

Course Syllabus

MRTS 2210.001

Introduction to Media Arts Production

Summer 2026

LECTURE & LAB INSTRUCTOR

Section 001 Tania Khalaf Tania.Khalaf@unt.edu T & R 10:00am – 1:50pm RTFP 180F

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MRTS 2210 is a three (3) credit hour course designed for MRTS Majors & CBCM Pre-Majors.

MRTS 2210 is a prerequisite for all MRTS production courses. The class focuses on production theories and techniques in the areas of Digital Cinema Production including audio, cinematography, editing, storytelling. It includes production exercises, readings, and exams. The class will be a mix of historical, theoretical, and methodological content derived from your book and other professional sources. It will also include hands-on demonstrations of equipment and techniques for this course. All students will be expected to dedicate a wealth of time to the study and practice of MRTS production for the duration of this course. A grade of C and a GPA of 2.75 is required to take additional MRTS production courses. Students may only repeat MRTS 2210 once.

REQUIRED READINGS

Video Production Handbook by Jim Owens, 6th Edition, Focal Press

Additional reading materials provided on Canvas

REQUIRED MATERIALS

SDXC card (class 10 or higher)

External Hard Drive(s) – Preferably 2 (1 as backup)

Professional Studio/Over-The-Ear Headphones

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop and demonstrate an understanding of multiple aspects of filmmaking and composition, including lighting, camerawork, sound recording, and editing.
2. To learn all aspects of the production process, including pre-production, production, post-production, and distribution.
3. To understand how images are used in fiction and nonfiction communications.
4. To translate composition concepts into purposeful image sequences.
5. To generate meaningful, professional, and effective media material.
6. To learn and understand, as new filmmakers, the responsibility for the messages our stories perpetuate, both intentional and unintentional.
7. To produce an original narrative film using digital cinema tools and concepts.

GRADING

ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
Project 1		
Observational or Experimental Film	150	15%
Project 2		
TV Studio Production	150	15%
Project 3		
Short Film or Music Video		
• Rough Cut (100)	400	40%
• Final Cut (250)		
• Pre-Production Packet (50)		
Final Exam	200	20%
Peer Evaluations	50	5%
Participation	50	5%
TOTAL POINTS	1,000	100%

Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale – 1,000

1000 – 900 = A

899 – 800 = B

799 – 700 = C

699 – 600 = D

599 – 500 = F

NO MAKE-UP EXAM WILL BE GIVEN WITHOUT A VERIFIED MEDICAL EXCUSE.

PEER EVALUATIONS

Each group member will complete a self & peer evaluation after the first and final project. Failure to complete a peer evaluation will result in the loss of the points allocated for the entire assignment. These should be completed with detail and information regarding your experience working with your partner.

PHONES/DEVICES

Laptops/phones/and tablets will be allowed in class to take notes. Please be respectful to your peers and instructor.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

As stated above, there will be a midterm exam during the first part or the lecture section of the class. During the 2nd part or the lab section of the class, there will be hands-on demonstrations, skills tests on equipment, and student screening and critique of work. Therefore, being present and on time is key to your success in this course.

To do well in this course you must actively participate in class. I expect you to engage—keep up with the reading, carefully study the films, and take part in discussions. Attendance is not optional; regardless of your reasons, if you miss these, you can't fully participate in the course. You are allowed one unexcused absence. Any additional absences will result in 50 points per absence taken off your final grade.

Absences will diminish your experience and standing in the class. Our assessment of and response to your work will be direct and frequent and your peers will evaluate your participation in the group. Being present in class is necessary to foster a critical community. Ultimately, your intellectual and creative rewards will depend on the quality of your commitment and how fully you show up and participate as a student, partner and colleague.

READINGS

All readings are required. Please be aware that the course lecture will act as a supplement to the required readings, not as a review.

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

No late assignments will be accepted. All assignments will be turned in on Canvas.

Late exam is not permitted for this course. However, if you will be absent on the day of the exam, you must contact me BEFORE to explain your absence in order to be eligible for consideration for a make-up or early exam. To be eligible you will need to submit proof of documentation to confirm the reason for your absence. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a score of zero.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

All students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to each class and to be prepared to actively engage in class when requested by the professor.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis 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 will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Students must do their own work. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO

MANIPULATE OR ALTER SOMEONE ELSE'S AUDIO FILES OTHER THAN YOUR OWN! COPYING, PASTING, AND/OR CLAIMING SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK AS YOUR OWN WILL LEAD TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

ADA 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.

COURSE SAFETY PROCEDURES (for Laboratory Courses)

Students enrolled in this class are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider Standard Syllabus Statements Related Policy 06.049 Course Syllabi.

Requirements obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at <http://spot.unt.edu/> or email spot@unt.edu.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION











UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565-2759.

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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 1, 2026	 Project 1 - Observational or Experimental Film (Individual Project) (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063852)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 4, 2026	 Project 1 Self & Peer Evaluation (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063854)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 8, 2026	 Project 2: Talk Show Script + Treatment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063857)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 10, 2026	 Project 2: Final Talk Show Script + Treatment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063856)	due by 11:59pm
	 Project 2: Team Talk Show (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063858)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 11, 2026	 Project 2 Peer Review Due (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063855)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 16, 2026	 Project 3 Rough Cut (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063861)	due by 10am
Wed Jun 17, 2026	 Final Project: Short Film/Music Video (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063850)	due by 11:59pm
	 Preproduction Binder (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063851)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 18, 2026	 Final Exam (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063848)	due by 10am

Date

Details

Due



Project 3 Peer Review Due

<https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145791/assignments/3063860>

due by 11:59pm