

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Film Studies FILM 301 L01
Topic in National Cinema: Business of Film in Canada
Summer 2019

Tues., July 2 – Tues., August 13
TuTh 12:00-16:50

Instructor: Larry Day
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Half hour before class, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Course Description

The course provides an insider's perspective on the art, logistics and business of making films. It covers feature dramas, documentaries, shorts, webisodes, music videos, profiles and commercials. They all use story structure and the same basic tools—moving pictures, sound, music, performance, editing. The instructor will share personal experience and insights from a 40-year career in the business.

The course covers each stage of filmmaking from concept to completion to marketing.

- The idea, story, research, script
- Production plan, budgeting, marketing package, pitching and finance
- The deal — networks/studios/portals, corporate clients, agents
- Admin — accounting, contracts, legal, insurance, bank
- Pre-production — casting, hiring crew, equipment, facilities, locations, art design, story board, shooting schedule.
- Production — camera, sound, costume, make up, set decoration, props, stunts
- Logistics, travel, vehicles, catering, digital storage of footage
- Post-production — editing, sound design, music, sound mix, graphics
- Delivery, promotion, final audit, report to funding agencies
- Getting paid

Objectives of the Course

- Provide a step-by-step understanding of the business of filmmaking.
- Convey the possibilities of expressing yourself in films — features, shorts, documentaries, Internet videos, commercials.
- Watch several genres of films and build an appreciation for the craft with behind the scenes stories on how some well-known films were made.

- Encourage and reward participation, creative thinking and humor.

Textbooks and Readings

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Screenplay, William Goldman

Other materials will be posted on D2L

Internet and electronic communication device information

When corresponding with the instructor via email, students should include the course number and a clear statement of purpose in the subject line of the email. I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via email, and will answer as promptly as possible. If you have detailed questions on the course material or essay assignments please raise these in class. Email will NOT be used to explain material that was covered in missed lectures.

Assignments and Evaluation

Participation in class		10%
6 Quizzes	x 5%	30%
Based on lectures and class discussion and administered at the beginning of class each Thursday: July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8.		
3 Written Assignments	X 20%	60%
800-1000 words each and due on July 11, July 18, August 8. Topics will be provided.		

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments: Whenever possible, assignments should be submitted in person. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide photo ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments are due in the first 5 minutes of class on the due date. Extensions will not be given except in cases of documented absence. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of half a grade a day up to a maximum of seven days, after which an F grade will be assigned.

Student Accommodations and Deferrals:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or for another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that when accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Component assignments will be graded as raw point scores.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	F	0 - 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the

documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. Research and citation resources are also available on the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/> If you have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the *University of Calgary Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants, including surveys, interviews, or observations, as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising
CAMPUS SECURITY & Safewalk Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events & Info for Students 	http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombuds 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Services • Mental Health Services • Distress entre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

July 2:

What is a movie? A movie is a story with a hero, a mission and obstacles in the way? What are the constant tools available regardless of length, genre or budget? (moving pictures, camera angles, camera movement, sound, music, editing, performance, story, script)

July 4:

Elements of story. Intention & obstacle. Bark your hero up a tree, throw rocks at him, then get him down.

Analysis of Butch & Sundance screenplay, scene by scene.

July 9:

Shop your movie. The hard truth — no client, no money, no movie. The art of the deal. The package. Plan A, B and C. Budgets. Schedules. Casting options. Networks, studios, funding bodies, grants.

July 11:

Are you in or out?

Why do it? What is your passion? How to get project off the ground.

July 16:

Pre-production. Script. Table read. Polish Script. Casting.

July 18:

Marshal the troops. Collaboration. Location scouting. Permits. Equipment. Facilities. Used to be a lab, now it's digital ingest. Viewing suite to watch dailies. Crew. Catering. Vehicles. Travel schedules. Stars' accommodation and special needs. Source props, wardrobe, makeup artists, stunt people, drivers, accommodation for out of town cast. Animals, trainers, horses, wranglers, riders.

July 23:

"Action." Production begins. Time is money. Rule #1: Stay on schedule. Rule #2: Never forget Rule #1.

July 25:

Visit Production Studios. Tour of facility and a run through camera equipment, lenses, cranes, lights, set etiquette. Anecdotes of various challenges through a number of productions.

July 30:

Post-production. Ingest and media management. Edit off-line and on-line rough cut, fine cut, final master. What editing teaches you. The importance of coverage. You'll get caught in corners, how do you get out. Pacing. Story. Surprises. Ups and downs. Laughs.

Aug 1:

The Polish. Music, sound design, graphics, special effects, color. Fact check, lawyer it, credits and clearances.

Aug. 6:

Delivery. Make deadlines, service your client. Marketing & Promotion — Screenings and radio, television, print, social media. Festivals — Cannes, TIFF, Sundance, Tribeca, specialties (wildlife, Indigenous, Indie)

Aug. 8:

Get paid. Final Audit and Reporting to Funding Agencies. Invoices. Accounts receivable.

Aug. 13:

Wrapping things up.