

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
Film Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	Introduction to Filmmaking
Course Number:	FLM 150
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	None

Course description

This is a course will teach the fundamentals of fiction filmmaking to students with little to no experience. Students will learn to create film story ideas, plan them for shooting, operate video cameras for shooting, as well as basic video editing for post-production. Specific topics include: understanding the formal foundations of cinematic storytelling, basic technical skills and concepts of video camera and lens operations, scene pre-visualization using blocking and shooting diagrams, the basic skills of shooting on location, as well as the basic techniques of film editing. The class consists of a mixture of lectures and analysis workshops, as well as hand-on shooting and editing exercises. This course is only open to non-FLM majors.

Course fee Euro 75.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

None

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Transform a dramatic story idea into cinematic units of scenes and shots and asses those shots using formal cinematic qualities.
2. Demonstrate mastery of framing and recording shots while applying the "3 rules of directing".
3. Construct a finished fine-cut of a short fiction film from raw footage using basic editing techniques.
4. Analyze and critique films based on the formal qualites of shots and basic editing techniques.

Course Learning Activities

- Participatory lectures introducing fundamental concepts. (LOs 2, 3, and 4)
- Planning/shooting/editing of hand-on exercises (LOs 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- Small-group meetings with teacher for work evaluation (LOs 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Assessment tools

Participation	10%
1st Shooting Exercise	20%
2nd Shooting/Editing Exercise	20%
3rd Shooting/Editing Exercise	20%
Final Project	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to “units of film”, shot typology, camera and lens technology and aesthetics
Week 2	Exposing, focusing, and framing shots. First shooting exercise.
Week 3	Feedback of first exercise. Introduction to blocking and the continuity system.
Week 4	Second shooting exercise and feedback session.
Week 5	Introduction to editing: types of edits and basic concepts.
Week 6	First editing exercise.
Week 7	Screening of first editing exercises. Second editing exercise.
Week 8	Third shooting assignment: moving shots and more complicated blocking.
Week 9	Editing of third assignments. Re-cutting
Week 10	Final project script and blocking planning.
Week 11	Final project shooting.
Week 12	Shooting of final projects.
Week 13	Fine cutting, working with sound, basic color correction.
Week 14	Delivery and screening of final projects

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		