

Department of English & Writing Studies  
Film Studies Program

**Film 3368F (001)**  
**Film Production**  
Fall 2024

**Instructor:** Greg DeSouza

**Antirequisites:** The former Film Studies 2270F/G.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in [Film Studies 1020E](#) or [Film Studies 1022](#), or 1.0 of English 1000-1999 plus [English 2112F/G](#), [Film 2212F/G](#), or [Theatre Studies 2212F/G](#), or permission of the department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### Course Description

This course will explore the stylistic functions of basic film elements, e.g., camera movement, editing, sound, and colour, through the analysis and production of films. You will practice storytelling skills and evaluate various AI-powered script generation tools and platforms available, considering factors such as ease of use, customization options, and output quality.

Students will work through a series of collaborative studio projects aimed at developing knowledge and technical proficiency regarding : pre-production planning and scriptwriting, composition and visual communication, manual camera control, colour grading, lighting, audio recording and sound design, as well as editing and stylization in post-production.

Studio production and experimentation will be complemented by online technical demonstrations, lectures, readings, discussions, and viewings aimed at developing critical response skills, conceptual foundations, and language appropriate for image evaluation and analysis. These will provide students with versatile tools and approaches through which ideas about filmmaking may be explored, and developed, culminating in a video production project. Remote production techniques related to the pandemic will be explored if necessary. No prior experience with digital technology and/or video production is required.

**Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, you will be able to:

- Effectively use a DV camera in manual shooting mode to focus, white balance, adjust exposure and audio levels.
- Apply conventions of shot framing, movement, sequencing and continuity.
- Effectively use the Final Cut Pro X, or Davinci Resolve Non-linear editing software.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic approaches to studio and outdoor reflective lighting.
- Effectively select and use appropriate technology for audio capture and sound design.
- Effectively use primary and secondary colour grading tools for colour design.
- Critically evaluate how meaning is generated through the organization and manipulation of sound and image, over time.
- Actively and constructively engage in critiques of peer's work and integrate feedback to further develop their own work.
- Use the terminology of video production to articulate ideas and intents in a clear, effective, and professional manner.

Course Materials

- Required Text: available at the Book store -*How to Shoot Video that Doesn't Suck* by Steve Stockman ISBN: 978-0-7611-6323-7
- SDHC or SDXC card class 10. A Micro SD card in an adapter will also work. A 64 to 128GB card will be adequate. (*only required using a school camera or recording device*)
- A laptop/desktop computer and external hard drive (recommended: 4TB, Headphones with 1/8" plug (preferably not ear buds) would be an asset.
- A non-linear digital editing program. Davinci Resolve can be downloaded for free but requires a robust computer with adequate RAM and graphics card. Final Cut Pro X is recommended for Mac users and Adobe Premier Pro is available by subscription. **IF YOU USE ANOTHER NLE IT MUST HAVE SCOPES FOR COLOUR AND A BUILT IN DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)**
- School equipment is available for sign out. Create an account at [ArtsGear](#)
- Instructional videos and other supplementary material will be posted on OWL.

### Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

- In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on Bright Space for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

#### Assignments

Assignments are designed to incorporate ideas and approaches learned both in class and through independent practice and experimentation. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves to explore, personalize, and expand on the creative potential of these skill sets. **There is no final written exam.**

Student performance will be evaluated in terms of technical proficiency, conceptual focus, synthesis, and work ethic. Successful projects will clearly demonstrate knowledge in four key areas:

- **preproduction** - research/planning,
- **production**, - capture of video/audio, and experimentation,
- **post production** effective editing including synchronizing audio and video, and color grading.
- **distribution** exporting video using an appropriate codec for YouTube and use on social media.

A **5%** penalty may be deducted from assignments submitted late, or those not presented in the required format. It is the student's responsibility to remain informed as to submission details and requirements. Assignments without official documentation will not be accepted after grades have been released. ***By communicating/negotiating with the instructor before missing a due date you will avoid penalty.***

Note: You may negotiate a change to any given project. If you have an idea for a different project speak to Greg De Souza and prepare a written project proposal showing how your project will illustrate the same elements of the project you are substituting. You must complete 3 of the 5 mini assignments. You may choose to opt out of either assignment 4 and/or 5

### Value of Assignments

- Mini Assignments Portfolio 35%(best 3/4)
- Practical Editing quiz 10%
- Culminating Project 1 25%
- Culminating Project 2 30%

**Please note:** The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

**Excessive absenteeism, amounting to more than 25% of class time (i.e. 10 hours for a 0.5 course) will result in failure in the course.**

### **The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for developing scripts; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original contributions.

### Important Sessional Dates

Classes begin: September 4, 2024;  
Fall Reading Week: October 28 – November 1, 2024;  
Classes end: December 6, 2024;

### Accommodation and Accessibility

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

### Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>.

### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

### Support Services

#### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

#### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **Digital Student Experience**

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.