

# MRTS 4412 – Video Production Topics

## MEDIA SERIES PRODUCTION II (Online)

Instructor: Johnathan Paul Office Hours: By Appointment Via Zoom  
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Mon-Thurs 10:00pm – 11:50pm 5WK SUMMER ONE

### TEXT:

There are no required texts, but several recommended texts. (See Below)

### PRODUCING

- *The Producers Business Handbook* John J. Lee Jr.
- *From Concept to Screen* Robert Benedetti
- *Producing, Financing, and Distributing* Paul A. Baumgarten
- *Producer to Producer* Maureena A. Ryan
- *The Complete Film Production Handbook* Eve Light Honthaner

### SCREENWRITING

- *Writing Screenplays that Sell* Michael Hauge
- *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting* Syd Field
- *Master of the Cinematic Universe* Bucher & Casper
- *Story: Substance, Structure, Style...* Robert McKee
- *The Screenwriter's Bible* David Trottier

### DIRECTING

- *Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics* Michael Rabiger
- *On Directing Film* David Mamet
- *Film Directing: Shot by Shot* Steven D. Katz

### CINEMATOGRAPHY

- *Master Shots Vol 1* Christopher Kenworthy
- *Master Shots Vol 2* Christopher Kenworthy
- *Master Shots Vol 3* Christopher Kenworthy
- *Cinematography: Theory & Practice* Blain Brown

### OBJECTIVES:

The Second Part of this three-part course takes students through the process of prepping and scheduling developed pilot from Media Series Production I for production. Collectively this is known as hard prep. Film dates will be set during this 5 Week period and each student will have a role to fill on the hard-prep teams.

By the end of the course each student will:

- Learn the importance of preparation and scheduling.
- Develop critical skills needed for on-set communication.
- Develop a deeper understanding of crew roles and responsibilities.
- Understand the importance of administrative skills needed to execute an effective production.
- Learn how effective resource management (cast, crew, equipment, locations, funding) can prevent issues in production before they occur.

### **CLASS COMMUNICATION:**

We will be utilizing *Slack* for all communication for this class. *Slack* allows us to direct message, send links, files and collaborate in a small scale online. We will be using additional online platforms such as *Zoom*, *Google Drive*, and *Notion* to help us streamline the hard-prep process.

### **TARDINESS AND ABSENCE POLICY:**

Absence: Due to the online nature of this course and the amount of content we have to develop in just 5 Weeks, attendance is vital. One unexcused absence or two late arrivals are allowed without penalty. Subsequent unexcused absences or late arrivals will be deducted from the total attendance percentage. Any student missing the first two class meetings (unexcused absences) or two or more unexcused absences must meet with the instructor to determine if an administrative withdrawal is required.

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMER WORKSHOPS:**

#### **WORKSHOP #1 – Producing + Directing for TV:**

Guest Speaker: Johnathan Paul + Josh Gilbert

#### **WORKSHOP #2 – Prepping for Production: (TBD)**

Guest Speaker: Andrew Nelson (*Quibi*)

#### **WORKSHOP #3 – Cinematography and Camera Workflows:**

Guest Speaker: Alex Simon (*Cinematographer – Fairview Chronicles*)

#### **WORKSHOP #4 – Lighting and Staging: (TBD)**

Guest Speaker: Abe Martinez (*Cinematographer – Queen of the South*)

Since we will be running this course online instead of in studio, student professionalism and participation is vital. Your grade will reflect this participation. If bad reports are given to the professor or the producers your final grade will reflect that effort. Let's take advantage of this opportunity and put our best foot forward. Be professional, be accountable, and let's help one another create something truly special.

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

As the instructor, my role is to act as the studio Executive. I will work with the Student showrunner and director to ensure each team has the tools, materials, and information to complete hard-prep and ready us for production.

### **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. You will then be referred to the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities for consideration as to whether the conduct in question violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

This course will include discussion of various television, film and similar projects and in-class exercises to help further the understanding of preproduction. This may include work in small groups. It is expected students will participate in all of these instances in a respectful, courteous and constructive manner indicative of future creative professionals. If there is any uncertainty, please refer to the section on student behavior above.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

Below is a tentative schedule for the Media Series Production Course 5 Week One. With each week the instructor will present a short presentation or just work to set the goals of the week. From that point on the rest of the class will be putting those plans into motion. Again, this a tentative schedule, and is subject to change as we get into the process of developing the series.

### **WEEK ONE**

- Course Introduction
- Video Conference with Professor and Guest Lecturer Alex Simon
- Accessing Online Hub and Communication
- Guest Speaker – Abe Martinez (Cinematography Workshop)
- Setting Team Rolls
- Schedule Actor Auditions

### **WEEK TWO**

- Team Meeting to run through the script
- Workshop – Directing and Producing Television (Johnathan Paul + Josh Gilbert)
- Lining the Script for Prep
- Individual Team Meetings
- Host Online Actor Auditions

### **WEEK THREE**

- Individual Teams Working on Hard Prep Tasks
- Guest Speaker – Andrew Nelson (Hard Prep Workshop)
- Submit Production Schedule
- Complete Shot List
- Solidify the Cast

### **WEEK FOUR**

- Individual Teams Working on Hard Prep Tasks
- Workshop – Final Cinematography Prep (Alex Simon)
- Review Production Schedule
- Complete Production Call Sheets

### **WEEK FIVE**

- Individual Teams Working on Hard Prep Tasks
- Hard Prep Wrap Meeting
- Finalize Production Schedule

## **MEDIA SERIES TEAMS**

Below is a list of the teams we will be utilizing during the Summer One Session. Every student will be a part of one of these teams and they will be responsible for a portion of the overall production binder that we will use once production begins in Summer Two.

**Producing Team**

**Directing Team**

**Camera Team**

**Production Design Team**

**Casting & Location Team**

## UNIVERSITY POLICY INFORMATION

### **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 (including the schedule and assignments listed above) 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 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](http://disability.unt.edu) or call **940.565.4323**.

### **SEMESTER EVALUATIONS:**

Students should complete the SETE (Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness). The SETE 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 this evaluation is considered an important part of your participation in this class.

### **RELIGIOUS ACCOMODATION:**

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 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.

### **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 caught cheating or plagiarizing (including submitting the work of other students, their own work from previous semesters of other classes from the current semester) will receive no credit for that specific assignment. Students found cheating on the final assignment will receive a failing grade for the course. All cheating/plagiarizing offenses will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. This information may be viewed on the UNT Policy Office website:

**[http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_Affairs-Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](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.

Students will not be assigned a grade of incomplete for the sole purpose of avoiding a failing grade or because of any current or impending graduation status.

**SUCCESS IN THE COURSE:**

UNT endeavors to offer a 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.

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 time during the posted office hours feel free to contact me to make an additional appointment. Everyone has a different learning style and pace. Working together we should be able to find what works for you. In addition, there are numerous on-campus resources for help found at: **[success.unt.edu/](https://success.unt.edu/)**.