

INTRODUCTION TO THE CRAFT OF EDITING (104)

San Francisco Film School

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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.

Required Reading:

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

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

Assignments & Participation	Value	Notes
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 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: From Rough to Fine Cut

Lab: Assignment 4 roughs critiqued

Discussion / Clips

DUE: Assignment 4 roughs

Week Thirteen

Lec: Color Theory / Color Correction

Lab: Assignment 4

Discussion / Clips

Week Fourteen

Lec: Finishing / Recent innovations in editing

Lab: Assignment

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!
- Notebook for storyboarding (example here: <https://goo.gl/PfE2BX>)