

**SCHOOL OF MEDIA ART  
BACHELOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA**

**SESSION 1 2003  
STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL MEDIA  
SOMA1604**

**UOC4 HPW3 S1**

**VIDEO**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides a broad introduction and foundation to video, photomedia and sound. It will cover aspects of video capture and editing, photographic capture and manipulation and sound capture and editing.

Students will learn to use basic sound recording equipment and receive an introduction to concepts of sound layering and editing. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of the video process - analog and digital. An introduction to photographic processes will also be covered. The emphasis of this introductory course is upon developing an understanding of the interrelationship of all three disciplines within a digital media practice and context.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

The emphasis of this introductory course is upon developing an understanding of the interrelationship of all three disciplines within a digital media practice and context. The course content will seek to introduce students to knowledge specific to the core disciplines of video, photography and sound.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

***Develop an appreciation and understanding of sound capture and manipulation.  
Develop an appreciation and understanding of image capture and processing.  
Develop an appreciation and understanding of video capture and editing.***

**ASSESSMENT:**

Each student completes a five week component in each of the following : sound, video and photomedia. To qualify for a passing grade all students must complete all set work, which is to be submitted on time. **Where absences of more than one class occur in each component, students may be given a fail grade for that component.** Although grades will be given out after each section, the final grade comes from an averaging of the three component grades. Students must be punctual and participate in all class activities. The student should be expected to show evidence of the achievement of the course's objectives.

**EMAIL POLICY**

You must check email often enough so that you do not miss urgent messages. Typically every other day would be a minimum, unless you are away from the university. If you use an email account somewhere else, for example in your school or outside the University, you *must* arrange to forward your email from your official address to the email account you use. If you use free web-based email such as Hotmail, you must also regularly delete old messages to ensure you will have space to receive any new messages from the University. This is your responsibility!

If you know your UNIPASS, you can set this up yourself via the web. Go to the "do-it-yourself" page at [www.diy.unsw.edu.au](http://www.diy.unsw.edu.au). If you don't know your UNIPASS (you should!), or you need help, contact DISConnect, who can arrange to provide your UNIPASS or set up the forwarding for you. The DISConnect desk is at the back of the Kensington campus Library and their phone number is 9385 1777. Either way, it takes five minutes.

## PHORUM

Students are also required to check the Digital Media Phorum regularly, typically every other day. Information regarding enrolment, course requirements, technical issues, job opportunities and other relevant information will be regularly posted on the phorum, which can be found at <http://phorum.cofa.unsw.edu.au/list.php?f=5>.

## ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS REGARDING WORKSPACE SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES:

Students should be aware of their responsibility to avoid causing injuries to themselves or to others. These injuries could include; eyestrain, hearing damage, back, neck and repetitive strain injury (RSI), burns, chemical poisoning, inhalation damage, lacerations and the like. Students using, or planning to use, unorthodox materials, or materials/processes/performances in a potentially damaging manner in their class, or related work, ARE REQUIRED to complete a Risk Assessment Sheet. This form must be signed by the lecturer and lodged with the relevant Technical Officer. Unorthodox materials are considered to be material, solvents, chemicals, paints, electricity etc. not covered by standard practice or tuition within the area. All potentially dangerous materials MUST be used in consultation with the mandatory material safety data sheets (MSDS) available at the point of acquisition of such materials. It is UNSW policy that no bodily parts or fluids are used on any campus for any purpose.

### Introduction to Digital Media - SOMA 1604 weeks 1-5

Class #	Group	Day	Time	Location
6562	Sound	Monday	3-6pm	F106
6563	Photo	Monday	9-12	CB09
6564	Video	Monday	9-12pm	F106
6577	Sound	Monday	12-3pm	F106

### Introduction to Digital Media - SOMA 1604 weeks 6-10

Class #	Group	Day	Time	Location
6562	Photo	Monday	12-3pm	CB09
6563	Video	Monday	9-12pm	F106
6564	Sound	Monday	12-3pm	F106
6577	Photo	Monday	9-12pm	CB09

### Introduction to Digital Media - SOMA 1604 weeks 11-15

Class #	Group	Day	Time	Location
6562	Video	Monday	12-3pm	F106
6563	Sound	Monday	3-6pm	F106
6564	Photo	Monday	9-12pm	CB09
6577	Video	Monday	9-12pm	F106

TUTOR: ANGELICA MESITI / MARI VELONAKI  
CLASS CODES: 6562 / 6563 / 6564 / 6577  
DAY & TIME: Monday, various times  
LOCATION: F106

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION - video**

The course is designed to explore and expand an understanding of video production methods and practice, with an emphasis on digital practices. The course is comprised of: technical demonstrations and workshops, discussions and tutorials, individual project development, screening programs and assessment / critique. Proficiency on digital editing systems will be gained in the workshop. The use of camera, lighting and sound editing will also be introduced.

**COURSE CONTENT - video**

Facilities which are covered include: MiniDV cameras and techniques, basic lighting the use of basic digital editing suites / software (iMovie) and techniques. A short screening program will take place in weeks one to three.

Students should be aware of the requirement to avoid eyestrain, back, neck and repetitive strain injury (rsi) through correct posture, chair positioning and taking a break at least once every hour. Students using, or planning to use, unorthodox materials in their class work are required to complete a Risk Assessment Sheet. This form must be signed by the lecturer and lodged with the Technical Assistant. Unorthodox materials are considered to be materials, solvents, chemicals and paints not covered by standard practice or tuition within the area.

**COURSE AIMS/OBJECTIVES- video**

The focus of this course will be on expanding technical skills and approaches toward the production of individual projects within the BDM studios. Another focus concerns the development of the critical awareness needed in utilising time based art / design media as a means of expression. The various delivery formats for such content will also be demonstrated.

**ASSESSMENT - video**

To qualify for a passing grade all students must complete all set work, which is to be submitted on time. In the case of more than one absence in each five week component (sound / video / photo), students may be given a fail grade (UF) for that component. Students must be punctual and participate in all class activities. The student should be expected to show evidence of the achievement of the course's objectives.

**ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN**

<b>PROJECT 1- ACTUALITIES,</b>	<b>%40</b>	<b>due wk 3</b>
<b>PROJECT 2- THRILLER / HORROR,</b>	<b>%50</b>	<b>due wk 5</b>
<b>PROCESS DIARY</b>	<b>%10</b>	<b>due wk 5</b>

**COURSE SCHEDULE - video**

- Week 1 Introduction to video production - course handouts, outlines, area orientation, health & safety issues, security issues, miniDV camera & tripod tutorial, composition/framing, screening "Landmarks of Early Film", *Actualities* project brief.
- Week 2 Introduction video/sound editing & iMovie, editing concepts, hardware/software issues, timecode, screening various examples of editing techniques, begin editing *Actualities* project.
- Week 3 *Actualities* project presentation Assessment.  
Lighting for video workshop, safety issues, screening - "Visions in light".  
*Thriller/Horror* project brief.
- Week 4 Working on class project.
- Week 5 *Thriller/Horror* project presentation Assessment / Critique of Project. Process diary's due.

### **PROJECT MATERIALS NEEDED**

**Presentation formats and materials required – Mini DV tapes (preferably two - 1 x camera tape, and 1 x edit master), 2 x VHS tape for screening copies.**

### **PROJECT 1- ACTUALITIES, %40**

Reflecting the composed look of contemporary photography rather than the theatrical tableau, their (the Lumières) 'pictures in motion' had a depth of scene that contributed to the realism of the train pulling into the Gare de la Ciotat and a basic narrative pattern of beginning, middle and end that informed even the *Workers Leaving the Lumiere Factory*. The naturalism and bustle of many of their *actualities* (actuality films) foreshadowed the style of the soviet Kino-Eye and the Italian Neo-Realists, while *Feeding Baby* has a distinct home-movie feel. **From *History of film* by David Parkinson**

The Lumières and their *camerists* (cameraman not entering the vernacular till 1905), in contrast to their overseas counterparts (see tutorial one, week one), focused upon the everyday – their films becoming snapshots of the times.

Working individually with tools including MiniDV cameras & iMovie, choose your own *actuality*, document it and edit it (including soundtrack), the duration to be no more than a minute. Use of various camera angles, fast cutting (ie. quick edits) video / sound effects etc is up to you.

You must have proficiency in the TRV8 MiniDV cameras in order to do this exercise. You need to shoot this project by week 2 so you can begin editing in class.

A screening and discussion of the completed project will take place in **Week 3**.

### **PROJECT 2- THRILLER / HORROR, %50**

For this project you will create a short piece of video footage that fits into the genre of thriller/horror.

To demonstrate your knowledge of lighting skills you will apply two or more different lighting techniques that are appropriate to the scene.

Don't try to complicate things too much! "Simple" is often more effective.

You could experiment with:

- Gels to colour the light
  - Flash guns to stun the subject
  - Hard side lighting
  - Shadows
  - Backlighting
- A la Hitchcock...etc

**Keep detailed notes of your ideas and discoveries in your process diary. Storyboards are a good way to visually work through ideas.**

Revisit movies such as:

- Frankenstein
- Nosferatu
- Eraserhead
- Psycho
- Blair Witch
- Twilight Zone

Really take note of different lighting techniques used in these types of films. How they change the feel of the image and create a mood, whether it be suspense, shock or shlock!

Your final result for this project will be **a short video between 1-2 min** long. Shot on digital video. You may work in groups of 2 or 3 people.  
A screening and discussion of the completed project will take place in **Week 5**.

Your process diary is also due on this date.

## **RELEVANT REFERENCES**

Hanhardt, John (ed) 1986,

**Video Culture A Critical Investigation**, Visual studies workshop press, NY (available in the library)

Ascher, Steven and Pincus, Edward 1999,

**The Filmmaker's Handbook – A comprehensive guide for the digital age**, Plume Books, NY

(I recommend that you buy this book as a reference)

<http://www.dv.com> The WWW version of DV magazine - buy the magazine if you're serious about video production

<http://www.wwug.com> The World Wide Users Group

<http://www.dvguys.com> A good source of Digital video information

<http://www.imdb.com> An internet film reference database

<http://www.digitalproducer.com/aHTML/HomeSet.htm> industry level digital news network, with links to other relevant networks

<http://www.uemedia.com/CPC/2-pop/> resource site for digital filmmakers

<http://www.ifilm.com/> screening area for digital filmmakers