

CMNS2035: Cinematography

Newcastle City Precinct
Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

In this course, students will develop skills and knowledge in cinematography through an exploration of the cinematographer's role in a film crew and an understanding of the technical and aesthetic parameters of professional practice in collaborative groups/teams. Building on fundamental techniques, this course will provide an understanding of creative visual storytelling in cinematic form and is informed and contextualised by an overview of the history of cinematography. Students will learn single camera recording skills, editing techniques, and the application of video codecs and export formats appropriate for screen delivery.

Assumed Knowledge

For students who commenced prior to 2020, assumed knowledge is CMNS1230 and CMNS1130. All other students are assumed to have completed CMNS1240.

It will be assumed that students can demonstrate an ability to develop short video content, utilise single camera production techniques used in the field and can edit using non-linear software.

Contact Hours

Newcastle City Precinct

Film Screening

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per Week for 1 Weeks starting Week 13

Lecture

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per Week for 4 Weeks starting Week 1

Tutorial *

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per Week for 11 Weeks starting Week 2

Unit Weighting Workload

* This contact type has a compulsory requirement.

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Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Newcastle City Precinct**
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Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

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SYLLABUS

Course Content Topics covered include:

- Functions of the cinematographer, director, gaffer, sound recordist and editor in a digital environment;
- Composition and visual storytelling through focus, framing, exposure and lighting;
- Using different image capture systems and safe camera positioning and movement;
- Accommodating sound recording for video in multiple environments;
- Using a professional video camera in multiple environments where light sources and colour temperatures change;
- Monitoring images in the field and "shooting for the edit";
- Video codecs and export options.

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Apply digital cinematography practices and techniques in short video productions;
2. Demonstrate digital cinematography skills through selection of visual compositions using lens perspective, lighting contrasts, tone and visual montage techniques;
3. Display safe operational procedures when shooting short video productions;
4. Display proficiency in acquiring moving images that tell a visual story and meet a pre-determined narrative.

Course Materials **Other Resources:**

- See Canvas for list of lecture materials required including multi-media resources, recommended and/or required reading and text.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

Contact Hour Requirements:

- Tutorial Induction Requirement - Students must attend and pass the induction requirements before attending these sessions. In order to participate in this course, students must complete a compulsory online safety induction (equipment usage) by week 2.

Course Assessment Requirements:

-

Pre-Placement Requirements:

-

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Become familiar with course content	Lecture	
2	4 Mar	Form groups and shoot assessment 1	Lecture	
			Tutorial	
3	11 Mar	Camera workshop	Lecture	
			Tutorial	
4	18 Mar	Assessment 1 to be screened in tutorial	Lecture	Light & shadow video project - 15%
			Tutorial	
5	25 Mar	Classical continuity workshop	Tutorial	
6	1 Apr	Shoot / edit assessment 2	Tutorial	
7	8 Apr	Screen assessment 2 in class	Tutorial	Moving subject video project - 15%
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
8	29 Apr	Film interviews	Tutorial	
9	6 May	Assessment 3 to be screened in tutorial.	Tutorial	Interview video project - 25%
10	13 May	Begin writing assessment 4	Tutorial	
11	20 May	Shoot assessment 4	Tutorial	
12	27 May	Edit assessment 4	Tutorial	
13	3 Jun	Screening assessment 4	Screening	Short film project with production paperwork - 45%
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Light & Shadow video project - 15%	Week commencing 18 March	Individual	15%	1, 3
2	Moving Subject video project - 25%	Week commencing 8 April	Individual	25%	1, 2, 4
3	Interview video project - 25%	Week commencing 6 May	Individual	25%	1, 2, 4
4	Short film project with production paperwork - 35%	Week commencing 3 June	Individual	35%	2, 3

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Light & Shadow video project - 15%

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	Video project designed to familiarise students with the exposure settings on a motion picture camera and the resulting image quality.
Description	Light and camera exercise.
Weighting	15%
Length	1 minute (approximately)
Due Date	Week commencing 11 March
Submission Method	Screened in class for feedback, then final edit uploaded to Canvas for assessment
Assessment Criteria	
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	

Assessment 2 - Moving Subject video project - 25%

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	Students create a basic narrative film which involves a moving camera and a moving subject with consistent screen direction and spacial continuity.
Description	Short narrative project.
Weighting	25%
Length	1 minute (approximately)
Due Date	Week commencing 1 April
Submission Method	Screened in class for feedback, then final edit uploaded to Canvas for assessment
Assessment Criteria	
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	

Assessment 3 - Interview video project - 25%

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	An interview of a person (not a fellow student) using lighting techniques taught in class, intercut with 'b-roll' location footage. Students will learn the basic techniques of factual video production.
Description	Short documentary project.
Weighting	25%

Length	3-5 minutes
Due Date	Week commencing 6 May
Submission Method	Screened in class for feedback, then final edit uploaded to Canvas for assessment
Assessment Criteria	
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	

Assessment 4 - Short film project with production paperwork - 35%

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	Applying the rules of composition, lighting, coverage, and continuity to a narrative film.
Description	Short film using only ten shots and ten words of dialogue.
Weighting	35%
Length	2-3 minutes
Due Date	Week commencing 3 June
Submission Method	Screened in class for feedback, then final edit uploaded to Canvas for assessment
Assessment Criteria	
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Tutorial (Method of recording:)

WH&S Requirements

-Workshop

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, it is the student's responsibility to sanitise their work/computer space prior to any face-to-face lessons in this course. They must be mindful of current social distancing rules during their lessons.

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content

or announcements on the Canvas course site.

- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;3. you are requesting a change of placement; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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