CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Filmmaking Practicum and Mentorship
Course code: FILM 3002 PRFS
Programs offering course: Film Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 4
Contact hours: 60
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

The Filmmaking Mentorship and Practicum is a continuation of (and overlaps with) the TOPICS IN PRODUCTION seminars. Entering the Practicum with a completed literary script, and full awareness of its technical demands, students (in teams of two or three) proceed to the pre-production stage of finalizing a technical screenplay, casting and rehearsing actors and planning technical equipment and accessories for the shoot. They then enter the production phase of shooting their short film on location, and move on to post-production processing of film, editing, creating a sound track and color-grading of a 5 to 10 minute 16mm film. Every phase of their work is carried out under the supervision of faculty mentors, and the support of FAMU production staff. Each team of students is assigned one primary directing and one primary technical mentor to guide them and help trouble-shoot for the project. The editing, sound and color-grading instructors help each team with the preparation and realization of those aspects of their project.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- To create, as key member of a collaborative team of filmmakers, a high production quality 16mm narrative film which is on par with films for an undergraduate thesis and or with successful festival submissions.
- To gain all of the necessary organizational, creative, and technical skills to independently create larger film and media projects in the future.
- To develop collaborative skills effective in producing a film or media project in a foreign environment.

Course Prerequisites

The course is part of the core curriculum of the Film Studies program, Production track.

Methods of Instruction

The course consists on sessions with mentors, in small groups, and supervision of laboratory work.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Technical Mentor’s evaluation of preparation 10%
2. Directing Mentor's evaluation of students' preparation 10%
3. Camera Supervisor's evaluation of students' preparation 10%
4. Sound and Editing Instructors evaluation of process 10%
Course Requirements

Technical Mentor's evaluation of preparation
Directing Mentor's evaluation of students' preparation
Camera Supervisor's evaluation of students' preparation
Sound and Editing Instructors evaluation of process
Production supervisor's evaluation
Final film as evaluated by all instructors

- Two meetings with Directing mentor (script consultant) during week 4
- Finished literary script submitted to mentors and production staff (week 4)
- Continued meetings with directing mentor through pre and post production
- Meetings with Technical mentor, beginning in week 5
- Location found by Thursday week 5, (with help from production manager)
- Attendance at camera and sound equipment orientation
- Active collaborative involvement in one's own shoot, plus crew position on two other shoots
- Meetings with editing, sound mentors (arranged by academic adviser) plus meeting with directing mentor (arranged by student) in post-production
- Completed final edit by the time of sound mixing (set up in days preceeding final screening)
- Attendance at colorgrading, having completed sound mix and all credits prior to session.

Students should bring their final exports of the films in Uncompress 8bit 422/Prores 4444 both 1920x1080 full HD format. Recommended editing software: Adobe Premier/Final Cut Pro 7 (note: Final Cut X is not compatible with FAMU colorgrading software)

- Attendance at final screening

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class Introductory class

Week 2
Class Literary script

Week 3
Class MEETINGS WITH DIRECTING MENTORS
2 meetings arranged by students

Week 4
Class LITERARY SCRIPT COMPLETED
LOCATION FOUND
Week 5
Class
TECHNICAL SCREENWRITING SESSIONS BEGIN
Meeting twice for 3 weeks

Week 6
Class
PRE-PRODUCTION MEETINGS WITH TECHNICAL AND DIRECTING MENTORS
Approximately 5 times each mentor, meetings are arranged by student, from week 4 to time of shoot

Week 7
Class
EQUIPMENT ORIENTATION

Week 8
Class
EQUIPMENT ORIENTATION

Week 9
Class
SHOOT
The shooting period is scheduled for approx. 18 days

Week 10
Class
SHOOT

Week 12
Class
POST-PRODUCTION MEETING WITH MENTORS
Students arrange to show rough edit to directing mentors in days following the return of footage
Class
MEETINGS WITH EDITING AND SOUND MENTORS:
Arranged by the FS academic advisor

Week 13
Class
FINAL EDIT
Editing takes place up to the time of sound mixing)
SOUND MIXING AND COLORGRADING SESSIONS
FINAL SCREENING of completed projects for faculty review

Course Materials
Readings

Will be supplied in class