

Intro to Camera Skills and Non-Linear Editing

JOR 326

L: Th-12.45 (room 321)

S: W-12.45 (room 202)

Course instructor: Syinat Sultanalieva, M.A.

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Course description:

In the age of effort optimization journalists, who can shoot and edit their own stories, have become a more valuable asset to media outlets and companies than those, who can only do “one thing”. Such ability to multi-task allows journalists to be quicker and more efficient, as well as more creative and original, capable of capturing and providing stories that reflect not only the interests of their home media outlet, but also their own views and research interests.

This course is designed to introduce basics of camera skills and non-linear video editing to novices with no prior experience. By the end of the course you will be expected to be able to use video shooting equipment and editing software with comfort, know basics of pre- and post-production, and have completed one personal video shooting and editing project in one of the following forms:

- fiction or documentary short
- investigation piece
- news item

The course is also open to students from other departments interested in acquiring additional skills, which may complement their main area of specialization.

Attendance and Participation Policy: Students are expected to attend every class and be on time. No “bench-warmers” and “back-corners” will be allowed, as this is a very much practical class, where everyone will have to participate in one or another way. No-show will result in lowered grade for attendance, unless negotiated with me beforehand or if important reasons were involved – preferably ones that can be evidenced.

Grading:

20% participation

40% practice

40% individual project

Week 1

1. Introduction, knowledge background analysis, group discussion of course expectations. Intro to multi-media production (overview)
2. Preproduction. Consolidating all necessary information and resources for production. (Idea. Script. Story board. Resources). **HW:** project proposal – not more than 1 page, to be submitted on Wednesday of Week 2.

Week 2

1. Video-camera. Acquaintance with equipment. How does a camera “see”? Terminology. Preparation for usage. Customization. Shooting technique. Filming. Service after using.
2. Ungraded shooting practice. Individual discussion of project proposals.

Week 3

1. Cinematography. Composition. Shooting for news items, documentaries, investigative journalism, and commercial purposes. Framing. Motion. Lighting.
2. Ungraded shooting practice by assignment. Discussion of the practice.

Week 4

1. Cinematography. Composition. Framing. Motion. Lighting – continued.
2. Graded shooting practice based on previous discussion of the practice and theory continued – room for improvement.

Week 5

1. Graded shooting practice by assignment based on previous discussion – room for improvement.
2. Individual project planning practicum – gathering resources, scriptwriting, storyboard.

Week 6

1. Shooting for individual project.
2. Shooting for individual project.

Week 7

1. Shooting for individual project.
2. Shooting for individual project.

Week 8

1. Introduction to editing. History. Linear and non-linear editing. Fundamentals of editing.
2. Video-editing software and principles. Video capture. Functions and filters. Render.

Week 9

1. Principles of editing. Motivated cut. Establishing shot. Rule of duration.
2. Rules of editing. Types of cuts.

Week 10

1. Editing practice. Graded assignment.
2. Editing practice. Graded assignment.

Week 11

1. Art of editing. Types of editing: metric, rhythmic, tonal, associational, intellectual.
2. Editing practice. Graded assignment.

Week 12

1. Individual shooting for project continued.
2. Individual shooting for project continued.

Week 13

1. Editing of individual projects.
2. Editing of individual projects.

Week 14

1. Presentation of individual projects to class.
2. Presentation of individual projects to class.

Week 15

1. Discussion of individual projects. Grading.
2. Ways forward.