

University of North Texas
FALL 2025

MRTS 2210 .001 & .004

Tuesday / Thursday | 9-11:50 am
RTFP 180F

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Office: RTFP 228

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays: 12:30-1:30 pm.

Introduction to Media Arts Production - Film

Description

MRTS 2210 is a three (3) credit hour course giving the student an introduction to basic techniques of production. Audio, Television (studio and location) and Single Camera Film methods are investigated in three, five-week sections, including production exercises and experiments. The course is team taught with each instructor representing one of the three production disciplines in Media Arts. The five-week Film Section prepares the student for enrollment in MRTS 3230 Film Style Production. Prerequisite: MRTS 1330.

Course Outcomes

- Students Develop and demonstrate an understanding of multiple aspects of filmmaking.
- Students Translate composition concepts into purposeful image sequences.
- Students Produce an original narrative film using digital cinema tools and narrative concepts.

Primary Texts (excerpts provided via Canvas portal)

Figgis, Mike; *Digital Filmmaking*, Faber and Faber, London, 2007

Mamet, David; *On Directing Film*, Penguin Books, NY, 1991

Required Supplies (You should have this by now...)

External Hard Drive – LaCie Rugged All-Terrain model, recommended. 4 TB minimum

Ideally a second external drive or cloud service for back-up

SDXC Card (class 10, V90) 128 GB or Better. | **Noise-Canceling Headphones**

Media Arts Equipment Room / RTFP 166 / Checkout Policy. Cameras, audio recorders, tripods and lighting kits are available to check out, free of charge to students currently enrolled in MRTS courses. The student assumes full responsibility for any equipment and accessory under rental period, including repair or replacement of chargers, batteries, memory cards or the camera itself.

Equipment access is granted once a student passes an essential camera skills test. Only then will students be allowed gear from the Media Arts Equipment Room. Equipment can be reserved by going to **checkout.unt.edu**.

Online Resources

- Adorama / adorama.com
- B&H Photo Video / bhphotovideo.com

Online Content

criterioncollection.com
simplyscripts.com

filmcrux.com
thescriptlab.com

mobygratis.com
studiobinder.com

mubi.com
vimeo.com

YouTube Channels

Anatomy of a Scene / NYTimes
Film Riot
Omeleto

Every Frame a Painting
Lessons from the Screenplay
In Depth Cine

Film Courage
Nerdwriter
Studio Binder

Film Threat
No Film School
TIFF Originals

Communication Expectation

The UNT Canvas portal is the virtual meeting place for this course. Additional content will be made available there. Projects will be uploaded and graded there. All students are expected to use their unt.edu email address. Email is typically responded Mondays-Fridays, 9 am – 6pm. Take advantage of in-person office hours.

Attendance / Participation / Time Commitment

You are expected to attend each class and be on time. If there is an issue that prevents you from coming to class or working in the course (such as an urgent medical situation, death in the family, active military service, etc.) please contact the instructor with a verified absence within two business days of returning to school. Perfect on-time attendance will be rewarded with extra credit! Conversely, you will be penalized for being late and for unexcused absences.

On-Time Attendance with no unexcused absences: 50 bonus points

On-Time Attendance with one unexcused absence: 0 bonus point

On-Time Attendance with two unexcused absences: 50 points subtracted from your final grade

On-Time Attendance with three unexcused absences: 100 points subtracted from your final grade

And so on...

Please note that you may be dropped without notice from the course with more than three unexcused absences.

Plan to schedule approximately at least 4 hours per week on production assignments outside of class.

Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade at the instructor's discretion if not completed by the following week. They will continue to be lowered a letter grade with every late week.

Student works may not be screened in class if they are not submitted on time.

Do not expect extra-credit assignments to make up for absences or missed assignments.

Students are expected to complete the **SPOT** online course evaluations as part of their successful completion of this course.

Climate of respect and civility

Participation is mandatory. Open, courteous discussion is expected in both lecture and lab sections. Learning to communicate with lens-based media is essential to developing personal vision, creative expression, while freely describing and interpreting the actual and resistant world. That said, please expect an environment where all content and viewpoints relevant to the course are welcome if respectfully presented.

The classroom, as critique space, functions as the principle (and non-partisan) venue for negotiated thought and is meant to deliberately entertain competing and unpopular ideas. This course follows the spirit of free expression as stated in *The Chicago Principles* (University of Chicago, 2014).

Grading Policy

Students with no previous experience in cinema or the arts can regularly receive **A** or **B** grades but is not guaranteed.

To do so, the student must come to all the classes, work effectively in a group, complete all the assignments with *demonstrated improvement* throughout the semester and participate liberally in discussion.

The following constitutes a letter grade for an assignment:

A: Exceptional. The student/group completes the requirements of the assignment, demonstrates a technical mastery of their craft and bases the work around a theme or idea demonstrating critical thought.

B: Promising. The student/group completes the requirements of the course and demonstrates a technical mastery of craft.

C: Average. The student/group completes the requirements of the assignments and demonstrates a basic competence of craft.

D: Poor. The student/group completes the requirements of the course but does not demonstrate a basic competence of craft or an adequate development of concepts.

F: Absent. The student/group fails to answer the basic requirements of the course or turns in no work at all.

Grading Breakdown	Points
Film Section	300
Audio Section	300
Multi-Cam Studio Section	300
Final Exam	100
Total	1000 points

Semester End Grade:

A	900+
B	800+
C	700+
D	600+
F	599-0

Examination Policy

Your section exam will be administered in person in each section. Should you arrive late and someone has already submitted the section exam, you will not be able to take the test and will receive a zero.

An online final comprehensive exam covers material from all sections.

Make-up exams are only given with a verified excuse within two business days of returning to school. Should you experience a significant issue away from campus and need help, please contact the Dean of Students: deanofstudents@unt.edu or 940.565.2648.

Academic Integrity | Creative Labour

It is understood that students must direct and edit their own films to successfully complete this course. The student-director will seek collaborators to operate camera, sound, et al, but the authorship of the film can only be claimed by the director.

The university prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, which is understood as the appropriation and representation of another's work as one's own.

Just as plagiarism describes the familiar, fraudulent writing scenario, in the case of production courses, evidence of a student having the **creative labour** of a given project performed by another outside their group, will result in the immediate failure of the project for all in the group. *There will be a zero-tolerance policy for any A.I. generated content.*

Submitting someone else's work as your own or something you have already submitted for another class is unacceptable. You are expected to shoot original work for this course's assignments; not old footage to be re-edited. You will earn an F for any work that violates the academic integrity policy.

Creative labour also pertains to ethical use of third-party music and instrumental score. Only music for which you own licensed permission can be used for cinema projects in this course. Search for free-license and royalty free sources.

ODA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

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 Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct \(Links to an external site.\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Class Recordings

This course will, at times, employ lecture capture technology to record sessions. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Use of Electronic Devices

Computers, tablets, phones and other electronic devices are not permitted to be used during class unless required through an ODA accommodation. Violators asked to leave the class will also be counted as "absent."

Course Outline • MRTS 2210

Week 1: Course Introduction and Overview

Image Making: Composition, Shot Types

Week 2: Image Making: Composition (Continued)

Camera, Lenses & Depth of Field

Camera Demo: SONY NX800

Week 3: Camera Proficiency Assignment Due

Preproduction & Editing | Adobe Premiere Demo

Lighting Terminology

Week 4: Premiere Pro Editing Proficiency Dure | Shooting for the Edit: Continuity, Coverage & Types of Cuts

Week 5: Narrative Film Screening | Section Exam