

**Maine Media College**  
**Professional Certificate Program**  
**Course Catalog**

## **Film Courses**

### **Fall term**

**F230** The Principles of Cinematography 4 credits

This course introduces the tools and techniques of the camera and lighting in visual storytelling. Students learn the collaborative process of filmmaking including the crew responsibilities, from director of photography, camera operator, camera assistant, grip, electric, and sound recordist. The visual aesthetic is explored through lens selection, camera movement, and lighting. Students shoot short projects and exercises using film and digital video cameras, professional grip, lighting, and sound equipment.

**F231 – M231** Principles of Storytelling & Writing 4 credits

The principles of narrative storytelling apply in all formats of filmmaking. Using screenings, writing assignments, script breakdowns and daily writing exercises, students learn the fundamentals of storytelling by critiquing and writing dialogue and action for fiction, documentary and internet scripts. By the end of this course students are prepared to write a full script for a short film, documentary or a web-based story.

**F232** Film History 4 credits

This course looks at the role of film as an artistic force in the social, political, and artistic movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, including context, influences, genres, and personalities. Films are screened in and outside the classroom. Particular emphasis is given to exploring the relationship between cultural identity and storytelling in the visual media.

**F233 – M233** Language of Editing I 2 credits

The art of editing is critical to the storytelling process in filmmaking. This is a foundation course in non-linear editing using Apple's Final Cut Pro. The course covers pacing, continuity, and montage theory as well as the incorporation of sound and music into a story. Students learn the technical and theoretical aspects of editing through screenings, lectures, demonstrations and intensive, hands-on editing assignments.

**F234** Language of Editing II 2 credits

This course continues to develop skills required for more advanced work in narrative film editing. Emphasis is on developing and supporting story structure while exploring and improving the editorial decision-making process. Students edit assignments from Principles of Cinematography.

## **Winter term**

### **F235 Advanced Screenwriting & Script Development 4 credits**

Developing an idea into a cohesive screenplay or documentary treatment is the essential first step in filmmaking. Building on the foundations of storytelling learned in the Fall term, students come with a draft for a short film or documentary, which they refine in weekly writing assignments. Through roundtable critiques and individual meetings with faculty, the essentials of character development, plot, subplot and narrative structure are covered. In the end, each student will have a polished screenplay, or documentary treatment ready for production.

### **F236 Pre-Production & the Art of Directing 4 credits**

For a director to successfully navigate a film production, thorough preproduction is crucial. Students learn the components of preproduction, from research to location scouting, to hiring a crew, to casting or pre-interviewing, to storyboarding, to making a production schedule. In addition, working with actors and effective blocking scenes for the camera is also covered. Each student creates a production binder for the Final Film Productions class in the Spring term.

### **F237 Film Production 8 credits**

This class builds upon the foundation learned in the first term combining all aspects of filmmaking from concept to completion. In conjunction with the writing, pre-production and directing classes, students conceive, develop and collaborate as a production staff and crew on three to four short films. Each student decides on the role in filmmaking they wish to pursue and hones those skills appropriate for their final project in the spring term.

**Lab Fee:**

## **Spring term**

### **L230 Professional Development 4 credits**

A familiarity with relevant business and professional protocol is necessary to prepare media artists to fulfill their creative goals. This course provides an overview of professional, business and ethical practices for media artists. Topics including copyright, licensing, project funding, business practices, and emerging methods for delivery and presentation of work will be covered through lectures, guest presentations and panel discussions.

### **F238 Final Film Productions 8 credits**

Each film student completes a final project: either a short film, a documentary or a screenplay. Students learn the importance of deadlines and collaboration. The films produced in this course are then completed in the subsequent Advanced Post Production class.

**F239** Advanced Post Production 4 credits

This course focuses on finishing the projects shot in Final Film Productions. Students take their projects through all phases of post production, including color correction, sound mixing, and final output. Projects are regularly critiqued by faculty and students. The films produced are viable entries into festivals or other distribution outlets.

## **Photography Courses**

### **Fall term**

#### **P240 – M240 Digital Craft 4 credits**

This studio course is designed for students concentrating in digital photography. Students learn to use their digital cameras and scanners to capture, organize and process monochrome digital images. The primary tools used in this course are Adobe's Lightroom and Photoshop, and they, along with digital camera controls, will be covered extensively. Students explore techniques, materials and processes of digital output to paper and screen. Each student presents a final portfolio for evaluation.

#### **Lab Fee:**

#### **P241 Darkroom Craft 4 credits**

This studio course is an introduction to B&W chemical photography and practice. Students engage the darkroom process from film exposure to post-print treatment with toners. B&W materials are extensively explored including the zone system, printing papers, films and special processes and materials. A large practicum notebook of material tests is created by each student.

#### **P242 19<sup>th</sup> Century History of Photography 4 credits**

This is a lecture course introducing the discovery of photography and influences of visual culture in the 19th century up to 1935. Lectures, panel discussions along with extensive readings guide the students to understanding the advent of technology and visual images related to photography. Essays and exams are components of this course.

#### **P243 Vision & Themes 4 credits**

This is a lecture/critique course to enhance and challenge students' personal vision and visual vocabulary within the medium. Weekly slide lectures illustrate a genre or movement: landscape, portraits, self-portraits, the nude figure, documentary picture story, cityscape. Weekly shooting assignments are given with in-depth critiques of the work to follow. The course will help the student develop a familiarity with and appreciation for the major genres within photography as well as an understanding of photographic and camera vision. The course covers Light: The poetry of photography; The Shutter: motion, time, and the decisive moment; The Aperture: Depth of field and visual isolation; The Frame: Composition and photographic design; The Lens: perspective and point of view. Each student will present a final portfolio for exhibition.

#### **P244 Project & Portfolio I 4 credits**

This course introduces the concepts and methods of developing a series of photographs that communicate an idea or emotion. Students initiate and complete two small projects - one documentary and one fine art. Each project consists of 8 to 10 photographs. Using their own photographs and those of others students investigate the way sequencing and combining photographs with text can affect the understanding of the work.

## **Winter term**

### **PE245 Studio Lighting 4 credits**

The studio lighting course provides practical exposure to concerns of the studio photographer, including an introduction to strobe and tungsten lights, grip equipment and techniques for controlling natural and artificial light. Through faculty demonstrations, students learn to photograph a variety of subject matter: portraiture, fashion, tabletop, still life, as well as lighting environments on location, weekly exercises and studio and field assignments and critiques.

### **PE246 View Camera 4 credits**

This course introduces students to the view camera and its use in both field and studio environments. Lectures and demonstrations cover camera movements, focusing techniques, perspective control and exposure. Handling, processing and printing large negatives are also covered, as is lens selection, working procedures in the field and studio, and all the related tools. The course includes weekly critiques of assigned and personal work and a final portfolio of 5-10 finished images. View cameras are available for this course.

Lab Fee: \$125

### **PE247 Digital Printing 4 credits**

This course introduces students to the digital controls used in color photography and printing, and the basic principles of color science. Students concentrate on advanced image processing in Photoshop. The course emphasizes the special problems and possibilities that come with shooting in color. Students produce a small suite of work that exhibits their skills in color printmaking.

Prerequisite: Digital Craft or permission of the instructor.

Lab Fee: \$125

### **PE248 Advanced Darkroom Craft 4 credits**

This continuation of the Darkroom Craft course places emphasis on finished printmaking employing B&W materials. Photographic chemistry and specialized processes are investigated by darkroom practice and assignments. Papers, paper developer combinations, toners and special after treatments along with sensitometry are covered via technical lecture and supervised labs. Students complete an extensive practicum notebook and term-end exam.

Lab Fee: \$125

### **PE249 Introduction to Alternative Processes 4 credits**

This is an introductory course to the noble processes of platinum, cyanotype, gum bichromate, and salted paper. Each printmaking technique is considered and practiced in lectures, demonstrations and supervised labs. Digital negatives and conventional negative processes are introduced to facilitate new work. A detailed technical notebook is produced in conjunction with a suite of finished prints.

Lab Fee: \$125

**M261 – PE261** Graphic Design 4 credits

The integration of the form and content of words is a powerful tool for the visual communicator. This studio course explores aspects of graphic design including typography, information architecture, title and motion graphics. Students work design projects in conjunction with their other courses this semester.

**PE250** Digital Foundation 4 credits

This elective studio course provides students whose concentration is in chemical photographic processes an introduction to digital tools and techniques. Students learn the basics of digital workflow from image capture to screen or paper output using cameras, scanners, and Adobe's Lightroom and Photoshop.

**M262 – PE262** Collaboration in Multimedia 4 credits

Sophisticated multimedia projects require effective collaboration amongst a group of individuals with diverse expertise. This course encourages and teaches students strategies for fostering successful collaboration. Students from the College, in conjunction with participants from outside the school, work together to produce projects unifying a variety of media forms.

**P251** 20<sup>th</sup> Century History of Photography 4 credits

The visual trends of the 20th century are detailed as major paradigms in visual culture. Extensive lectures on the major influences, movements and personalities of photography post-1940 are covered. This course requires the completion of a term length paper and exam.

**P252** Project & Portfolio II 4 credits

Students in this course concentrate on producing a project, either fine art or documentary, during the term. Students may work in digital or chemical darkroom processes. Emphasis is placed on content, story and excellent printmaking. This course includes group and individual critiques, the creation of new images through significant filed work and culminates in a final edited group of sequenced photographs.

**Spring term**

**L265** Professional Development 4 credits

A familiarity with relevant business and professional protocol is necessary to prepare media artists to fulfill their creative goals. This course provides an overview of professional, business and ethical practices for media artists. Topics including copyright, licensing, project funding, business practices, and emerging methods for delivery and presentation of work will be covered through lectures, guest presentations and panel discussions.

**M263 – PE263** History of Media 4 credits

This course explores the rich history of media from petroglyphs to pixels, a history that is essential to understanding the role of multimedia in contemporary culture. This academic course provides an overview of the recording, reproduction and dissemination of media

in a variety of forms including the written word, imagery, motion pictures, sound and new media. Concepts of persuasion, globalism and the proliferation of knowledge are explored.

**PE253** Advanced Alternative Process 4 credits

Emphasis on digitally created negatives and platinum printing are the primary investigations of this course. Students choose two processes from those learned in the Introductory course for in-depth practice creating a portfolio of images. Technical information from lectures and demonstrations and significant practice in supervised labs are components.

**Lab Fee:** \$125

**PE244** Published Artist 4 credits

New developments in technologies and software have provided an array of avenues for photographic projects, including self published books, websites, on-line gallery venues, and DVD publishing. Through lectures and demonstrations this course explores publishing options ranging from traditional exhibition formats including handmade books to contemporary displays using technology. In supervised labs students use work from Project & Portfolio, to execute a final presentation that may be a printed book, handmade book, website, DVD or installed exhibit. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively in this course.

**P255** Project & Portfolio III 4 credits

This is the final culminating project of the year, emphasis is placed on creating resolved content for this project portfolio. In this course, students hone their skills in realizing images, developing the story, editing and creating a skillful sequence. A final portfolio is required for faculty review and public exhibition at terms end.

**PE256** Contemporary Trends in Photography 4 credits

This seminar course involves the student in the issues and vocabulary of contemporary criticism, aesthetics, and imagery found in photography. Through reading assignments, image presentations, and group discussions students learn to analyze, contextualize, and critically engage contemporary photography.

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#### **Lab Fee:**

#### **F231 – M231 Principles of Storytelling & Writing 4 credits**

The principles of narrative storytelling apply in all formats of filmmaking. Using screenings, writing assignments, script breakdowns and daily writing exercises, students learn the fundamentals of storytelling by critiquing and writing dialogue and action for fiction, documentary and internet scripts. By the end of this course students are prepared to write a full script for a short film, documentary or a web-based story.

#### **M257 Multimedia Concepts 4 credits**

The advent of digital technologies now makes it possible to easily combine a variety of media forms. In this studio class, students are introduced to the unique characteristics of multimedia including linear vs. non-linear storytelling and the combination of time-based and static media forms. Students use this knowledge to storyboard and write multimedia pieces demonstrating their understanding of these concepts.

#### **F233 – M233 Language of Editing I 2 credits**

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#### **M258 Sound & Motion 2 credits**

Sound and motion are two of the fundamental aspects of multimedia. This studio course introduces students to the use of digital sound recording and video capture devices and workflow. Audio and video standards, resolution, bit-depth, lens and microphone selection, production methodology, electronic image and sound processing, transfer and archiving of files are explored.

## **Winter term**

### **M259** Multimedia Publishing 4 credits

The distribution of multimedia content is dependent upon an ever-changing spectrum of digital platforms. This studio course explores various exporting workflows, including Quicktime compression, Flash formats, and streaming video. Publishing content to web sites and basic DVD authoring is examined.

### **M260** Advanced Multimedia Concepts 4 credits

Following directly after the Multimedia Concepts class, this studio course continues an exploration of unique multimedia capabilities with an emphasis on enhancing a message through the exploitation of digital multimedia tools and techniques. Story length, intent, pace, use of music and ambient sound, narration, field recordings and interviews are explored to create portraits, documentaries, narratives or experimental projects. Special consideration is given to the combination of time-based and static imagery.

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**M264** Multimedia Production 8 credits

This studio course supports the students in incorporating the concepts and skills learned in the previous two semesters. Students produce a multimedia project that showcases their abilities as multimedia artists.