

## RT365B 001 MULTI-CAMERA PRODUCTION Fall 2011

**Instructor:** Asst. Prof **Sarah Lewison** [slewis@siu.edu](mailto:slewis@siu.edu)  
**Office:** Communication Building 13C (in hallway near New Media Center)  
**Office Hours:** MON 1:30-4:30; WED 3-6 and by appointment  
**Class Location:** Comm. Building 1065 Studio A  
**Class Time:** Section 001 MON 9A-11:50A  
**TA:** **Derek Smith** [Derek@siu.edu](mailto:Derek@siu.edu)

Check YOUR EMAIL for course changes.  
Check [www.carbonfarm.us/365](http://www.carbonfarm.us/365) for updates and notifications.

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**Due dates as noted.** Do homework and readings early in the week. SOME assignments are due Sunday night before 9 pm via email. You are expected to read the required readings, to make notes in your notebook, and to take responsibility to return to the chapters you have already read. You may also use any other book you have purchased for a production class as a reference as you make more complex work through out the semester.

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### **WEEK 1 August 22 The studio environment- lighting**

- Studio terms, production roles, safety, camera basics
- Lighting grid, lift, lighting control board, safety, light basics
- *Review → shot terms → Screen tests*
- *Student assessment*
- *the production Book*

### **READ FOR NEXT WEEK**

Utterback pps. 3-19 (studio environment); 47-73 (lighting); pps 23-46 (audio control and technical directing), 77-97 (floor directing)  
Zettl, Chapter 7 <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/zlight1.pdf> and if you can..  
Zettl, Chapter 8 <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/zlight2.pdf> (this is more technical)

### **Homework due Sunday August 28 9 pm, by email to slewis@siu.edu**

Lighting Analysis assignment- follow instructions on handout.

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### **WEEK 2 August 29 Screen tests and Speeches**

- *Audio flow basics*
- *Engineering/ CCU/ signal flow*
- *Control room including switcher, teleprompter and mixer*

- *Production practice rotation* → screen tests
- *Discuss interviewing and talk shows, scripting formats, calling and reading scripts*

### **READ FOR NEXT CLASS- No Class September 5**

- Zettl, "How a director prepares" at <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/zdirector.pdf>
- Read "Talk Shows" the whole page, especially the bottom right: "formats" at <http://www.museum.tv/eotvsection.php?entrycode=talkshows>

### **Homework due September 12 (3 assignments)**

#### **TALK SHOW ANALYSIS**

Watch two talk format shows. Search for one you are not familiar with, or at least try to pick something with a different style. Watch at least 15 minutes, or a segment. Write a summary report on each: two page, 12 pt typeface, 1.5 pt line spacing. Describe the show and the technical aspects of the production. What kind of show is this- identify using the categories in the "Talk Shows" (eg news and public affairs, entertainment, special interest (what?) What time of day does it occur, and for what audience? Describe the set, props, furnishings and lighting. Write about the host- what are their talents? What is their approach to interviewing (if relevant)? Address host's identity (gender, presumed class etc.), and then assess the show's content with any remaining space - what subjects do they often talk about? What is the feeling on the set- serious, comical? Who is invited or present on the show? Do they do interviews? Are there things they never talk about? Discuss, in writing, your impressions of the shows in relation to the reading.

#### **INTERVIEW SHOT SELECTION ANALYSIS**

From any talk show you can find, select an interview, (only two people- host and guest) Write down where you got it; if it is online, paste in the URL and give the name of show. Using a 2-3 minute clip for your analysis, neatly make a rough diagram of the set, marking out where the talent is, and where you believe the cameras are located. Now, using a 2-column script format, list the shots used in the show, in order. You do not have to transcribe all the speech, just write "host speaks" or "guest speaks" in the right column. Use this outlines as the basis to create a script as below.

- **Hand in rough set plan and your rough script.**

**WRITE A SEMI-SCRIPTED INTERVIEW with FLOOR PLAN FOR CAMERAS.** You will be the expert for a show called "Experts and Amateurs". The host will be the amateur (or ignoramus). Think of some skill, or area of knowledge in which you are truly an expert and have a lot to say, or pick something funny or ironic such as hand-sanitization. Check out the handout for ideas. You, as the guest will be interviewed in a semi-scripted interview of 2.5 min (about 3 pages, 14 pt type), for which you will write the script and someone else will direct. Thus you should make the script legible and understandable for the director to work with. The host will use the teleprompter to introduce the guest, and to conclude the interview. See the handout for suggestions on getting in and out of the scene. You may elect to write out your entire part in the interview, or rely upon improvisation for the central questions.

- **Bring an object to show as part of your interview- you must script this in and give it a**

closeup- be it a book, a pet, a lock of old hair, etc.

- Dress appropriately for the role.
  - Come with 2 printed copies of the script, and a digital version on your flash drive
  - Bring set plan with camera placement for your show
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#### **WEEK 4    SEPT 12    Production 1 *Experts and Amateurs (day 1)***

- Bring object to show in closeup- be it a book, a pet, etc
- Dress for the role.
- Bring 2 copies of the script, and a digital copy on your flash drive.
- Rotation of roles for all students (over 2 weeks)
- 20 minutes allocated per production
- Experts come with props, scripts and blocking plan
- Customize scripts on teleprompter as needed

#### **READ FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Utterback, pps 145-162 (assistant directing and directing), 101-122

#### **READING and Assignment due September 19**

- READ Soap Opera Packet” <http://carbonfarm.us/365/soaps.html>  
Write in your production book about how these different soap operas relate to their social context. (Pick 2 to discuss: 1-2 pages due September 19 in class. Your writing will be guided by a handout.
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#### **WEEK 5    SEPT 19    Production 1 *Experts and Amateurs (day 2)***

- Bring object to show in closeup- be it a book, a pet, etc
- Dress for the role.
- Bring 2 copies of the script, and a digital copy on your flash drive.
- Rotation of roles for all students (over 2 weeks)
- 20 minutes allocated per production
- Experts come with props, scripts and blocking plan
- Customize scripts on teleprompter as needed

#### **REVIEW FOR SEPT 26**

Read the glossary on page 163 in Utterback. Circle and look up any words you don't know. Review all notes from course to date for exam.

If you are unsure on the operation of any equipment, make an appointment with us.

#### **READ AND DO FOR SEPT 26**

- Packet on brainstorming and narrative – to be delivered as a link.
- Read the newspaper (online is ok) for 5 consecutive days in a row. Select 3 articles you think contain interesting stories, that trigger your imagination, or follow one story through

the week. Vary what papers you read -(try guardian.co.uk). Note the ideas these articles/stories generate for you in your notebook. What are your issues and where do they intersect with what is reported in the news? Using characters derived from these stories, and from the handouts, generate a pitch for a dramatic scene. Handout.

- Self evaluation on Talk show assignment is due.

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## **WEEK 6    SEPT 26    Practical Exam and Soap Opera brainstorm**

- Tests on all phases of studio operation
- Introduce Production 2 and form groups
- Discussion and present mini-pitches

### **READ FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Millerson, The Persuasive Camera at <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/millerson6.pdf>
- Millerson, Effective Picture Making at <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/millerson7.pdf>

### **AS HOMEWORK**

Using the SHOT Sketch form, draw out four different camera angles that potentially could be used in your prospective production. Label with camera numbers. Two of them should be a move of some kind, showing the beginning shot and the ending shot after the move. Hand in at class start on October 3.

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## **WEEK 7    OCT 3    Production planning / Pre-production**

- Read through scripts, practice shots
- Blocking cameras, mics, action and shots
- Loading teleprompter, create titles
- Prepare lights and sets, props and prop list

### **READ OVER HOLIDAY**

- “Short Screenplays that Connect” at <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/screenplays.pdf>
- “Audio Techniques” at <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/mill5audio1.pdf>  
and <http://carbonfarm.us/365/readings/mill5audio2.pdf>

### **AS HOMEWORK FOR OCT 17**

Using the STUDIO FLOOR PLAN, draw out your group production set, and indicate where the microphones will be placed in that set. Indicate which kind of microphones you will be using.

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## **NO CLASS OCT 10 HOLIDAY**

October 10 no class- holiday- use this time to rehearse your production sequence

### **AS HOMEWORK FOR OCT 31- Format research paper**

Read format and genre packet and watch the linked videos. You will research a historic variety show format as a background to preparing your pitch for the final production.

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## **WEEK 8 OCT 17 Production 2 LIVE DRAMATIC SKETCH (day 1)**

- *Sets must be ready by start of class. Commit to come early or night before*
- *Production meetings before to prepare positions and after, to critique*
- *Shoot can run one hour- be prepared to make the best use of your time.*
- *Wrap studio*

### **AS HOMEWORK FOR NOV 7**

Final production assignment handout will be distributed. Prepare a pitch and treatment for a segment of the final production, including the budget exercise. Class will vote on which are produced.

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## **Week 9 OCT 24 Production 2 LIVE DRAMATIC SKETCH (day 2)**

- *Sets must be ready by start of class. Commit to come early or night before*
- *Production meetings before to prepare positions and after, to critique*
- *Shoot can run one hour- make the best use of your time.*
- *Wrap studio*

### **READ FOR OCT 31**

- Excerpt "Television as a Creative Medium" and creative packet.

**WATCH** selection of videos online, to be posted onto blog. You will be sent the link.

### **AS HOMEWORK FOR OCT 31**

- Prepare up to 9 minutes of video to use for chroma key and other experiments. Your footage must be converted into .dv format with MPEG Streamclip. See the Handout with instructions and follow carefully. Bring on a flash drive to class.
  - Self evaluation on Soap opera production assignment is due.
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**WEEK 10 OCT 31 Surrealist TV: Keying and Effects**

- Student format reports due
  - Introduce variety show format
  - Workshop on Chromakey and analog effects
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**WEEK 11 NOV 7 Production Meeting for final**

- Proposal and treatment presentations
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**WEEK 12 NOV 14 Production Planning / In Production**

- Read through scripts
- Blocking cameras, mics, action and shots
- Loading teleprompter and create titles
- Prepare lights and sets
- Prepare production schedule

**WEEK 13: NOV 21 In Production**

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**WEEK 14 NOV 30 Final day of production**

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**WEEK 15 DEC 5 Post-Production Workshops**

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**Finals Date and time tba Screening and Party**