

MOVIE STUDIES: Cinematography: Shorts

Summary

Name of Discipline:	Cinematography: Shorts
Teachers:	Bodoni-Dombi Tünde, Veres Ottilia
Contacts:	bodonitunde@partium.ro , veresottilia@partium.ro
Weekly Hours (course + seminar/lab/practice):	1 course + 1 seminar
Credits:	5
Language of Instruction:	English
Year of Study (recommended):	All years

Prerequisites

A good command of English language is necessary (min. B1 level).

Course Content

Abstract

In just over a century, our cinematic heritage has swollen enormously. From the industry of blockbusters for mass consumption to short music videos and art film cinematography, there is an extensive range of genres and quality. The course aims to familiarize students with the main characteristics and basics of cinematography, with particular attention to short motion pictures. We do not wish to give a comprehensive insight into the entire history and palette of short motion pictures but rather explore the use of film language through examples of shorts in which music and movement/dance dominate. The course thus aims to introduce students to fundamental elements of film language, through selected examples and related exercises. We are going to examine genres ranging from short films, music videos, commercials and art films, which are specifically designed for music and movement. The course also aims to familiarize students with the various phases of film production and develop an understanding of the professional work of a film crew (how many people's organized, professional work is needed for a quality film production). Particular emphasis will be laid on film language, identifying different types of camera shots, special effects, and how these are used to create a specific atmosphere. The overall idea is to provide a solid base of understanding in our overloaded visual environment, at the same time offering the opportunity to learn practical knowledge of filmmaking through students' stop motion film practice and short video shooting practice. The introduction of the course is justified by the fact that, although most students likely have basic knowledge about films, this course offers a structured framework focusing on particular short genres and the know-how of film production.

Topics

Week	Topic
Week 1	Short film. <i>Sing/Mindenki</i> (2016, d. Kristóf Deák). Introduction to cinematography, basic film concepts, the phases of filmmaking:
Week 2	Music video. <i>Platon Karataev</i> , "Ocean" (2021, d. Emőke Dobos). Low-budget, independent music videos. The film crew.
Week 3	Students' stop motion practice 1. Collage.

Week 4	Independent Film: <i>Anima</i> (2019, d. Thom Yorke). Non-narrative dance film. Dance as a means of expression in film language, the role of editing and rhythm.
Week 5	Students' stop motion practice 2. Object animation.
Week 6	Commercial 1. <i>Kenzo. My Mutant Brain</i> (2016, d. Spike Jonze). Fatboy Slim ft. Bootsy Collins, "Weapon of Choice" (2010, dir. Spike Jonze). Film crew, visual effects. Recognizing and identifying visual effects in short music videos.
Week 7	Commercial 2. Social commercials, commercials with social purposes. <i>National Alliance On Mental Illness: Inside & Outwards</i> (2020, d. Ezra Hurwitz). Commercial ads versus mainstream social commercials.
Week 8	Commercial 3. Non-profit commercials. Partium Christian University English Department promotion campaign (2018, 2019): <i>Hamlet, Great Gatsby, Frankenstein, Godot, Poe, Robinson, Mary Poppins, Alice, Lady Macbeth, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, My Fair Lady</i> (short videos).
Week 9	Students' film shooting practice 1. Building a film crew, creating our own short commercial. Storyboard, script, shooting, studio.
Week 10	Students' film shooting practice 2. Building a film crew, creating our own short commercial. Postproduction, editing, music.
Week 11	Opening titles. <i>Se7en</i> (1995, d. Kyle Cooper), <i>X-Men: First Class</i> (2011, d. Simon Clowes, Kyle Cooper). The evolution of feature film opening titles.
Week 12	Students' project presentation.
Week 13	End-term paper
Week 14	Evaluation, conclusion, round-up

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- understand cinematic concepts, develop a multifaceted orientation in cinematic language
- acquire knowledge about various cinematic genres
- understand how music videos, commercials, short films are created and how they convey their message
- think critically about mainstream and artistic film production
- develop rich emotional and intellectual competencies in the reception and evaluation of film productions; recognize, as well as understanding

Assessment

Class attendance and in-class activity (active involvement in discussions, endterm presentation): 50%

Endterm paper: 50%

Requirements to Pass

Minimum 50% course attendance, 50% completion of students' project/presentation, minimum 50% obtained in the final test.

Bibliography:

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- Burns, Lori A., and Stan Hawkins. [The Bloomsbury Handbook of Popular Music Video Analysis](#). Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.
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