Syllabus

Digital Cinematography
UCLA – FTVDM 122E (Summer Institute)     Summer Quarter, 2013

Monday and Wednesday 9:00a.m. – 11:50a.m. June 24 – July 31. Stage 3 Melnitz Hall
Friday on June 28 and July 19:  9:00 a.m. – 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  TV 3 and
Sound Stage 3

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Class Website: TBA

Course overview:

Digital Cinematography will be an introduction to the principles and techniques of
cinematography through lectures, screenings, and hands-on demonstrations. The class
is designed to enhance students' knowledge of camera formats, exposure control,
lighting, filters, lenses, and workflow, all in the service of visual storytelling.

Goals of the Class:

1. Introduce you the concepts and principles used by cinematographers to create the
images we see in films.

2. Introduce you to the essential tools and methods of digital cinematography.

3. Develop an understanding of the issues involved in making technical and creative
decisions that can be applied to shooting your film.

Evaluation, examinations and grading:

Attendance/Participation - 75%,
Exam #1 - 25%

Important Please Read

- There will be a significant number of classes where we will be working on a
soundstage. Please dress appropriately for your own protection. No open toed shoes
on the soundstage. No food and drink on the soundstage.
Calendar and Outline

June

24 – The job of the Digital Cinematographer, crew positions, skills, duties, and essential set procedures.

   The Four Essential Knowledge Areas of Cinematography: (Camera, Lenses, Lighting/Grip, and the Production Process).

   Introduction to class assigned cameras. DSLR.

26 – Lenses: lens formats, lens lengths, depth of field, focus.

   Introduction to class assigned cameras. Sony.

   The physical and aesthetic characteristics of lenses.

   **In class production:** The aesthetics of lenses. Focus/Depth of field issues.

28 – Cinematography Laboratory (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m).

   We will meet on the TV3 stage.

   Image capture: Cameras, sensors, digital and film, frame rates, workflow, image processing, sub-sampling, compression.

July


   **In class production:** Lighting theory and practice.

03 – Exam covering the Four Essential Knowledge areas.

08 – Color theory and color temperature. Filters.

10 – Lighting pt. 2. Styles.

   **In class production:** Set Lighting and time of day.

15 – Shooting for continuity and coverage.

   **In class production:** The methods of continuity. Shooting exteriors.

17 – Composition/Framing and Spatial relationships.

19 – Cinematography Lab. (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m). We will meet on SS3. Problem Solving.

22 – Camera support tools.

24 – **In class production** To Be Announced.

29 – **In class production** To Be Announced

31 – Wrap up. Screenings of in-class work.
There are no required textbooks for the class, but there will be handouts and study guides covering various lighting topics. In the list below you will find some of the more useful books on lighting.


