

Intro to Media Arts Fall 2020 Syllabus for All Virtual and Huntsville Virtual Academy Students

Dillon Lee, Director of Media Arts

Welcome to a very strange school year. Hopefully, by the end, we will all be face to face again. In the meantime, as we begin the year virtual for all students, we will use this opportunity to become more knowledgeable videographers and filmmakers. Then, when we are able to normally practice our art again, we will be producing our best work yet!

Students must have access to the following resources:

- **School Issued Laptop**
- **Schoology**- This new learning platform will be used to communicate to students, deliver lessons, turn in assignments, and participate in required classroom discussions. This replaces Canvas and Google Classroom.
- **Microsoft Teams**- All students have a Microsoft Teams account accessible using their school email and password.
- **Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Slides**- All students have a Google account accessible using their school email and password.
- **YouTube**- a free YouTube account is required so students can upload and share video assignments. Videos can be uploaded as **Unlisted** meaning only people with a direct link can see your videos. You do not have to share them publicly but they might be shared with other students in my classes.
- **A Device or Devices capable of recording and editing video and images**- a tech survey will give me an idea of what resources students have and assignments will be adjusted appropriately.

Learning Expectations:

Even when we return in person, access to shared equipment resources like cameras and editing computers must be strictly limited. As such our normal schedule of film and editing projects on a 5 day rotation will have to change slightly. We should all consider this an opportunity to master our knowledge of techniques, terminology, and film history. This semester we will be focusing all our efforts exploring different kinds of media production with fewer long term video editing projects. Be prepared to write, think critically, engage in discussions, and create videos within the limitations of our current situation.

Schedule:

Our assignments will be divided into Project Units. Each unit will take 4-5 classroom days to complete. We will complete a Project Unit every week and a half to 2 weeks. Every other class day, you will be presented with instructional or tutorial videos using Schoology and Youtube. The **following day** will be a Live day where you will participate in virtual meetings with me and classmates using Microsoft Teams. **Students are expected to meet live in Microsoft Teams every other classroom day, every week.** Live days will allow clarification of student questions, discussion, sharing of examples and creations as well as our Feedback and Criticism on your work and the work of your peers. This will count as your **weekly participation grade**. **Fridays will always be** a day to work on the current or previous assignments or to meet with me for one-on-one meetings.

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See example below:

*On a B day week at the beginning of a project unit 1 on **Camera Shots and Angles**, Monday you will receive instructional videos and examples. You will be assigned a project to take still photos recreating typical camera angles. Wednesday you meet with me live in Microsoft Teams to ask questions; Friday will be a work day or a day to contact us for one-on-ones. The next class day, Tuesday of the following week, we would meet live again and discuss your finished assignment looking at the photos you turned in as a group.*

Grading:

Each week you will be given **two grades**- a participation grade for checking in on the Live Days or participating in Schoology discussions **AND** a grade for completing your assignment, test, or project for that week. Test and project grades (like a short video) will count as assessments. Per HCS policy, your grade is 60% assessments and 40% classwork, homework, and participation. For more information, go here:

<https://www.huntsvillecityschools.org/schools/lee-high-school/grading-policies>

Your actual average will appear in **INOW**, not in Schoology. Grades in Schoology **will not** reflect your final 9 weeks average.

Turn In Policy:

All project assignments will be turned in on **Schoology**. If you have a video assignment, it must be uploaded to YouTube and a link turned in on **Schoology**. **E-mail turn-in will no longer be accepted or graded.** On occasion things like surveys may be completed outside of Schoology using Google.

What to Expect in the First Weeks of School:

Project Unit 1	Students will learn Schoology and Microsoft Teams , proving their mastery by logging in and participating on both services . Virtual expectations will be further explained; this syllabus will be reviewed; basic tutorial videos will be shared.
Project Unit 2	Students will take a look at shots and angles typically used in film and television. They will master the technical requirement of the shots and angles and also the emotional and story reasons these shots are used. Time permitting, we will also look at camera lenses. Students will be identifying shots and recreating them.
Project Unit 3	Students will learn more about TV . Studio television shooting and production methods will be covered. Students will learn how sitcoms and dramas are made; the differences in those productions as well as typical genres, themes and tropes. Students will be asked to provide examples of techniques and genres in Television and create a video illustrating TV Tropes.
Project Unit 4	Students will learn about Action Films including VFX and stunt work . Students will learn about recent popular action movie styles and production techniques, view Behind the Scenes documentaries, and learn about the history of the Action movie genre. They will be working to create a safe stunt mash-up video.

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Project Unit 5	Students will learn about Social Media Video . They will understand the filming techniques used by YouTube Stars as well as Tiktok, Instagram and Snapchat trends. Students will learn how Marketing and Brand have led to popular success and wealth. Students will be asked to create elements of their own Brand . They will understand how Memes and Viral Videos have influenced media and entertainment. Students will be asked to share and explain examples, identify trends, and create their own Social Media Video style and brand.
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Feel Free to Contact Me in the Following Ways:

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Or on Schoology