

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Narrative and Documentary Cinema are types of filmmaking that tell a story. Narrative films can be fiction/non-fiction. They can be fabrications of the filmmakers imagination or based on real events. Documentary films are based in facts and historical events and usually include interviews and documentation. Experimental films can forego all traditional structures, or utilize some elements of these structures.

For this project you are going to create a short film, 3-5 minutes long, in the genre of either narrative or documentary cinema but through an experimental cinematic lens. This means that you will choose to create either a fictional narrative film or a documentary and explore creative ways of producing it.

I basically want you to tell a story, whether fictional or real, in a creative way. Rather than just thinking about traditional ways of cinematic storytelling, how can you tell a story more creatively? This means that you will utilize some aspects of traditional cinema and some aspects of experimental cinema.

THINGS TO ASK YOURSELF:

- What theme/topic do you want to convey? What is important enough to you to make a film about?
- What genre is your film? Narrative or Documentary, Fiction or Nonfiction?
- What mood/emotional tone do you want to convey? contemplative, uncanny, romantic, dramatic?
- What filming/editing techniques will you use to capture/convey your story and mood?
 - Timing: slow motion, raising speed, combination of both
 - Camera pans: where are you starting your shot and where are you finishing it?
 - Camera angles: what creative perspectives can you use to capture your footage and how do these angles support your mood?
 - Scene cuts: how you end and begin clips is very important and can effect the tone of your film. Do you want slow fades or cross dissolves? sharp cuts? pay attention to how the composition of adjoining clips work together.
 - Lighting: is your lighting dramatic (high contrast) or soft (low contrast), do you use harsh backlighting to create a silhouetted effect or is your lighting very focused to highlight one area of your composition such as an actors' face or an object?
 - Color: what is the overall color tone and how does it effect the tone of your film? Is it desaturated for historical clips, blue toned to convey melancholy, or change over time?
 - Audio: what audio effects and/or music will support your story and make your film stronger?

SUGGESTIONS:

- use a minimal/specific storyline. You only have three - five minutes. You can say a lot in that time frame but don't try to fit a full length feature into it.
- use minimal amount of acting, tell your story and convey your tone with scenes, color, lighting, camera pans, perspectives and cuts.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- A TITLE SEQUENCE AND CLOSING CREDITS MADE IN AFTER EFFECTS
- AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENTS SCENES/CUTS (YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED MORE THAN THIS)
- A NARRATIVE ELEMENT (STORYLINE)
- AT LEAST THREE AUDIO CLIPS (EFFECTS OR MUSIC)
- AT LEAST ONE CLIP OF TIMELAPSE FOOTAGE

TOOLS WE WILL USE:

- INTRO/CREDIT SEQENCES IN AFTER EFFECTS
- STORYBOARD NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT
- DSLR VIDEO SHOOTING/PHOTOGRAPHY AS NECESSARY
- TIME-LAPSE PHOTOGRAPHY