

# Beginning Film Production

FLM - 1045 001

## Course Description

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An intensive workshop experience in which students, crewing in their area of specialization, complete the shooting and post-production of projects up to 15 minutes in length. Required for film majors.

Semester: All

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

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- Students will demonstrate the following film production competencies: Industry standard production management techniques including script breakdown and scheduling; cinema camera set up and operation; basic film lighting theory and equipment; basic video/film post-production skills including asset management, importing, timeline editing, timeline dissolve effects & titles, color correction and sound mixing; writing short screenplays adhering to the 3-act story structure.
- Students will identify the many aspects of structuring a film crew, including but not limited to: The roles and capacities on a professional film crew, preparing for and staffing a crew and cast.
- Students will fill roles such as director, camera operator, 1st assistant director, script supervisor, grip, and gaffer.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to work together on group projects as a crew (in-class and out-of-class), which includes pre-production planning, casting, scripting, shot-listing, lighting, and shooting.

## College Wide Student Learning Outcomes

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- Students will demonstrate the following film production competencies: Industry standard production management techniques including script breakdown and scheduling; cinema camera set up and operation; basic film lighting theory and equipment; basic video/film post-production skills including asset management, importing, timeline editing, timeline dissolve effects & titles, color correction and sound mixing; writing short screenplays adhering to the 3-act story structure.
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## Course Prerequisites

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No prerequisites for this course.

## Engagement Plan

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- ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential to your success in this course. Active participation in class & group activities is a key component of the learning experience. Therefore, a portion of your final grade will reflect your attendance and engagement.
- I will typically respond to email within one day, with the exception of weekends. The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this email over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.

- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.
- Lastly, we'll be holding small group Q & A sessions, where we can learn from our peers (and faculty) on some of the more difficult units within the course.

## Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

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The learning for this class is divided into the following three areas:

1. Self-learning: Readings, written assignments, and watching feature films.
2. Lectures & demonstrations.
3. Lab projects & final semester project with feedback from the professor.

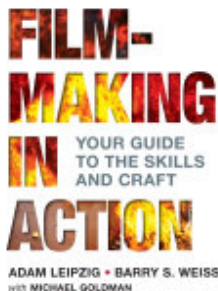
## Course Content Advisory

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Students are required to work on group assignments for this course.

## Required Text or Materials

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**Title:** Filmmaking in Action

**ISBN:** 9781457684647

**Authors:** Adam Leipzig, Barry S. Weiss, Michael Goldman

**Publisher:** Macmillan Higher Education

**Publication Date:** 2015-07-01

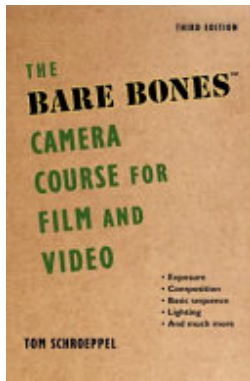
**Title:** The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video

**ISBN:** 9781621536604

**Authors:** Tom Schroepfel, Chuck DeLaney

**Publisher:** Allworth

**Publication Date:** 2015-08-04



**Title: USB3 or USB-C hard drive: Minimum 1 TB hard drive. Should be pre-formatted as EXFAT, not FAT32, nor NTFS, nor MacOS Extended Journaled. (If not preformatted, Instructor will help you format it.)**

**Title: Cameras, tripods, lighting, and other equipment can be checked out from the equipment room. Protocols will be discussed during class.**

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at [ads@slcc.edu](mailto:ads@slcc.edu).

## Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

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### EXAMS:

A midterm exam and a final exam will be given on Canvas during class time and will be based on the readings and lectures.

Students who cannot take the final on the designated date will have to determine if they can pass the class without taking the final or should consider not taking the class. If student cannot take the exam on the exam dates, the student must inform the teacher BEFORE the date of the exam. The exams cannot be taken after the due date and time. There will be no exceptions.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.

3 to 5-Minute Final Movie Description: 2 to 4-minute film. NO DIALOGUE or SYNC SOUND (it can have narration), ambient sound is fine if it is clean. No guns, knives, or weapons. No dangerous stunts. No illegal locations. The film should include sound effects, music and one page of credits at the end of the film. Opening credits should just be a title. Storyline structure must be adapted from three-act structure. One line of “looped” dialogue is acceptable. Project will be graded on the story, pre-production management, storyboard, cinematography, basic lighting, acting, direction, and editing. Every student will edit their own version of the final project. Music must come from royalty free websites or “cleared original music”. NO COMMERCIAL MUSIC THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO USE!!!

Grading will be based on attendance, written assignments, quizzes, and finished productions listed under ASSIGNMENTS. At the end of the semester, students will be asked to rate the performance of those in their groups. This can affect each student’s final grade. Once assigned to a group, you cannot exit the group, unless there is fear for one’s safety (which should be reported to the instructor or proper authority). Learning to work with people different than yourself is a huge part of film production and life itself.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential to your success in this course. Active participation in class & group activities is a key component of the learning experience. Therefore, a portion of your final grade will reflect your attendance and engagement.

## Assignment Schedule

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Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
9/1/25	<a href="#">Enroll in the Film Department Resources Canvas Course</a>	Assignment	20
9/8/25	<a href="#">1-Minute Movie Concept</a>	Assignment	50

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/15/25	<a href="#">Elevator Pitch</a>	Assignment	40
9/22/25	<a href="#">The Clapper Edit</a>	Assignment	80
10/1/25	<a href="#">1-Minute Movie</a>	Assignment	100
10/8/25	<a href="#">Write 2-Minute Movie Script</a>	Assignment	80
10/13/25	<a href="#">Midterm Exam</a>	Quiz	248
10/15/25	<a href="#">Write Final Movie Script</a>	Assignment	100
10/27/25	<a href="#">In-Class Line Script Exercise</a>	Assignment	100
11/5/25	<a href="#">Organizing Footage Exercise</a>	Assignment	100
11/17/25	<a href="#">2-minute Movie</a>	Assignment	200
12/10/25	<a href="#">3 to 5-minute Final Movie</a>	Assignment	300
12/15/25	<a href="#">Extra Credit</a>	Assignment	0
12/15/25	<a href="#">Group Log Book</a>	Assignment	200
12/15/25	<a href="#">Group Participation</a>	Assignment	200
12/15/25	<a href="#">Roll Call Attendance</a>	Assignment	200
12/15/25	<a href="#">Final Exam</a>	Quiz	240

## Grading Scale

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94% and above A

90% -93% A-

87%-89% B+

80%-86% B

77%-79% C+

70%-76% C

60%-69% D

0%-59% Fail

## How to Navigate to Canvas

## Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any

questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

## Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**WEEKS 1-2: Intro to class-** Intro to film. Assignments discussed. Story structure. Basic Editing and Continuity.

READ BARE BONES PAGES 1-46

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTERS 11 & 12

ASSIGNMENT 1: One paragraph scenario for a silent story. Type-written. In one minute, professionally "pitch" the 3 to 5-minute story (no sync sound or dialogue) for final project.

ASSIGNMENT 2: Edit in-class "The Clapper" movie.

**WEEKS 3-4: Technical use of cameras. Screenwriting.**



READ FILMMAKING CHAPTERS 1 & 2

READ BARE BONES PAGES 47-80

ASSIGNMENT 3: Shoot and edit 1-minute short film.

### **WEEKS 5-6: Film composition and aesthetics.**

Plot out 2-minute movie.

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTERS 3 & 4

### **WEEKS 7-8: Crew responsibilities and production.** Storyboarding. Midterm Review.

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTERS 5 & 6

MIDTERM EXAM

### **WEEKS 9-10: LIGHTING**

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTERS 7 & 8

READ BARE BONES PAGES 81-110

ASSIGNMENT 4: Shoot and edit 2-minute out-of-class movie.

ASSIGNMENT 5: Create script for 2 to 4-minute out-of-class movie

Advanced editing and pacing. Finish other pre-production elements.

### **WEEKS 11-12: Sound and editing.** Continue shooting and editing Final Project.

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTER 9 & 10

READ BARE BONES PAGES 111-140

**WEEKS 13-14: Titles, credits, and basic effects.** Final Exam Review. Finish Production (Shooting and pick up shots).

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTER 13 & 14

**WEEKS 15-16: Authoring to final movie & uploading.**

READ FILMMAKING CHAPTER 15

Finish editing and adding music and sound.

ASSIGNMENT 6: Turn in Final Project, 3 to 5-minute movie

ASSIGNMENT 7: Turn in Final Log Book

FINAL EXAM & screening of final movies.