

**MRTS 3230 - FILM STYLE PRODUCTION
SUMMER 2026**

Lecture

Mon-Thurs 9:00am - 11:50am
(RTFP - Room 184)

Professor: Chandler Gaydos | chandlergaydos@my.unt.edu
Office Hours: Directly After Class

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

MRTS 3230 is designed to be the core location film/digital media course that leads into Advanced Film Production I & II. This course reviews material from MRTS 2210 and then builds upon this technical and artistic information as students produce several short projects. These projects involve single-camera location shooting using digital still cameras, cinema cameras and editing equipment.

In this course you will learn intermediate level concepts in visual storytelling, understanding the moving image, professional camera operation, as well as numerous other technical and aesthetic concepts that will help build a fundamental foundation for each student as a filmmaker.

Taking a production course is a time-intensive commitment. You will be required to spend many hours outside of class time reading, reviewing materials and working on projects. Please make note of other professional and personal obligations and plan accordingly. Late work will greatly affect your grade.

Classes and production schedules missed due to work schedules and other similar obligations will not be excused. If you do not believe that you will be able to fully commit to this time required for successful course completion, including full participation in lecture and lab sessions, please reconsider your enrollment in the class at this time.

TEXTBOOKS:

There are no textbooks that you are required to purchase for this class. However, you may see the suggested text book list below. If class readings are required I will provide you with PDF Copies of those chapters and post those to Canvas.

1. Film Production Technique (FPT), 5th Ed., Bruce Mamer
2. The Complete Film Production Handbook (CFPH), 4th Ed., Eve Light Honthamer.
3. Cinematography: Theory and Practice (CTP), 3rd Ed., Blaine Brown

REQUIRED PURCHASE:

For this class you will be required to have an SD Card in order to capture your footage, and you will need an external hard drive to store that footage.

1. *SDXC CARD - SPEED CLASS 6 or higher - 32GB/64GB/128GB/256GB
2. External Hard Drive – 1TB/2TB Capacity
3. Professional Headphones – Sony MDR-7506, Sennheiser 280 HD, etc.

SanDisk is the most reliable in terms of SD Card, while SanDisk and Seagate will be the most reliable options for external drives.

EQUIPMENT AND EDITING:

UNT has an online system for check outs and it can be found at <https://checkout.unt.edu/>.

Overnight equipment checkouts MUST be first approved 48 hours in advance, by emailing the professor, lab instructor and Ladaniel.Maxwell@unt.edu the equipment room supervisor.

Please use the following email template for approvals...

Subject Line: OVERNIGHT OR WEEKEND CHECKOUT 3230

Project #:

Team Members:

Date/Time of Check Out:

Date/Time of Check In:

Production Location:

Equipment List (BE SPECIFIC):

Reason for overnight:

For a Full List of Equipment for MRTS 3230, See the “MRTS 3230 Equipment List and Information” sheet on Canvas.

Editing: A Video Editing Lab with several digital nonlinear editing bays that utilize Adobe Premiere editing software is located in the RTFP Building Post Production Lab, Room 180. Upon request you may use the Departmental ProMax server to hold your footage and projects. ***Ensure you back up all materials to your external Hard Drive.***

Note: ***There will be limited overnight equipment access:*** Normally, equipment for this class is NOT checked out overnight. Under exceptional circumstances, students may request that equipment be kept out for the weekend. I will determine whether your situation warrants this. If it does, I will forward a memo to Mr. Ladaniel Maxwell, Equipment Room Supervisor, stipulating exactly when the equipment is to be checked out and returned. All requests for overnight checkout should be made at least two class days in advance of the date the equipment will be needed. You must plan in advance. There is no overnight editing access. Lab hours are posted in the 180 Labs.

PROJECTS AND TESTS:

Course requirements include three on-location video projects -- each building in technical and creative complexity. The emphasis in these productions is your ability to visually tell a story. All projects for this course must be shot by the student(s) in the class. You may not use footage shot before this class began or footage shot by someone other than you or your team members. The projects will be evaluated on both technical and creative levels.

BASIC PROJECT GUIDELINES:

Note: Group sizes may change based on the enrollment total of the class.

PROJECT 1: Single Shot and Montage

Worth 20 points out of 100

This assignment will be completed in **groups of 3**. Students will be required to determine their partner.

- A. **Single Shot Assignment:** In one shot, lasting one minute in length, you must tell a story with a beginning, middle, and end.
- B. **Montage Assignment:** In 20-60 shots, each lasting no more than 3 seconds, you will tell a story that has a beginning, middle. The story can be a variation of your single shot story. The resulting movie will be anywhere from 1 to 3 minutes in length.

PROJECT 2: Observational Documentary (3-4 Minutes in Length)

Worth 20 points out of 100

Proposal worth 10 points out of 100

Project 2 will be an observational documentary with *no* dialogue or voice-over, to be produced with a **team of 3**. The visual elements are the most important, and you should concentrate on getting a wide variety of visual angles, distances and cutaways. This documentary will involve the creative shooting and skillful editing of a process or action not under your control, emphasizing a visual storytelling style. It can be a process such as someone putting climbing gear on, getting a tattoo, etc., that will allow you to get many different shots. You must add music and/or use ambient sound. You will be evaluated by your peers in a peer review format.

PROJECT 3: Narrative Short (Final Project) (5-6 Minutes in Length)

Final Film worth 30 points out of 100

PreProduction Package worth 20 points out of 100

Project 3 (Final Project) will be a short narrative, documentary or music video produced individually, once again being told primarily through visual images. However, for this project you **MUST** incorporate voice-over and/or minimal dialogue (for documentary) or scripted dialogue (for fiction). Project 3 will involve extensive pre-production work, including location scouting, treatment approval, cast and crew coordination, technically competent shooting and editing. This final project must also include some type of ambient sound and/or music. The complexity of your audio editing, along with appropriate visual

storytelling will figure into the project grade. Production paperwork also counts as part of the grade.

Proposals for the final project will be developed in consultation with the instructor and ideas will be presented in the lab before shooting begins. Projects based on unapproved proposals will not be accepted. If you decide to change your topic after a proposal has been approved, you must go through the proposal process again before shooting. This project will be completed by a **team of 4**. (More details in the lecture)

ATTENDANCE:

Course Attendance: Worth 10 points out of 100

You are required to attend each lecture and lab session through the session. The lectures inform the labs, and the labs require your attendance to complete the team projects. *Please see the Attendance Policy below for more details.*

COURSE GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Single Shot/ Montage:	20pts
Documentary Short:	30pts
Narrative Film Pitch:	10pts
Narrative Film Short:	30pts
<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>10pts</u>

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 100

ON-TIME SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS, EQUIPMENT CARE AND ATTENDANCE:

1. For each day that an assignment is late, you will be penalized one letter grade for that assignment.
2. Any report of late equipment return or other violation of departmental procedures relative to the use of equipment or facilities will place you on "equipment suspension" by the Media Arts Department for a determined period of time. In addition, you are financially and legally responsible for any equipment you check out from the Department of Media Arts. A copy of the Media Arts Department's policy on the loss of checkout privileges for late equipment return is available in the Media Arts Equipment Room.
3. **ATTENDANCE:** In our field, and in this class, **BEING IN CLASS/LAB** and **BEING ON TIME** are critical and expected. In media fields, anything else will often cause you to lose your job and reputation! My expectation is that you organize the rest of your obligations to meet this same expectation for our class. If you have a legitimate emergency, please provide an official written medical or other similar verification. Unexcused absences will affect your final course grade at 3 points taken off per absence or late attendance at the beginning of class or after the break.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Department of Media Arts prohibits the use of personal mobile devices during class, unless otherwise allowed by the individual Instructor. If no exceptions are contained in a course syllabus, then the department policy remains in effect until changed by the Instructor. Any student using a personal mobile device during class will have 5 points deducted from their overall course grade for EACH occurrence. All devices should be turned off before entering the classroom or laboratory area.

Exception for MRTS 3230: There are two exceptions for this class, students are allowed the use of a Laptop or Tablet in the classroom but ONLY for taking notes. Students are prohibited to use these devices for email, social media, YouTube, etc., while class is in session. If you are observed breaking this policy you will be given an absence for that class period. Please turn phones off.

ADDITIONAL HELP WITH THE COURSE:

If at any time you are having problems with the assignments or with your understanding of materials covered, make an appointment to see me immediately. I will absolutely be more than happy to clarify information and help you succeed!

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If you have not met the published prerequisites for this course you will be dropped from the class. This action may be taken after the registration period has ended. In addition, MRTS 3230 is for MRTS majors only; the instructor will drop others. Since this course is in great demand, registered students missing the first class will be dropped, particularly if a qualified student on a waiting list is present. Again, this action may be taken after the registration dates have ended. Any add will be based on availability and the number of total credit hours earned to that point.

MRTS FILM PRODUCTION COURSES:

For those who are interested in continuing to work in film, we offer additional production courses with 3230 as a prerequisite. These courses include, but are not limited to, the Cinematography, Directing, and Advanced Film I & II courses. A final grade below "B" in 3230 may make it very difficult for you to obtain permission to enroll in these courses.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION:

The Media Arts department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students (Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act). If you qualify, and have not registered with ODA, we encourage you to do so. If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please discuss your needs with the professor within the first week of class.

SAFETY:

This course may involve potentially hazardous activities, the nature of which include working with and exposure to electronically powered equipment. Accordingly, the Department of Media Arts has slated this course within Category 2 (courses in which students are exposed to some significant hazards but are not likely to suffer bodily harm.)

SUMMER 5W2 2026 COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule, along with the syllabus as a whole is subject to change if the instructor deems that changes need to be made for a better class experience.

Week 1:

- (M) Course Introduction, Fundamental Storytelling Elements
- (T) Preproduction & Script Breakdown, Project 1 Development.
- (W) Intro to Cinema Cameras & Exposure, Camera Workshop #1
- (Th) Principles of Composition & Camera Blocking, Lenses, Camera Workshop #2.

Week 2:

- (M) Lighting Pt 1. Technical Concepts, Lighting Workshop #1
- (T) Lighting Pt 2. Creative Concepts, Lighting Workshop #2
- (W) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #1**
- (Th) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #1**

Week 3:

- (M) **Review Project #1**, Documentary Film Discussion, Project 2 Development
- (T) Project Setup, Color Correction, Double System Sound Workshop
- (W) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #2**
- (Th) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #2**

Week 4:

- (M) **Review Project #2**, Short Narrative Film Discussion and Workshop
- (T) Short Narrative Workshop #2 and Pitch
- (W) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #3**
- (Th) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #3**

Week 5:

- (M) **Review Footage Stringout of Project #3**
- (T) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #3**
- (W) **WORKDAY - Work on Project #3**
- (Th) **FINAL CLASS - Review Project #3**

Syllabus Policy:

While this syllabus outlines the expectations for successful completion of the course, it is not a contract. Therefore, some elements of the course may be altered by the Instructor as needed.

Drop Policy:

As this is a Media Arts course, students without the correct prerequisites (both non-majors and pre-majors) are subject to being dropped from the course automatically with or without notice. Students absent on the first day of the class who do not immediately contact the instructor with a legitimate excuse may be dropped immediately and without notice.

ODA Information:

The Department of Media Arts cooperates with the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the ODA to verify eligibility. If verified the ODA will provide an accommodation letter for faculty to initiate a confidential discussion of specific course needs. You may request accommodations at any time though you are encouraged to do so as early as possible in the semester in order to avoid delays in implementation. Students must obtain a new ODA letter and meet with their instructor at the beginning of each semester. For more information see disability.unt.edu or call 940.565.4323.

Semester Evaluations:

Students should complete the SPOT Evaluation. The SPOT is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Feedback from students is very important to the Department of Media Arts and to the Professor. This evaluation is considered an important part of your participation in this class.

Mobile Device Policy:

Department of Media Arts production courses prohibit the use of personal electronic devices during class, unless specifically determined by the individual Instructor. Unless those exceptions are contained in a course syllabus and/or altered by the instructor of record, department policy takes precedence.

Personal electronic devices include (but are not limited to) mobile phones, digital media players, digital readers/tablets, and some handheld computers. All devices should be turned off before entering the classroom or laboratory area. Personal computers and some tablets may be used in the classroom for note taking with instructor permission. Each student will receive one warning. Afterward, any student found in violation of the personal electronic device policy will incur a 5% penalty to their overall final course grade for each occurrence.

Religious Accommodation:

HB 256 provides students with an excused absence from attending classes, taking examinations, or other required activities in observance of a religious holy day and related travel. It also provides that students be given a reasonable time to take an exam or complete an assignment. Requests for accommodation must be made to the instructor a minimum of three days prior to the observed religious holy day.

Success in the Course:

UNT endeavors to offer high-quality education and a supportive environment to help you learn and develop as a future creative professional. My job is to help you make the most of that opportunity. Help me help you. Do your part by: Showing up. Being prepared. Staying Focused. Getting involved. Communicating with your advisors and finding support when you need it.

Everyone has a different learning style and learning pace. If you are having trouble with any aspects of the classroom instruction or assignments, please see me during the office hours listed above. If you cannot schedule a time during the posted office hours contact me to make an additional appointment. In addition, there are numerous on-campus resources for help found at: success.unt.edu/.

Academic Integrity:

This course adheres to the standards outlined by the University of North Texas Policy Office (sec: 18.1.16 Student Standards of Academic Integrity). Students who cheat or plagiarize in their work - submitting the work of others as their own, their own work from previous semesters and/or other classes instead of the assigned project- will not receive credit for that assignment. Students who cheat or plagiarize a second time or on the final editing assignment will receive a failing grade for the course. Offenses will be reported to the department chair and UNT Dean of Students. Detailed information is available at:

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

Incomplete Grade for the Course:

From the UNT Office of the Registrar: An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule.

Under no circumstances will an "Incomplete" be assigned automatically. A student must make a formal request from the instructor (see the above information from the UNT Registrar) which satisfies the listed guidelines, not have excessive absences or late arrivals, and be able to demonstrate proficiency in the creative and technical techniques covered in the course. All requests will be considered on a case by case basis and students must provide verifiable documentation of the reason for the request.

Success and Academic Integrity Notes:

Submitting an assignment that mimics a pre-existing version, regardless of how a template for this action was obtained *is still plagiarism*. Within the editing industry, this would result in banning the individual from future work, jeopardizing their career. In this course such an action is a direct violation of academic integrity and will be treated as such. The thing to remember above all else is: *Do Not Copy the Work of Others. Not Even from The Internet. Don't Do This.*

The license agreement which provides the editing footage used in the course limits use to on campus editing assignments. Footage *is not to be downloaded from the server* for outside editing. Students who do so are in violation of academic integrity policies.

The network storage system *is not accessible outside of the editing lab*. Assignments submitted through online hosting or download sites will not be accepted unless otherwise stated.