

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: COMM 210
Course Title: Production and Direction

Year: 2018-2019
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

An introduction to the directing language and techniques from the viewpoint of the director of both broadcast and sitcom television. Students explore the different production dynamics between broadcast format and sitcom television/film style. Major objectives are to develop a basic competence in the fundamentals of studio directing, to introduce the creative dimensions of the television medium of human communication, and to develop skills working as a production team. Students will learn to work with performers, production crew and scripts. Substantial outside preparation for the laboratories will be required. Open to Broadcast Production, Communication and Media Arts, Creative Writing, and Digital Cinema program majors. Prerequisites: COMM 120 or COMM 140; MATH 090 and RDNG 099 if required by placement testing; ENGL 099 or prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ESL 120, 121, and 122 (or prior completion of ESL 103) if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (2 Lec., 2 Lab.) Spring semester.

Course Context/Audience

COMM 210 is designed for Broadcast Production, Communication and Media Arts, and Creative Writing majors only. Any exceptions would need to be approved by the program chairperson.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing: W2 Student should have completed ENGL 099 (if needed). The course requires short written responses and/or short papers without documentation, particularly personal reflection or narrative.

Math: M2 Completed MATH 090 (if needed) - Course requires only the use of basic mathematical skills.

Reading: R2 Before taking this course, students must have a C or better in RDNG 099 or assessment indicating that RDNG 099 was not required.

Course Goals

The overall goal of this course is teach competency in the broadcast studio. Students will rotate through all studio positions, taking turns at directing, technical directing, floor directing, camera operation, lighting director, sound director, CG operator, producers and executive producers. Students will "compete" for the top positions for the televised High School Challenge shows. High School Challenge is a game show with eight contestants and a host that TC3 has been producing and airing since 1978. Students will collaborate with community actors to produce a thirty minute sitcom. Each student will direct a scene for the sitcom. Students will also design an original 30 minute television show as a group final.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	# Hours
Overview of Studio and Production Team roles (Broadcast Television & Television-Film style)	4 Hours
Electronic Graphics, Audio Board, Camera Practice and Directing on Blue Screen	4 Hours
Lighting, Videotape Playback, Discuss E! Show Format Show Project	4 Hours
Camera Movements, Shot Composition, Directing Actors, Discuss Sitcom Production	4 Hours
Shoot Sitcom	4 Hours
Camera Practice, Building CG's for H.S. Challenge and Directing H.S. Challenge	4 Hours
Shoot H.S. Challenge	4 Hours
Discuss and Group Projects	16 Hours
Shoot Group Projects	16 Hours

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others. 	<p>This is a hands on course that requires students to “work out” problems themselves during the course of a high pressure/production. They will be shown how to do the production and then will immediately be placed in the role. Critical thinking is required for success.</p> <p>Students rotate and “compete” for roles within this course. Students must use critical thinking skills to determine their group dynamics and roles.</p> <p>Students will need to satisfy this goal while determining equipment needs and devising workable solutions for their studio productions. Lighting, camera positions, studio operations, shot compositions. The entire class is designed to allow students to design projects, troubleshoot solutions and reach conclusions. This is an advanced course designed to take students directly into the workplace (or transfer program). The script, project and entire studio process address this outcome. By working as a team, students must consider the viewpoints of the entire crew/cast in order to be successful. The script, project and entire studio process address this outcome.</p>
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences. 	<p>Students in this course are encouraged to show the diversity represented on campus and in the community in their video productions. Additionally students are encouraged to "rethink" stereotyping and explore personal growth by reviewing video productions produced around the world.</p> <p>Students in this course are encouraged to show the diversity represented on campus and in the community in their video productions. Additionally students are encouraged to "rethink" stereotyping and explore personal growth by reviewing video productions produced around the world.</p> <p>Students will have to finally support their own production. They will understand costs associated with producing a piece (national day rates for crew/talent/rentals/etc.)</p>

	<p>Students use a tremendous number of resources. By using/charging/replacing batteries/ etc. they will understand the footprint their work leaves in the world.</p> <p>The script, project and entire studio process address this outcome Students will be responsible for charging batteries, replacing used materials. Recycling used batteries and overseeing computer usage. How to deal with our “waste” is a constant topic/issue within the Communications industry and this course.</p>
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Instructional Methods

The instructor should use demonstration, lectures, group projects, a final project, quizzes and a final exam.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Blue Screen Directing Project practice & record – participation and attendance	10%
Sitcom practice & record week--participation and attendance	20%
High School Challenge practice & recording – participation & attendance	20%
Group Project	20%
Participation and attendance	10%
Final Exam	10%
Quizzes	10%

Text(s)

Television Production Handbook, Herbert Zettl, 10th Edition, © 2010 Wadsworth.

Bibliography

Arant, David. Perspectives: Ethics, Issues and Controversies in Mass Media. St. Paul: Houghton Mifflin, © 2007.

Medoff and Tom Tanquary. Portable Video: ENG and EFP. Boston: Focal Press, © 2009.

Willis and Henry Aldridge. Television, Cable, and Radio: A Communications Approach. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, © 1992.

Zettl, Herbert. Television Production Handbook, 10th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thomson Learning, © 2010

Other Learning Resources

<p>Audiovisual No resources specified</p>
<p>Electronic No resources specified</p>
<p>Other Television studio availability essential to teach this course</p>