Prefix, Number and Name of Course:
COM 212 Introduction to Digital Storytelling

Credit Hours: 3
In Class Instructional Hours: 3  Labs: 0  Studio: 0  Field Work: 0

Catalog Description:
Introduction to digital storytelling in media production; hands-on practice in scriptwriting, production organization, camera techniques, storytelling approaches, aesthetics, and fundamentals of directing. Foundational concepts in film analysis and criticism will be introduced. Offered every semester.

Prerequisites: Communication majors only

Offered every fall and spring

Reasons for Addition:
This new course is part of a Media Production major program revision, in light of departmental experience with the previous program version, evolving departmental needs, and new approaches in the field. In particular, we plan to offer a foundational course to introduce hands-on media production curriculum at the 200 level. This will facilitate seamless transfer from community colleges that offer media production courses at the 200 level. At the same time, it makes Buffalo State’s Media Production major more competitive with our peer institutions, supporting recruitment and retention. These changes also update the curriculum in preparation for accreditation renewal by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes:</th>
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<td>At the completion of this course, students will be able to:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Course Content References:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I, II, III</td>
<td>Participation in class discussions, written essays, quizzes</td>
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<td>Participation in class discussions, written essays and homework assignments</td>
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1. Discuss digital storytelling techniques.

2. Discuss aesthetics in digital storytelling.
3. Write a short form script. | III | Written script

4. Differentiate types of film frame composition, camera movement, and depth of field. | I, II | Camera exercises, quizzes

5. Create short digital media productions. | I - V | Digital media projects

6. Apply directing techniques in digital media production. | IV | Digital media projects, studio directing exercises, quizzes

7. Describe basic signal flow and file management. | V | Participation in class discussion, written quizzes

7. Interpret visual storytelling examples. | I | Participation in class discussions, scene analysis essays

8. Create an effective electronic portfolio. | I - VI | Electronic portfolio; in-class portfolio presentation

**Course Content:**

I. Foundations of critical analysis
   A. Visual aesthetics
   B. Audio aesthetics
   C. Mise en scene
   D. Story and subtext
   E. Stereotypes and symbolism
   F. Genres

II. Foundations of videography
   A. Angle of view
   B. Depth of field and focal length
   C. Camera movements
   D. Shot composition
III. Foundations of scriptwriting  
A. Format  
B. Character  
C. Plot  
D. Setting  
E. Story  
F. Inclusive storytelling  

IV. Directing the actor  
A. Auditioning process  
B. Rehearsals  
C. Blocking, business and marks  
D. Directing approaches  
E. Script breakdown and beats  
F. Cue cards and teleprompter  

V. Signal Flow  
A. Audio  
B. Video  
C. File size and storage  

VI. Portfolio Design  
A. Format and presentation options  
B. Design and layout  
C. Selecting appropriate work samples  

Resources:  

Scholarship:  


**Periodicals:**

*Film Quarterly*, UC Press  
*Critical Studies in Media Communication*, Routledge  
*Cinema Journal*, University of Texas Press  
*Journal of Film and Video*, Illinois University Press  
*The Journal of Short Film*, Ohio State University

**Electronic and/or Audiovisual Resources:**

Videomaker Magazine; http://www.videomaker.com  
Filmmaker Magazine; https://filmmakermagazine.com  
E.D.I.T. Media; https://editmedia.org  
Indiewire; https://www.indiewire.com