LOOK: A MENTAL HEALTH/FILM INITIATIVE

DIGITAL FILMMAKING 200/300 – 2024/2025

WHEN/WHERE

Course Length:	17 weeks
Start Date:	November 16, 2024
End Date:	April 29, 2025
Location:	2132 Dewdney Avenue - Regina
Day:	Saturdays
Times:	10:00 – 02:30 p.m. (half hour lunch break at 12:15)

REQUIREMENTS

The successful completion of Digital Filmmaking 100 is a requirement to enter Digital Filmmaking 200/300. Film/TV experience gained elsewhere will be considered.

To successfully complete this course an average of 3 hours a week will be needed beyond lecture and lab time. More time as you move into editing your projects.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Expand your current knowledge of storytelling, up your game in narrative, visual techniques and editing skills along with detailed exposure to soundscapes, text usage, graphics, post audio sound mixing, colour grading, colour correction and lighting. Digital Filmmaking 200/300 also includes lectures, labs and practical exercises with fictional narratives.

This course is centered on individual self-expression through student produced documentaries, documentary shorts, experimental films, animation and short fictional narratives. We will explore film through theory, screenings and practical application. Students will be expected to learn basic screenwriting skills and advance their knowledge of how story development, sound and pictures can merge to produce an amazing story.

Digital Filmmaking 200/300 also delves into fictional narrative short films through film theory and practical applications. The course will dive into writing a synopsis, scriptwriting, character development, themes, sub-texts, narrative arcs, imagining and realizing the mise-en-scene (props, décor, lighting, make up, staging/blocking) and an introduction to some of the key craft positions in the film industry.

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Digital Filmmaking 200/300
Outline

Each student, with support from instructors and mentors and fellow students, will conceive, produce and edit a creative exercise and a major project. The films may be experimental, poetic, performative, documentary, counter narrative or a fictional narrative (drama). Importantly, this course will afford the creative freedom and encouragement necessary for each student to evolve their own voice as a storyteller.

The program will also be beneficial for those with aspirations to work within the film industry as there is a vocational aspect.

CLASS ENVIRONMENT

Relaxed, fun and interactive.

The environment is designed to be inclusive, collaborative, supportive and sensitive to special needs of the students. Students will be encouraged to collaborate with each other and with instructors, providing support and feedback to help shape each project. Students in Digital Filmmaking 100 and students in Digital Filmmaking 200/300 will interact weekly.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Each student can determine whether they would prefer a public or private screening of their completed work.

Participants identity is strictly confidential unless otherwise indicated. Each student has a few options as below. The choice includes your credit on your film, publicity, film festival attendance, etc.
1. Anonymous (no first name., last name, photograph, or any means of identifying you as part of the LOOK program beyond fellow students and instructors).
2. First name only and no photographs
3. Las name only and no photographs
4. Full name and no photographs
5. Full name and photograph.

You can change your choice at any time.

Instructors and mentors will know your name and they are also under a confidentiality agreement.

EQUIPMENT
All equipment along with editing software subscriptions are provided without cost to the student.

Bring your own laptop if you have one. We can provide one on a shared loan basis if you don't have access to a laptop.

MODULES

There are three distinct, but inter-connected modules:

Module 1 - Pre-Production – 6 weeks
Identify and develop story ideas
Plan for production

Module 2 - Production – 4 weeks

Module 3 - Post Production (editing) – 7 weeks

PROJECTS

This course outline is subject to revision. Any changes will be shared with the class. This outline is flexible and will be adaptable to individual student needs.

CREATIVE EXERCISES

TBD

MAJOR PROJECT

A completed short film with a running time between 5 and 15 minutes (flexible). Choose any genre you wish. Including but not limited to:
1. Documentary
2. Documentary Short
3. Fictional Narrative (drama, comedy, etc.) 10:00 maximum
4. Counter Narrative
5. Experimental Film
6. Still Story
7. Animation

We will go through the above in detail in the first few weeks, so you are familiar with each.

Due Dates
April 29, 2025 Completed Film

Note: there are several steps along the way, and we will provide a calendar that will help you track your progress.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Each theme/topic below will also be supported by relevant film/scene screenings.
- There will be story/creative meetings each week as well
- The course content is flexible, and we can add and subtract to the below as we move through the program.

→ **MAIN THEMES/TOPICS**
1. Documentary and Documentary Shorts – developing "real life" characters, expressing emotion and ensuring audience engagement.
2. Fictional Narratives - The core concepts of a screenplay, including story, structure, character, & theme and how these elements are essential to a script's plot.
3. The idea – where to find them and the refinement of story ideas
4. Loglines – why they matter and how to write one
5. Storyboarding and Shot Lists -why, how and an introduction to writing software.
6. Deadlines – why they matter and how to stay on track
7. Tips on making a short film from start to finish on a low budget or no budget
8. Experimental Filmmaking – Agents of Self Expression (what is it, why make one and what restrictions are there?)
9. Space and Montage
10. Story Structure, dramatic arcs and themes in non-fictional films/docs
11. Story Structure, dramatic arcs and themes in fictional narratives
12. Ethics and Editing
13. The Science of the Question and the Art of the Interview (Advanced)
14. Screenings of student work as it progresses to offer feedback and support.

LABS (hands on)
1. TV Studio, Film Set and Field safety
2. Advanced camera basics, lighting, and collecting sound in the field
3. Blocking action
4. Filming in studio and in the field
5. Advanced Video Editing
6. Advanced Text, Graphics and Video Templates
7. Animation (if desired)