

Career Technical Education

COURSE TITLE/CODES:	Digital Media Production 1-2	000998-000999
RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES:	None	
LENGTH OF COURSE/CREDITS:	Two Terms (semester, trimester, quarter) / 5 credits per term	
GRADE LEVELS:	9, 10, 11, 12	
UC REQUIREMENT:	"F" – Visual and Performing Arts	

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course concentrates on developing competency across the breadth of film and video production positions, from script creation to presentation of the finished product. The course will focus on writing, directing, acting, producing, storyboarding, scheduling, cinematography, lighting design, audio engineering, and editing. Students will be challenged with group assignments that will give them hands-on experience with all elements of the production process. This course will expose students to the proper use of state-of-the-art film and video production tools as well as access to professional seminars from industry professionals. They will learn the vocabulary of film and use it to express themselves clearly and concisely in their writings for that industry. Students will develop ideas individually and also learn the team-concept to achieve their goals visually. Students will compose an outline, create a storyboard, and write a script from which they will produce a video. Students will make editing decisions based upon the script and on their interpretation of film art appreciation. They will be using industry standards in computer hardware and editing software. As an adjunct to in-studio production shows and student films, students will produce on-location television shows which will be broadcasted either live-to-tape or as a live webcast. Most important is the art of filmmaking and the creative process that precedes any film or television project, this page-to-film process can be a painstaking endless series of creating, writing, rewriting, collaboration, and more rewrites. Film study will be broken-down into its creative parts and students will learn how a film is created and produced. Students will study the impact of film and television on society from its social, economic, and political viewpoint. Films will be previewed for students in class and after school, they are expected to know the history of filmmaking and the technology that advances the art form. This course meets the UC "F" requirement as well as PUSD Fine Arts credit.

II. COURSE GOALS

The students will:

- A. Demonstrate their ability to write a short script in proper format with appropriate context and content for the objective of the assignment
- B. Demonstrate their ability to critique, compare and contrast, and evaluate film content in the appropriate written format.
- C. Research a historical subject and acquire content to develop a news package. The piece will illustrate historical, social, and political relevance to current events.
- D. Acquire the knowledge and capability to express ideas and concepts with video in other academic forums.
- E. Research the historical relationships between film and society.
- F. Investigate film technique, screenwriting, lighting, camera, and editing.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. Students will increase their knowledge of the filmmaking process through observation, discussion, comparison, and written evaluation. Introduce students to various writing styles pertaining to screenwriting. Students will compile an ongoing portfolio stored both on paper through scripts, storyboards, etc., and on video through a reel (DVD, web video, or tape).
- B. Students will observe created works by masters and technicians in film and television along with participating in lectures from the industry. Students will analyze the process of creation and apply that knowledge to original work of their own. Students will create a Public Service Announcement, a commercial, a news package, and other creative assignments. Projects will be screened to all students and evaluated for constructive criticism.
- C. Students will read selected short stories and poems and will choose a story to interpret into a script using the proper format. Script will address all phases of the filmmaking process from preproduction to presentation. Students will discuss how written works are interpreted as film and how that interpretation affects the process of making a film or television show. How trends or historical issues have influenced the films made or how they used to investigate social issues. (Example: war movies, or movies of the depression era.)
- D. Compare and contrast films by filmmakers that address a similar message. Students will evaluate the stylistic interpretation both visually as well as the script. Students will evaluate films generally accepted as classics and how those films were accepted when made and how time has affected their later interpretation. Compare and contrast how television (broadcast and cable), newspapers, magazines, and film, cover and interpret current or historical social, economic, or political events.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Week 1 – The Producer

This unit will set forth the goals of the first semester course. It will give students an overview of the creation of a film or video project from conception through distribution.

Guest Film Producer.

B. Weeks 2-5 – The Writer

This advanced writing unit will reinforce the importance of story structure, dramatic elements, humor, and believable dialogue. It will include a writing project to be presented at the end of the four-week unit. *Guest Screenwriter.*

C. Week 6 – The Director

Through a series of hands-on assignments, this one week unit will expose students to the challenges of breaking down a script, scene blocking, guiding actors, location considerations and managing the set. *Guest Director.*

D. Week 7 – The Cast

This one week unit will concentrate on casting decisions and acting fundamentals. *Guest Actor or Casting Director.*

E. Weeks 8-9 – The Performance

This two-week unit will provide student teams experience acting and directing for the camera, combining the principles they learned in weeks 6 and 7.

F. Weeks 10-13 – Short Film #1

The first project will be accomplished in a four-week unit. While student production teams create their scripts, they will learn in-depth storyboarding; comprehensive, computer based scheduling; camera operation—including pans, zooms, dollies, and cranes; and studio lighting design.

G. Weeks 14-15 – Audio

Film and video audio principles, techniques, hardware and software will be presented through a series of hands-on assignments. Sound effects, music in film, ADR looping, dubbing, and dialogue delivery will be discussed. *Guest Sound Designer or Sound Engineer.*

H. Weeks 16-18 – Lights out Storytelling

This three-week unit will be devoted to the creation of audio-only productions. The student teams will be challenged to tell their stories entirely without the benefit of visuals. They will learn the importance of compelling dialogue and its delivery, sound effects, music, and sound editing to bring their story to the audience.

I. Weeks 19-20 – Editing

Through a series of hands-on assignments, students will become proficient in the use of state-of-the-art film and video editing hardware and software. *Guest Film Editor.*

J. Weeks 21-22 – Video Effects

Through a series of hands-on assignments, students will become familiar with simple video effects like layering and chroma key, including lighting and camera operation.

K. Weeks 23-26 – Short Film #2

The second project will be accomplished in a four-week unit. While student production teams create their scripts, they will refine their skills in storyboarding, computer-based scheduling, camera operation, studio lighting design, and audio techniques. They will also be challenged to scout locations and shoot at least one scene in ambient light.

L. Week 27 – Screen Short Film #2

The projects will be screened and discussed.

M. Weeks 28-35 – Final Projects

Students will be given eight weeks to create, storyboard, schedule, cast, shoot, and edit a final film project.

N. Week 36 – Screen Final Projects

The projects will be screened and discussed.