

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: COMM 270

Year: 2024-2025

Course Title: Hollywood: On Location

Credit Hours: 6

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

Students spend 20 days in California touring studios, speaking with industry leaders, and working as interns on Hollywood productions. Intended for second year Digital Cinema and Broadcast Production -Television majors, the entertainment industry and the vast history of storytelling in Hollywood are explored and researched. Students produce a film or television episode working alongside industry professionals. They develop research skills, storytelling techniques, networking skills, collaboration and leadership skills. The course consists of 40 lecture hours in meetings prior to the Hollywood trip; 30 lecture hours during the trip; and 105 lab hours for fifteen out of the 20 days in Hollywood. Students must be in good academic standing with a 3.2 GPA or higher; they must submit a faculty recommendation and an application. The Dean of Academics and the course instructor select a limited number of students based on the course requirements and completed prerequisites. Substantial course fee. Prerequisites: COMM 210; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 101; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in MATH 095 if required by placement testing; RDNG 116 if required by placement testing. 6 Cr. (4 Lec, 2 Lab) Occasionally.

Course Context/Audience

In this unique course, studios and several production companies provide real working production-learning environments, while TC3 faculty supervise and evaluate student learning. Those studios may include Central City Studios, Technicolor, 32Ten Studios, Pixar, Warner Brother Studios, and E! Entertainment Studios. TC3 faculty will also lecture and create learning opportunities while on tours and during live productions/show tapings. This course is especially appropriate for Digital Cinema and Broadcast Production- Television students.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing: WC College level writing skills are required. See course pre-requisites for details.
Math: M3 Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in MATH 095 if required by placement testing
Reading: R4 RDNG 116 if required by placement testing.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to build on foundation courses by developing fundamental skills such as leadership, collaboration and teamwork, industry skills and research methods
2. Have developed skills necessary for transitioning from classroom to workforce.
3. Have an advanced understanding of the preproduction, production, and post-production process.
4. Earn a screen credit on a completed television pilot or short form fiction or non-fiction film.
5. Have learned how to network and build industry contacts for future employment.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Researching Industry organizational structure and history	25%
Marketing development (website & portfolio)	5%
Production planning (Preproduction) Production/Post Production of Short Fiction/Non-Fiction Film or Television Show	35%
Demonstration of learning by journaling (blogs)	15%
Career research and assessment (mentor sessions)	5%
Production Management & Budgeting	15%

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>Students will meet and learn from industry professionals. Lecturers from the industry will educate students about the social issues addressed in their various mediums. Guest lecturers to include writers, producers, directors, talent and technical staff from film, television and internet based studios.</p> <p>Students will interview professionals about their industries and career path. Additionally, they will research trends and historical patterns in the entertainment industry. Special topic papers and student blogs will journal their learning.</p> <p>Students will lead the group through trip planning and production meetings. They will work as a team to solve problems that can occur during production and with a production company.</p> <p>Students will be mentored by faculty during the course. Faculty will be able to help students draw conclusions from the lectures and studio tours. Mentoring relationships coupled with collaboration on professionally produced projects will further the students' multiple viewpoints.</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 will explore the surrounding communities and examine the impact large studios have on the economic and cultural climate of California, New York and New Orleans. Research assignments, lectures and group discussions will be used to prepare students for this exploration.</p> <p>Students will work as interns at a prop and set design studio learning the environmental concerns and requirements when handling art house material such as paint, lumber, plastics, fake weapons and tools. Students will also learn the safety requirements for handling of prop weapons and foods.</p> <p>Students will speak with entertainment professionals about equality in the entertainment industry. Students will hear from women about the inequality in the film and television industries.</p> <p>Students will learn through lectures and guest speakers the social responsibilities that film and television professionals have.</p>

Instructional Methods

The instructor should provide an introduction to Hollywood history, industry employment, and various storytelling techniques through lectures and research assignments. Group discussion, student and group projects, written assignments, completion of daily blog assignments, media, student-advisor conferences, guest speaker and faculty lectures, attendance at studio tours, directed readings, on-set supervisor's and faculty evaluation, student written summary, and final presentation upon returning from work experience should be used to instruct.

Lecture hours pre-trip should cover the following topics: Hollywood history, Industry structure, roles of cast and crew in pre-production & post-production, research techniques used for creation of non-fiction and fiction projects, marketing techniques, blog creation, preproduction steps for groups projects, budgeting and managing a production,

Lecture topics covered during trip should cover the following topics: proper production documentation, working and living in the Hollywood, how to break into the entertainment industry, and how to collaborate in a creative environment.

Lab hours should cover the following topics: internship experience, studio tours, show-tapings, mentor meetings, production of film or television project.

SUMMARY: Total lecture hours: 70 (4 credits); Total laboratory/field experience hours: 105 on trip (2 credits)

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Marketing Presentation	5%
Blog of Individual learning and learning reports	15%
Project (Film or Television Pilot)	20% - 40%
Public Group Presentation of Project (Film or Television Pilot)	5% -10%
Narrative papers	10% - 20%
Daily Assignments (professionalism, planning, leadership, participation, budgeting, etc.)	5% - 20%

Text(s)

To be determined by Instructor prior to course start (depending on Group's project)

Bibliography

Clark, Barbara, and Susan Spohr. *Guide to Postproduction for TV and Film*. 2nd ed. N.p.; Focal Press, 2002. Print.

Honthaner, Eve Light. *The Complete Film Production Handbook*. 3rd ed. N.p.: Focal Press, 2001. Print.

Tomaric, Jason. *Filmmaking*. 1st ed. N.p.: Focal Press, 2011. Print.

Houghton, Buck. *What a Producer Does: The Art of Moviemaking (Not a Business)*. Beverly Hills, CA: Silman James Press, 1991. Print.

Medoff, Norman J, Edward J Fink, and Tom Tanquary. *Portable Video: ENG and EFP*. 6th ed. Burlington, MA: Focal Press, 2012. Print.

Zettl, Herbert. *Television Production Handbook*. 11th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2011. Print

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual

DVD: The Pixar Story/ Documentary

DVD: Walt Disney "The Man Behind the Myth"

DVD: Friends Season 5 bonus feature "The one that goes behind the scenes"

Electronic

www.imdb.com

Academy of Television & Science; <http://www.emmys.org/>

www.wix.com

Other

Studio Facilities and equipment

Warner Brothers Studio Lot, Technicolor, 32Ten Studios, Central City Studios, E! Entertainment, Pixar

Library Review

Summary

This course has run 3 times and the Library has direct experience supporting this class. Since the course was first proposed, the Library has worked closely with the instructor and has met with students as they fulfill their research assignments and prepare to work away from campus. The Library has been able to acquire video and book material to support the course and students' work. Unless either the Library's budget or the course requirements change, the Library has no reservations about being able to support this course. We look forward to continued close work with the instructor to ensure alignment between our materials and course assignments.

Print Collection Resources

Simple keyword and subject searches in the Library's catalog (on Hollywood, motion picture production, television production, film production, entertainment industry) indicate that we have some recent publications in these areas. Available to us for quick delivery from regional academic libraries are many hundreds more books.

Databases and Periodicals Resources

The Library currently subscribes to such databases as *Business and Company ASAP*, *Business and Company Resource Center*, and *Business Source Complete*. Among them, these databases include full text journal articles as well as industry analyses, company histories and much more.

Media Resources

The Library has a fairly extensive collection of DVDs as well as streaming videos through Films on Demand. The Library has been able to acquire additional DVDs that the instructor has requested for this course.

Instructional/Research Support

Librarians are available for assignment consultation, whole-class instruction or assistance to individuals in person, by phone, e-mail and online. Students' awareness of *The Occupational Outlook Handbook* as well as learning about the availability, special contents and features of the different business databases available through the Library will help the students' success. Online library resources, including ebooks and streaming video, are accessible to students whether or not they are on campus.

Librarian's Signature and Date:

Susanna Van Sant

April 4, 2013