

MIRA COSTA MEDIA ARTS

CINEMATIC ARTS 2-4

Intermediate and Advanced Video Production
Non-Fiction filmmaking
2015-16

Mr. Hernandez

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Assignments and Course Info: www.mcmediaarts.org

Twitter: @cinematicarts

This course provides advanced practice of film-style video production and film criticism. Students will learn technical aspects of video production and will learn critical thinking skills as they analyze film and electronic media for creativity and content. In addition to production skills and etiquette, students will learn about the history of film and television, analyze pre-selected film and video segments for aesthetic and artistic elements, and to understand film and video “texts” as unique art forms that are part of a larger social and cultural context.

Course Expectations

Through this course I hope to give you the skills needed to express yourself cinematically as well as work productively as part of a film crew. Because film is an art form, you should take creative risks and challenge yourself to make your projects as unique as possible, rather than copying what others have done before. **Of utmost importance is the effort that you put into your work and the positive contributions you make to the class and group projects.**

Of particular interest this year is the role of film and media in society and how it can be used as a way to change the world around us. We will explore various non-fiction methods including documentaries, PSA's, personal essays, etc.

Class Rules

In addition to meeting all rules and policies in the Mira Costa Student Handbook, students must adhere to the following guidelines.

1. BE PROMPT

- Be in your seat, ready to work when the bell rings. We always have a lot of work to do in each class, so it is important that we not waste any time.
- Projects and homework assignments are collected AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on the day they are due. Late work will be severely penalized.

2. BE PREPARED

- Bring all necessary materials to class. You must always have a notebook.

pen and pencil for each class. In addition, you may need specific items for your projects.

- Complete all assigned readings/screenings BEFORE the due date.
- No food or drink is allowed in the studio. This includes gum, candy, water, etc. Our equipment is easily damaged by food and very expensive to replace.

3. BE PRODUCTIVE

- Handle all equipment safely and gently. Our equipment is delicate, extremely expensive and hard to replace. Anyone who handles the equipment in an inappropriate way will lose equipment privileges immediately. (We will discuss the meaning of “inappropriate” at length in class) Book work will then be assigned.
- Remain on task during class. You must concentrate on your own work or that of your group and refrain from distracting other classmates.
- Talk only when it is your turn. Show your classmates respect by listening and refraining from making comments until you are called upon. Anyone who makes comments that show disrespect will be automatically disciplined.

Grading Policy

Students will be assessed on their demonstrated proficiency with the provided equipment, written aesthetic evaluations of films screened in class and their ability to work productively as part of a crew. Grades will be based on the number of points earned.

Grading Scale:

A=100-94% A-=93-90% B+=89-87% B=86-84% B-=83-80%
C+=79-77% C=76-74% C-=73-70 D+=69-67 D=66-64% D-=63-60

PROJECTS:

The projects account for a large part of your grade in this class. As such, you should put as much effort into them as possible. Be creative and make something that you can be proud of. In addition, all productions must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Mira Costa Video Production Content Agreement.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

All written assignments must be submitted via Google Docs unless otherwise noted. All written assignments should meet the same requirements as an English class. Critiques should be typed, double-spaced with 12 point font and 1 inch margins. Scripts should be formatted correctly.

PARTICIPATION:

Because the majority of projects and assignments in this class require you to

work productively in a group, each student must be prepared to cooperate with his/her crew and actively contribute to class discussions in a positive fashion.

Participation counts for 30% of your grade.

LATE WORK:

The success of any film or video project is based on DEADLINES. Because each phase of production is based on the last, it is extremely important that work is turned in on time. Assignments are marked down a full letter grade for EACH DAY they are late. No assignment will be accepted after three days. Exceptions are only made for students with excused absences.

ATTENDANCE:

Due to the group-oriented nature of the class, it is very important that you are here to learn, contribute and participate. A large number of absences (10 or more) will require you to drop the class. If you are sick it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed.

TARDIES:

We have much to do in a small amount of time. It is vital that you arrive to class on time and ready to work. Excessive tardies will result in the reduction of your grade.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

The Media Arts Lab is a unique learning environment that requires a professional attitude. While I will follow all MCHS guidelines regarding misbehavior, inappropriate behavior in the studio will result in discipline as outlined below. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to: not staying on task, disruption of class during discussion or group work, inappropriate or vulgar comments/behavior, misuse/abuse of equipment, interfering with other students ability to work, etc.

1st Incident:

- Detention given
- Parents called by Mr. Hernandez

2nd Incident:

- Referral to office
- Loss of equipment privileges until parent conference is held

3rd Incident:

- 2nd referral to office
- Permanent loss of equipment privileges
- Recommend that student be dropped from class

NOTE: GROSS MISCONDUCT OF ANY KIND WILL RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE DROP/FAIL OF THE STUDENT FROM THE CLASS.

TEACHER SUPPORT:

If at any time you feel you are in need of extra assistance or guidance, please ask to meet with me at lunch or after school. You may also make up tests at this time. It can be difficult for me to know if you are struggling with a particular assignment so I will expect you to take the initiative and ask for help.

Screening List

Below is a list of films and videos to be screened in class during the semester. These films are held in esteem by critics and historians, and are used to illustrate key components of film technique, history and criticism. This list is subject to change due to availability, scheduling, etc.

The following films will be shown in their entirety:

Bus 174	Hoop Dreams
Fast, Cheap and Out of Control	The Corporation
Control Room	Roger and Me
Catfish	Stone Reader
My Architect	This is Spinal Tap
Tarnation	The Gleaners and I
Regret to Inform	King of Kong: A Fist Full of Dollars
The Act of Killing	Exit Through the Gift Shop

Required equipment:

- USB flash memory drive (aka jump drive or flash drive) at least 8 GB
- Access to a digital still camera (either a camera, video camera with still capability, or mobile device with camera)
- Possible access to a video camera for some projects (not all students need one)

Required Internet Accounts:

Facebook, Google and Twitter accounts are required of all students to collaborate with the teacher and classmates, and turn in assignments. Details provided in class.

Suggested equipment:

An iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad with iMovie for iOS installed. Used for notes, quizzes and individual projects.

Mira Costa High School Video Production Content Agreement

In an effort to provide a safe learning experience that reflects well upon Mira Costa High School, all video projects produced for classes at Mira Costa High School must meet the following content standards:

Projects may NOT include:

- Glorification of violent acts (this includes comedic violence)
- Violence as a solution to a conflict
- Firearms, explosives or pyrotechnic devices/situations (toys or the real thing)
- Glorification or promotion of drugs or drug use (including alcohol and tobacco)
- Character stereotypes based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental/physical disability, etc.
- Foul language
- Sexual language, situations or sounds
- Promotion or glorification of behavior deemed inappropriate in the MCHS Student Handbook

Failure to abide by these rules will result in the loss of class credit for the project, a referral will be written and the student will lose all equipment privileges until a parent conference is held.

If you are unsure about whether or not your project may violate any of these guidelines, please ask me for clarification. A good rule of thumb is: When in doubt, don't do it.

Mira Costa High School Classroom Video Policy

- Any video shown in class must directly relate to the curriculum and/or course content.
- Movies rated G through PG-13, and television programs rated TVY through TV14 may be viewed for purposes of class instruction.
- All films rated R or any television programs that deal with mature subject matter as defined under a TV-MA rating may only be viewed for instructional purposes with written permission.
- No films rated NC-17 may be shown in classrooms.
- Teachers must follow district policy, state and federal law regarding the use of video material for instructional purposes.

5/11/99

MCHS Digital Cinema
Parent/Guardian Video Permission Form

As students of film, video and emerging media, it is important to study works produced by respected members of these communities. Periodically, television programs and films will be screened in part or whole for the purpose of explaining key concepts and techniques having to do with the course. Some of these “texts” may contain scenes that can be characterized as “mature subject matter” due to language, violence, nudity or other mature subject matter. However, all works shown are held in high esteem by critics and historians as important works, and will be used solely for the purpose of classroom instruction. Screenings will strictly adhere to the Mira Costa High School Video Policy (see reverse).

Because many texts will be shown throughout the year, permission is requested for your child to see the films selected by the instructor throughout the entire school year. All efforts will be made to provide a list of films and programs to be screened in advance; however, screenings are subject to change due to availability, scheduling, etc. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (310) 318-7337 x5146.

_____ has my permission to view films and
(Student Name)

videos which may contain “mature subject matter” in class.

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO
MR. HERNANDEZ**

Cinematic Arts 2-4 Course Description Packet Checklist

- Course Description (expectations, rules, grading policy)
- MCHS Video Production Content Agreement
- MCHS Classroom Video Policy
- MCHS Video Permission Form
- \$300 Lab Donation (make checks payable to: MCHS-Video)

Student

I have reviewed the contents of the Cinematic Arts 2-4 course description above and **posted online at www.mcmediaarts.org** and agree to meet the class requirements as stated. I understand that I am responsible for timely repair and/or replacement of any MBUSD property in my possession that has been damaged or lost due to negligence, vandalism, theft, fire, etc., not including normal "wear and tear".

Student Name: _____
(please print)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

I have reviewed the contents of the Cinematic Arts 2-4 course description above and **posted online at www.mcmediaarts.org** and agree to help my son/daughter fulfill the requirements as stated. I understand that I am responsible for timely repair and/or replacement of any MBUSD property in my son/daughter's possession that has been damaged or lost due to negligence, vandalism, theft, fire, etc., not including normal "wear and tear".

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(please print)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING TO MR. HERNANDEZ:

- 1. THIS FORM**
- 2. VIDEO PERMISSION FORM**
- 3. \$300 LAB DONATION (checks payable to MCHS-Video)**

*Lab fee: No student will be denied access. Scholarships are available.

MIRA COSTA MEDIA ARTS DONATION FORM
ASB account: Video Lab 91210
\$300 Tax-deductible donation

Instructions:

- Bring this form with your payment to the ASB Accountant in the Student Store
- Pay with cash or check. **Make checks payable to: MCHS-Video**

AMOUNT OF DONATION: _____

*Lab donation: No student will be denied access. Scholarships are available.