

DePaul University Spring Quarter 2014

DC 372 Topics in Television Production

Topic: Shooting Sketch Comedy TV

Meeting Time:	Thursday 5:45pm – 9:00pm
Location:	DePaul Center, 1 East Jackson, Concourse C106A/D
Instructor:	Nick Schmidt
Office:	243 South State, lower level, LL103B
Office Hours:	Thursday 4:00pm – 5:30pm
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Course Description

This production based course will explore techniques in filming live sketch comedy television. Students will work as a creative team on set in various roles, such as directing, floor managing, camera and television switcher operation, preparing and loading graphics and music into the switcher, sound recording, and operating a teleprompter.

Students will film scripts written and performed by members of The Second City and students in the DC 305/405 class under the guidance of The Second City Writing Program founder, Michael McCarthy. In addition, students will create a final project utilizing all techniques explored throughout the quarter including writing and filming their own material. Filming will take place in the C106D television studio, the DC stage and potentially on location.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the quarter students will be expected to:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of how a television studio operates.
- 2) Utilize a television studio and all its components including, but not limited to the TriCaster, cameras, tripods, broadcast switcher, source and record decks, graphics controls, audio mixer, microphones and teleprompters.
- 3) Develop skills necessary to collaborate as a creative team on set.
- 4) Produce a live television broadcast based on existing material.
- 5) Create original material suitable for television broadcast.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, and sent via email.

Course Policies

Attendance – Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

Attitude – A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

Civil Discourse – DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Grading

Your grades are based upon active class participation and attendance, completion of assignments when due and quality of work.

Attendance -	10 points
Participation -	40 points
Editing Assignments -	15 points
Final Project -	35 points
Total =	100 points

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-77, C = 76-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-67, D = 66-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0

Course Outline subject to change

Week 1

April 3

Introductions, review syllabus, choose groups, work in television studio
Assignment: Final Project ideas due week 2

Week 2

April 10

Discuss final project ideas, introduce the TriCaster
Assignment: Rough draft of Final Project due week 3

Week 3

April 17

Discuss rough drafts of Final Projects, prepare for next weeks shoot at the DC stage and the following weeks shoot at the television studio. More practice with TriCaster and television studio.
Assignment: Develop final drafts for Final Project. Arrange an in office meeting with instructor to discuss final project and pre-production due week 6.

Week 4

April 24

Film The Second City "Wait a Minute" videos at the DC stage with TriCaster. Prepare for next weeks shoot at the television studio.
Assignment: Reminder that final drafts for Final Projects are due week 6. Also you must arrange for an in office meeting with instructor before week 6 class begins.

Week 5

May 1

Film "Weekend Update" type show in the television studio. Prepare for next weeks shoot at the DC stage with TriCaster.
Assignment: Edit "Weekend Update" due week 6. Reminder that final drafts for Final project are due next week. You also must arrange for an in office meeting with instructor before week 6 class begins.

Week 6

May 8

Film The Second City "Wait a Minute" videos at the DC stage with TriCaster. Prepare for next weeks shoot at the television studio. Collect edited "Weekend Updates".
Assignment: Work on Final Project, talk with instructor as needed.

Week 7

May 15

Film “Weekend Update” type show in the television studio. Prepare for next weeks shoot at the DC stage with TriCaster.

Assignment: Edit “Weekend Update” due week 8. Continue to work on Final Project and talk with instructor as necessary.

Week 8

May 22

Film The Second City “Wait a Minute” videos at the DC stage with TriCaster. Prepare for next weeks shoot at the television studio. Collect edited “Weekend Updates”.

Assignment: Work on Final Project and talk with instructor as needed.

Week 9

May 29

Film “Weekend Update” type show in the television studio. Prepare for next weeks shoot at the DC stage with TriCaster.

Assignment: Edit “Weekend Update” due week 10. Final Projects due week 11. Talk with instructor as necessary.

Week 10

June 5

Film The Second City “Wait a Minute” videos at the DC stage with TriCaster. Collect edited “Weekend Updates”.

Assignment: Final Projects due next week at beginning of class. Talk with instructor as needed.

Week 11

June 12

Attendance Mandatory. Watch edited “Weekend Updates” and Final Projects. Wrap-up.

Attendance

10 points available. 10 weeks (excluding final week). 1 point is available each week.

Paticipation

40 points available. 10 weeks (excluding final week). 4 points are available each week. Punctuality, cooperation, and active class participation are expected.

Editing Assignments

15 points available. 3 different editing assignments. 5 points are available each assignment. Grades are based on completion of assignments when due and quality of work.

Final Assignment

Working in teams, you will shoot and edit an original short (5 mins) video or series of videos utilizing the television studio equipment. The majority of the video must be shot using the television equipment, however if you need to create material for something like DVE keys or chroma key backgrounds, that can be done with any equipment available. These can be about anything you want. I want you to be creative and have fun.

35 points available.

-3 points are available when you turn in your ideas week 2. Points are based on completion of assignment when due and quality of work.

-4 points are available when you turn in your rough draft week 3. Points are based on completion of assignment when due and quality of work.

-4 points are available when you turn in your final draft week 6. Points are based on completion of assignment when due and quality of work.

-4 points are available when you meet with your instructor before week 6 class to discuss final project and pre-production involved. Points are based on completion of assignment when due, coming prepared, and quality of work.

-20 points are available when you turn in your final cut on week 11. A cohesive idea/story, quality camera work, good sound, and a clean and consistent edit are expected. Points are also based on completion of assignment when due.

College Policies

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what response. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu

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