

MOVING CHINA

Video 101

Spring 2010

Friday afternoon 1:30-4:15

Room 321

4th Floor NingYuan Building UIBE

Instructor Contact Information:

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Course Description:

A practical, creative and informative moving image class for students who have no idea how to make a video and for those that do. This course offers a unique opportunity to film and document China as it changes virtually before our eyes. From traditional hutong neighborhoods to the Soviet-influenced architecture of Tiananmen Square, to the ancient Forbidden City and the iconic Olympic venues of the Bird's Nest and Water Cube, the course will provide insight into the depth of China's past and its rapidly changing present, offering the rare opportunity to produce compelling film work at this seminal time. The only requirements for the class are an open mind, a willingness to accept challenges and a video camcorder or a digital camera that can also record video. Designed for students who are passionate about their commitment to this study abroad program, the course is about exploring — yourself and a different culture — through moving images. You will acquire a comprehensive understanding of documentary video making and video editing. Video and essay assignments cover distinctive areas of Beijing and life in China. The work will be submitted for critique and sharing with others in class each week. The course is structured to encourage you to get out among the locals, work together and share with one another using your individual creative freedom to express yourself

on each project. Throughout the semester, guest videographers, writers, professional filmmakers, musicians and a range of others will visit the class and share with us their lives in China.

Course Outcomes:

By the conclusion of the course, students will have an intimate knowledge of China and Chinese culture and the talent and skill to produce a 15-minute documentary video in digital format that integrates concept, film, sound and personal creativeness which will be suitable for display as a film short or on a website. They will come away from this semester with an insight into another reality that was heightened by the discipline and observational skills learned in Moving China.

THE THREE TEXTBOOKS:

Cross-Culture Filmmaking

Ilisa Barbash and Lucien Taylor
University of California Press

Making Documentary Films and Videos

Barry Hampe
Henry Holt and Company LLC

China Underground

Zachary Mexico

Each week will have reading assignments from all three textbooks with a class discussion the following week. Every student will be accountable for a presentation to the class on the various topics covered in the previous week's reading. Active weekly individual participation in group discussions of the reading material and the film assignment is a mandatory requirement for the Moving China class.

Course Requirements and Form of Assessment:

1. All assignments must be completed weekly. 2. All 500-word essays must be turned in the week after assignment. 3. One 1,500 hundred-word Final Essay on your experience in China. 4. Semester project turned in during week 13. 5. Normal TBC policy on cheating is followed...i.e., no. 6. An open mind and willingness to learn. 7. The written work will be in MS Word format using Tahoma 18 point font and saved with .doc after whatever is written. 8. Students are expected to come to class knowing the reading material, able to intelligently discuss the material and take part in actively asking serious questions. Video

assignments.....	40	Written				
assignments.....	20	Mid-				
term.....	15	Class				
participation.....	10	Final.....				
.....	15	A	93-100	A-	90-92	B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B-
			76-79			

Attendance Policy:

Three missed classes is minus one grade. Four late to class is minus one grade.

Academic Honesty Statement:

Students can go to the website of the new Loyola University Chicago/Beijing Center for their policy statement.

Required Texts:

Cross-Culture Filmmaking

Ilisa Barbash and Lucien Taylor
University of California Press

Making Documentary Films and Videos

Barry Hampe
Henry Holt and Company LLC

China Underground

Class Schedule:

WEEK 1

Class

We will cover basic video structure, techniques and how to achieve different points of view.

The main purpose of this first class is to get you to know and be comfortable with your camera in its video mode. We'll also spend time getting to know one another and how we will be working together during the semester.

Assignment 1

Reading:

CCF page 1-33 Story Basics

MDFV Part 1 page 1-28 WHAT IS A DOCUMENTARY?

CU pages 1-42 The Peasant Who Likes to Take Pictures and The Black Society

The flag ceremony at Tiananmen Square. For this assignment, you will go to the square and capture the raising or lowering of the Chinese flag in a three-minute video — depending on how early your first class is or how late you went to sleep the night before — with a 500-word essay.

WEEK 2

Class

Editing and structure. A professional filmmaker will talk with us about editing and structure. We will learn how to edit our videos and understand different ways to structure what we want to say in our projects.

The last half of class we discuss our textbook reading.

Assignment 2

Reading:

CCF page 34-74 From Fieldwork to Filming

MDFV Part II page 37-81 PLANNING YOUR DOCUMENTARY

CU page 43-58 The Chickens and The Best and Brightest

Chinese Markets.

This week we go to a Chinese market and document our experience there. You are to make a two-minute piece on the Nan Hu Chinese market to share with us what this experience was like for you...with a 500-word essay.

WEEK 3

Class

We spend this class going over fundamentals on how to approach a project beginning with our original idea. We will learn about concept...shot list...point of view (POV) ...timing...structure...equipment... production...post-production and will discuss our textbook readings.

Assignment 3

CCF 74-94 Collaboration

MDFV III page 89-144 WHAT WILL YOU SHOW?

CU page 75-94 The Slacker

Hou Hai Lake. This assignment is a four-minute video of your experiences visiting Hou Hai Lake. The businesses around the lake, local people who live in the area and vendors who make a living there are the focus of your video.

WEEK 4

Class

Composition and lighting. This class is all about different ways to be creative in composing shots without losing the focus of our film. We will get an understanding of how and why certain POVs grab our attention and we will be exposed to different POVs and how they are done. This class is also our first on basic lighting for video. How to light and what to light for the effect we are attempting to achieve is the emphasis in this class. The last half of class is discussion of our readings.

Assignment 4

Reading:

CCF page 95-130 Picture

MDFV Part IV page 161-200 WRITING A DOCUMENTARY

CU page 95-114 The Uighur Jimi Hendrix

The Flower Market. This week we make a three-minute video of the Beijing Flower Market focusing on four individual sellers.

WEEK 5

Class

This is our second class on editing. This one will zoom in on how to add voice over and music to our work. A guest professional will walk us through this process and will discuss our readings.

Assignment 5

Reading:

CCF 131-170 The Camera's Eye

MDFV Part V page 217-309 FILMING A DOCUMENTARY

CU page 115-132 The Rabbit

The Forbidden City. This week we will visit the Forbidden City and document in a five-minute video and 500-word essay of what we experienced there.

WEEK 6

Our guest this week will be an artist in the music world who will share with us ideas on music for our videos — what works, what doesn't and a general overview of the music scene in Beijing and where to go for some cool music. The last half of class will be discussion of our readings.

Assignment 6

Reading:

CCF page 171-212 Sound

MDFV Part VI page 315-341 POSTPRODUCTION

CU page 133-146 The Most Polluted City in the World

Beijing street life. The class will be divided up and assigned different areas of the city to document in a five-minute video and 500-word essay what captures their attention and why in the Chinese capital city.

WEEK 7

Class

Chinese television advertising. A prominent Chinese TV commercial Creative Director will share with us how TV commercial advertising has grown in China and what has influenced this growth. We will be shown samples and learn Chinese advertising techniques to apply in our assignment for this week. We will discuss our readings.

Assignment 7

Reading:

CCF page 341-362 Interviews

MDFV Part VII page 347-356 FINAL THOUGHTS

CU page 147-168 The Bohemians

Go to Chaoyang Park and do a 60-second TV advertisement of a Chinese product of your choosing using the information you received from our Chinese Creative Director. The park is your location and you use it in your commercial.

WEEK 8

Class

We have as our guest this week an American living in Beijing who has a regular video show on life in Beijing. We will discover how they interview people and how they approach their subjects and how they manage to produce a show on a regular basis in China. Half of class time will be on our readings.

Assignment 8

Reading:

CCF page 208-324 Pre-production

CU page 169-190 The Screenwriter

Children. The assignment is a four-minute video of Chinese children beginning with babies right up to teenagers. We will capture special moments in this video of Chinese children using Western music as our audio and with a 500-word essay.

WEEK 9

Class

A photojournalist and video producer from a major American TV network will share with us the experience of covering news and current events in China on video. We will have class discussion on our readings.

Assignment 9

Reading:

CCF page 327-424 Actualities

CU page 191-212 The Filmmaker

The Summer Palace. A trip to the Summer Palace in a five-minute documentary video with someone's voice over.

WEEK 10

Class

A foreigner who is the senior editor of a major Chinese newspaper will visit and talk about the procedure in putting together articles for a daily paper here in China and how he does video articles in Beijing to send back to his home country for public television. Last half of class is discussion of our readings.

Assignment 10

Reading:

CCF page 460-487 Distribution

CU page 213-250 The Killers and The Punks

The National Museum of Modern Art. A short three-minute video on a visit to the museum with a 500-word essay.

WEEK 11

Class

An American writer living in Beijing will spend time with us sharing his knowledge and experience of the publishing world in China. He is a music critic, club critic and knows the entire scene in Beijing. He can help us find Chinese musicians to use in our videos. Class discussion of "Distribution" and "Shooting and Editing" and Jon Else

Assignment 11

Reading:

CCF page 369-459 Postproduction

CU page 273-292 The Journalist

Bicycles and hutongs. This week we do a two-minute video piece on Beijingers and their bicycles and we visit a family in the hutong and document the visit in a three-minute video.

Week 12

Class

Another American, in the business world, who has lived in Beijing for some time will come over and share his experience and how he uses video pieces in his work. We will spend the last half of class discussing "Postproduction" and "Ideas to Treatments" and Onyekachi Wambu

Assignment 12

CCF page 213-279 Film or Video? Medium, Format and Equipment

CU page 293-304 A Night Out in Beijing

The Old Spanish church. We do a four-minute video of a Chinese wedding and the skateboarders at the Old Spanish church in Wanfujing Street with a 500-word essay.

WEEK 13

Class

For this class we go over our work for the semester and critique individual videos. We talk about how we have grown over the past thirteen weeks and what this adventure in another land has meant to us.

