

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE CRAFT OF EDITING (104)**

San Francisco Film School

Instructor: Michael Wilson

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Credits: 2

Weekly Class Schedule: One 3-hour session (1 hr of lecture / 2 hrs of lab per class)

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

In this class, we will examine the historical role and development of editing—from the silent era to contemporary digital film. We will study the various theories of editing, editing terminology and concepts—learning both the rules (of continuity editing) and how to break them. We will look at the role of aesthetics as a cultural and ideological force. Finally, we will achieve a solid understanding of the technological work ow of post-production using Adobe Premiere Pro and Adobe Media Encoder.

Students will learn the basics of:

- 1) Editing theory
- 2) Editing practice (via Adobe Premiere Pro)
- 3) Color correction
- 4) Title generation

Note: Audio will be covered in a separate course.

### **Textbooks & Resources:**

#### Required Reading:

Dancyger, K. *The Technique of Film and Video Editing*. Focal Press, 2015.

Bowen, Christopher J. *Grammar of the Edit*. New York: Focal Press, 2015.

#### Suggested Reading:

Jago, Maxim. *Adobe Premiere Pro Cc 2017*. Adobe Press. 2017.

Murch, Walter. In *The Blink of an Eye: A Perspective on Film Editing*. Los Angeles, California: Silman-James Press. 2005.

Dmytryk, Edward. *On Film Editing: An Introduction to the Art of Film Construction*. Hoboken: Taylor and Francis, 2012.

### Grading methods

The grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93% to 100%	C 73% to 76%
A- 90% to 92%	C- 70% to 72%
B+ 87% to 89%	D+ 67% to 69%
B 83% to 86%	D 63% to 66%
B- 80% to 82%	D- 60% to 62%
C+ 77% to 79%	F Less than 60%

### Basis for Grading

<i>Assignments &amp; Participation</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Notes</i>
EDIT FROM PROVIDED FOOTAGE	15%	Using the footage provided, interpret the action and assemble the sequence into a meaningful narrative.
MONTAGE PROJECT	25%	Workshop for concurrent montage film

CONTINUITY	15%	Create and edit an action scene focusing on the action's visual continuity.
FINAL (FICTION PROJECT)	25%	Workshop for concurrent fiction film
ATTENDANCE	10%	(see school policies regarding attendance)
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%	Students must maintain an attentive and engaged presence in class—offering opinions and analysis of class material and fellow students' projects.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week One**

Lec: Class Introduction / Syllabus

Lecture Overview

Lab: Intro to Compressor / Transcoding / Premiere Pro Interface / Assignment 1 introduction

The Invisible Art & the role of the Editor

“The Cutting Edge – The Magic of Movie Editing” (Video)

### **Week Two**

Lec: Editing Grammar / Concepts

Lab: Project Management & Assignment 1 roughs critiqued.

Discussion / Clips: Coverage and Basic Shots

REQUIRED READING: Grammar of the Edit

DUE: Assignment 1 roughs

### **Week Three**

Lec: Editing Grammar—Montage Editing

Lab: Screen/critique Assignment 1 & Assignment 2 introduction

Discussion / Clips: When to Cut and Why?—Six Elements of the Edit

REQUIRED READING: Grammar of the Edit

DUE: Assignment 1

### **Week Four**

Lec: Editing Grammar—Concepts

Lab: Further demonstration of use of Premiere Pro tools and imaging

Discussion / Clips: Five Types of Edits

REQUIRED READING: Grammar of the Edit

DUE: Assignment 2 roughs

### **Week Five**

Lec: Cutting for Genre Pt. 1

Lab: Screen/critique Assignment 2 & Assignment 3 Introduction

Discussion / Clips: Action, Suspense, Drama

REQUIRED READING: Dancyger

DUE: Assignment 2

### **Week Six**

Lec: Cutting for Genre Pt. 2

Lab: Editing Assignment 3

Discussion / Clips: Comedy

REQUIRED READING: Dancyger

### **Week Seven**

Lec: Cutting for Genre Pt. 3

Lab: Assignment 3 roughs critiqued.

Discussion / Clips: Documentary

REQUIRED READING: Dancyger

DUE: Assignment 3 roughs

### **Week Eight**

Lec: History of Editing Pt. 1  
Lab: Screen/critique Assignment 3  
Discussion / Clips: Documentary  
REQUIRED READING: Dancyger  
DUE: Assignment 3

### **Week Nine**

Lec: History of Editing Pt. 2  
Lab: In-class documentary editing exercise  
Discussion / Clips: Features  
REQUIRED READING: Dancyger

### **Week Ten**

Lec: History of Editing Pt. 3  
Lab: Assignment 4 Introduction  
Discussion / Clips: Shorts  
REQUIRED READING: Dancyger

### **Week Eleven**

Lec: Scene Analysis: Dialogue Scene Analysis: Comparing script/screen of familiar films  
Lab: Assignment 4  
Discussion / Clips

### **Week Twelve**

Lec: Scene Analysis: Time manipulation  
Lab: Assignment 4  
Discussion / Clips

### **Week Thirteen**

Lec: Color Theory / Color Correction  
Lab: Assignment 4  
Discussion / Clips

### **Week Fourteen**

Lec: Finishing / Recent innovations in editing

Lab: Assignment 4 roughs critiqued

DUE: Assignment 4 roughs

### **Week Fifteen**

Screen/critique Assignment 4

DUE: Assignment 4

### **Students will need:**

- 2 External Drives (1TB each)
- Two drives will be used simultaneously throughout the semester. One will be your **work volume** and the other will be used as a **backup volume**. The work disk is used to save your work-in-progress files while the backup disk will contain files that are a copy for all your project files. You can also save your work on a lab computer temporarily. A “lost” file is not an excuse for a late project!
- [Seagate Backup Plus Slim 1TB Portable External Hard Drive for Mac USB 3.0 (STDS1000100) is a good, reasonably-priced option (<https://goo.gl/cZRzQf>)]
- Notebook for storyboarding (example here: <https://goo.gl/PfE2BX>)