one of two PLNU advanced film production courses!

INTRODUCTION

This course is an extension/representation/embodiment of the PLNU mission below, and will especially focus on the “teaching” and “shaping” parts of that mission:

The PLNU Mission: To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is one of two courses in the media com major that is designed to help you produce your best projects—projects that are festival worthy and/or outstanding enough to be showcased on your audition reel as some of your best work.

This is an advanced course in single-camera, film-style field production and editing, focusing on dramatic/comedic non-fiction narrative—especially focused on short films. The course will include sessions on the aesthetic and technical aspects of producing these kinds of films, and will include every aspect of the production process—especially focusing on outstanding camera, lighting, sound, directing, and editing.

The text and supplementary readings, along with workshops, will prepare you to be an independent producer or to work with a TV/film production company. Therefore, it will include

sessions on all aspects of the film production process, including all tasks, and techniques for pre-production, production, post-production, and marketing, distribution, and exhibition of your film. This course should provide you with a greater understanding and appreciation for the various roles that each production team member has in this process, and will give you opportunity to conceptualize, plan, shoot, edit, market/ promote, and distribute a professional-looking film. It will also help you to gain knowledge and develop skill-sets that will prepare you to produce several different types of film and television programs--including short and feature-length films and/or story-based commercials, music videos, and corporate media.

TEXTBOOKS

For those who have not taken COM 443 Studio Production--you are required to buy or rent these two (2) textbooks.

1. The Lean Forward Moment..., Norman Hollyn, (New Riders Press). For used: <http://finderscheapers.com/Search.aspx?kw=the+lean+forward+moment> (Links to an external site.)
2. Producing and Directing the Short Film and Video, (3rd ed is okay) by Irving and Rea, (Focal Press). For used copy, see: <http://finderscheapers.com/product-price/Producing-and-Directing-the-Short-Film-and-Video-0240811747-9780240811741-24JAXIS0Y5F1> (Links to an external site.)

When checking-out and checking-in equipment...

You'll be assisted by our Media Operations Manager, Rick Moncauskas, and our TA's. You will be working with Rick on a variety of competencies--especially the editing, graphics, and sound competencies. Our "technical assistants" (TA's) will also be interacting with you for equipment check out and any assistance with equipment, editing, etc. at the studio. The TA's for this semester are:

Sommer Fox , junior, Media Com-Production
Grace Ramos, freshmen, Media Com-Production
Maile Raventos, sophomore, Media Com--Film Studies
Hana Strickfaden, sophomore, Media Com Minor
Leanna Thesken , sophomore, Media Com--Multimedia
Luna Trevino , sophomore, Media Com--Multimedia

Edit Bay Hours:

The edit bays are open and available when Rick Moncauskas or our TA's are working. Those hours are posted by the second week of the semester on the bulletin board by the studio door. These hours fall within the library's open hours. Friday access will be limited to a couple of hours in the afternoon, and weekend access will be based solely on TA availability. If you have questions about this, please talk with Rick Moncauskas, Media Operations Manager, about this. His office is in the studio complex.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this course, students will display:

1. Understanding and skill in producing, directing, art direction/production design, camera, lighting, sound, acting, and/or editing and graphics; and
2. An understanding of the marketing/promotion, distribution, and exhibition of films.

You will be expected to perform at an advanced level, and you are encouraged to enter your work in the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Student Video Festival, or other student and professional festivals. Students who have their projects selected by a festival will receive a reimbursement from the department to cover their entry fee for the festival. Also, each production team will receive a \$100 stipend (reimbursed after the semester is over) for production costs incurred for your film. More details for that are provided in the assignments section of the syllabus.

COURSE FORMAT & ACTIVITIES

The format for the in-class meeting sessions will be diverse, with a variety of activities designed to help you to understand and apply course concepts and production techniques in your projects. There will be two different "groups" that will share most activities in this course, but will also have their own distinct activities throughout the semester. Details on the graded assignments are available in the Assignment section.

Group 1 will include students in this course who HAVE NOT TAKEN the COM 443 Studio Production course. Their distinct activities include:

- In-class online quizzes on chapter readings in The Lean Forward Moment... and the Producing and Directing... textbooks. See the Course Schedule for assigned readings and quizzes.
- Taking a Final Exam--based on selected questions included in the online quizzes
- Screening, note taking, and discussion of ten (10) episodes of *Bobby Roth's Master Class, A Director Prepares...* talking about the direction process of shows like *Lost*, *Gray's Anatomy*, *Hawaii Five-O*, and many other television shows and films. Each episode is approximately 20 minutes and consists of short educational documentaries on a variety of topics that are relevant to this course and others. There will also be an EXTRA CREDIT points opportunity related to this course. You can earn up to two (2) points for each "Master Class Episode-Notes" submitted at the end of class -- based on the *Bobby Roth Master Class* videos that will be screened in class. Your notes must include ten (10) or more content points. You must submit these legibly handwritten on paper with your name, episode number noted, and the date of the submission. You will turn these in at the end of each class session that the episode is shown.

Group 2 will include students in this course who HAVE TAKEN the COM 443 Studio Production course. Their distinct activities include:

- Screening, note-taking-reports on the *Looking at Movies* DVD videos on a variety of film topics and production techniques
- Doing Production Workshops on camera, lighting, and sound for the class

All students in this course will be doing the following:

- Screening and analysis of award-winning student and professional short films and excerpts of (or complete) feature-length films. These include academy-award winners, BEA award-winners, *168 Hour Film Festival*, and selected professionally-produced short films. Topics of discussion will include scriptwriting, directing, art direction/production design, acting, camera and lighting, sound, and editing.
- Doing a “Film Pitch” presentation on a project idea for a group short film (details provided in Assignments section). I, Rick, AND all students in this course will rate the pitches to determine which projects are chosen for production this semester. The highest-rated pitches will be selected and green-lighted for production in this course.
- Production Presentations – using PowerPoint (or Prezi) -- on one of several production areas. All students are required to do this presentation.
- Producing and screening two (2) group film production projects, including: a two-person group *One Script--Two Genre Scenes* project, and a Group Film Project -- based on the Film Pitches that are selected.

ATTENDANCE

This is an extremely important production course and one that you need to take seriously in your program here at PLNU. It is where you prove your professionalism as a prospective filmmaker/TV producer. Therefore, it is critical that you attend all course sessions, along with all of your out-of-class team project sessions. Film/TV production is a collaborative enterprise that requires organization, focus, and team effort to succeed. This works best when the entire team is present at all class sessions, team project gatherings, etc. Always remember: others are depending on you to be present and to perform well.

Everyone starts with 100 points for Attendance and Participation. Your attendance and participation grade will incur point reductions for absences from class. Every absence will incur a 25 point reduction off of your Attendance & Participation grade. Normal allowances are made for your own severe illness and/or family deaths, etc. However, if you must be absent from a course session, a note and/or call or visit to the instructor is advised. If you must be late to a project planning or production session, communicating with your fellow student-teammates (well in advance) is advised.

IMPORTANT NOTE: if I get a report from a show producer that someone did not show up for a small-group project or class project shoot, that student will incur point reductions also.

From the Provost: Regular and punctual attendance at all classes in which a student is registered is considered essential for optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements to be met. There are no allowed or excused absences except when absences are necessitated by certain university-sponsored activities and are approved in writing by the Provost.

Whenever the number of accumulated absences in a class, for any cause, exceeds ten percent (10%) of class sessions (this is **equivalent to one and one-half weeks or longer** in this course), the faculty member has the option of filing a written report to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration which may result in de-enrollment, pending any resolution of the excessive absences between the faculty member and the student. **In the case of this course, that's two missed class sessions.** If more than 20 percent (**that's three missed class sessions in this course**) is reported as missed, the faculty member may initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without advance notice to the student. If the date of de-

enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of "F" or "NC." There are no refunds for courses where a de-enrollment was processed.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Camcorders, microphones, lighting kits, and other equipment are available for check-out at the PLNU studio. Check-out and return times and policies are posted on the PLNU TV & Film bulletin board by the studio door. Unfortunately, we do not have enough equipment for everyone to use simultaneously. Students who do not abide by the policies will be penalized. Penalties include substantial late fee charges, and for those that abuse policies repeatedly: loss of equipment use privileges for the semester. Also, the person that checks out the equipment is responsible for the care of equipment. If equipment is lost or damaged, students are responsible for costs to replace or repair the equipment. See additional details posted on the equipment check-out policy sheet in the TV studio.

Our equipment and facilities are not only academic labs, but are also professional production facilities for on and off-campus constituents. The success and improvement of the academic program in media studies at PLNU is dependent upon the condition, quality, and success of this facility.

Eating and drinking is especially forbidden in the control room, the edit bays, and the studio. You will be required to clean-up, strike, and return all equipment and other items to their proper places after labs and project sessions. Also, please take everything out of the facility that you bring into the facility. If I, other faculty, or department TA's consistently find papers, books, scripts or other items traceable to a student, that student's participation grade will be affected. The studio and edit bays are work areas that need to be kept as neat and clean as possible.

USE THE CUBBY-SHELVES FOR YOUR BACKPACKS, ETC!

Shelves are provided on the left hand side of the door that gives you access to the control room and studio. PLEASE put all backpacks, books, purses, etc. in a cubby space while you're in the studio complex. This will help keep the clutter away from the edit bays AND off the limited floor space that we have in these areas!

A Final Note: please treat equipment as if it were your own, you depended upon it for your own livelihood, and you did not have any money to fix or replace it.

Chapters Quizzes

Group 1 will have seven (7) quizzes in this course. Questions will derive from the assigned chapter readings noted for each day of the quiz--see the Course Schedule for details. You will have anywhere between a few to up to ten (10) or more questions for each chapter--averaging about six (6) to eight (8) questions per chapter. The questions will be a combination of multiple choice and T/F questions. Each question will be worth one (1) point. Be sure to read every chapters and, especially, study the "main points" (eg. section headings, definitions, and other main points) that appear in each chapter in preparation for these quizzes.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of 150 select questions from the quizzes. You'll have access to all quiz questions and answers up till the time of the final exam.

EVALUATION & GRADING

Assignments/projects will be evaluated on the following basis:

Your grade will be based on your performance in your assigned production role(s). The criteria for evaluation will be established by readings, in-class examples and student and instructor screenings, discussions, and analysis and critique of outstanding student and professional TV/film work. Also, your grade will be based on how your work meets the grading criteria provided for each project, and how your work compares to peer's (present and past) in this course over the past 30+ years.

Your work will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

D or F grade:

- Project does not meet the assignment's guidelines
- Production values are unacceptable for college-level work. There are obvious technical errors, such as poor audio and shaky camera shots, poor editing, lighting, staging, directing, and/or white balancing of cameras
- Problems with participation in the project (i.e. late/left early, poor attitude, etc.)

C grade:

- No participation problems
- A few technical problems, based on principles and techniques taught in class
- Production values and conventions are average and acceptable for college-level production
- Program is moderately engaging and entertaining

B grade:

- Criteria for C-level work are met
- Some display of creative/unique camera, sound, directing, graphic, and/or editing techniques
- Maximum of two (2) to no (0) technical problems evident in your work
- Program is engaging, above-average quality, and communicates with some flair and creativity

A grade:

- Criteria for B-level work are met
- Several displays of creative/unique camera, sound, directing, editing, and/or graphic techniques
- No (0) obvious technical errors
- All production techniques effectively tied to the theme and stylistic approach
- Program is truly outstanding, engaging, entertaining, and communicates with substantial flair and creativity for undergraduate, college-level production

GROUP 1:

Assignments and Points (for those who have not taken 443):

Chapter Quizzes -- seven (7)	235
Project Pitch Presentation	100

<i>One Script—Two Genre Scenes Project</i>	150
Short Film Group Project & Production Notebook	250
Production Presentation	100
Final Exam	100
Attendance & Participation	65
Total points:	1000

Your final course grade will be based on the following point scale:

921-1000 = A

900-920 = A-

880-899 = B+

821-879 = B

800-820 = B-

Etc.

GROUP 2

Assignments and Points (for those who **have taken 443**)

Project Pitch & Proposal	100
<i>Looking at Movies</i> Videos Notes (23 Reports @ 5 pts each)	115
Production Workshop	100
<i>One Script—Two Genre Scenes Project</i>	150
Production Presentation	100
Short Film Group Project & Production Notebook	250
Attendance & Participation	<u>85</u>
Total points:	900

Your final course grade will be based on the following point scale:

829-900 = A

810-828 = A-

791-809 = B+

749-790 = B

731-748 = B-

712-730 = C+

659-711 = C

640-658 = C-

Etc.

Extra Credit Opportunity For Group 1:

You can earn two (2) points for each "Master Class Episode-Notes" submitted at the end of class -- based on the *Bobby Roth Master Class: A Director Prepares* videos that will be screened in class. You can earn up to twenty (20) points total. Your notes must include ten (10) or more content points. You must submit these legibly handwritten on paper with your name, episode number noted, and the date of the submission. You will turn these in at the end of each class session that the episodes are shown. Also, we will use your notes for the short discussions after each video.