PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER SYLLABUS  

TECHNICAL VIDEO PRODUCTION I  
VPT 1100

Class Hours: 0.0  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Laboratory Hours: 6.0  
Date Revised: Fall 2001

Catalog Course Description:

A combined lecture and studio course focusing on principles of recording, camera electronics and operation, production personnel, optics and lenses, and composition skills. A functional lab will be included as a component of the course.

Entry Level Standards:

Should be familiar with the basic operation of a desktop computer.

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Other Reference Material(s):  
CD-ROM, *Zettl’s VideoLab*, most recent version, Wadsworth Publishing. Also, student must supply own S-VHS or high quality VHS videocassette and several 3 ½” computer floppy disks. (Note: S-VHS tapes can ONLY be played on S-VHS VCRs if recorded in S-VHS format). Internet and trade journal research will provide other resource material for the class.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Note: The schedule and contents of lectures, demonstrations, guests, field trips, screenings and assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor with minimum notice.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>What is VPT? Who are the instructors? What are VPT graduates doing? What can I expect when I complete my degree? Equipment checkout and lab use procedures. Introduction to the industry: broadcast and non-broadcast, entertainment, other industry aspects. Introduction to ITVA. Do you want to become a VPT lab assistant?</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>How television cameras work. Operating the camera and framing effective shots. Operating the Panasonic 450 portable camcorder. Using the Bogan tripod. Lab: Camera setup and operation exercises using Panasonic 450’s and Bogan tripods. Production Assignment #1: 30 second piece pre-scripted (provided by instructor) non-storyboarded.</td>
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Critique assignment #1. Lab: The instructor will use the VideoLab CD-ROM and classroom computer and help you review the sections on Camera Composition, Screen Forces, Screen Motion and Picture Depth. Production Assignment #2: Apply the principles of good composition in this assignment (described by instructor).

Review and critique Assignment #2. Basic PC operation (Windows NT). Computers in the production environment. Accessing the Internet. How to use the VideoLab CD-ROM to complete lab exercises. Lab: Use the VideoLab CD-ROM and complete the section on “lights” starting with “Meet Mary”. Be sure to complete the quizzes. This will probably take several sessions and some outside-of-class work to complete.

Light, lighting instruments and controls. Color mixing and lighting aesthetics. Lab: Continue VideoLab exercises on “lights”. Production Assignment #3: Storyboard and shoot (edit in camera) a short script provided by the instructor applying what you are learning about composition, screen action, continuity, lighting, etc. Quiz

Lighting in the studio. Lighting in the field. View and discuss in class: Orson Welles film, “Citizen Cane”. Special attention will be given to composition, lighting and “deep focus” cinematography. Quiz

Critique and review in-camera-edit projects. Lessons learned from projects. What television is all about. How television works. Lab: Examine the other VPT camcorders including the Panasonic 250, Betacam and DVCam. Examine the studio equipment. Quiz

Midterm Review; Lab: Studio cameras, switcher, and audio control.

Midterm Exam; Review midterm in class. Production Assignment #4: Student concept (must be submitted and approved by instructor), script and storyboard. Edit-in-camera. Employ what you have learned about composition, screen action, lighting and electronic camera characteristics. Instructor will provide details. Lab: Work on Assignment #4 concepts and storyboards (after concept approval).

What lenses are; what lenses see. What unusual lens techniques were used in “Citizen Cane”? Image compression, wide angle distortion and depth-of-field as creative tools. Lab: Work on assignment #4.

Standard and special camera mounts. View: Cinekinetics, Steadicam, Jimijib, Matthews and image stabilization sections from NextStep tape. Quiz


Studios, Master Control, and support areas. Guest Speaker Lab: Work on Assignment #4 and/or review VideoLab sections.

Begin viewing and critiquing Assignment #4.

Finish critiques of Assignment #4 and review for final exam.

Final Exam

II. Course Objectives*:

A. Exhibit basic understanding of the various technologies used in the production and of video programming. I, IV
B. Identify various career possibilities within this umbrella occupation and skills and experience necessary to pursue them. II

C. Differentiate between skills necessary to utilize the technology and those necessary to create compelling programming. I, III

D. Develop basic knowledge of working professionals, their educational and professional backgrounds, work related responsibilities and specific skills required in their particular vocations. II, V

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the VPT program.

**III. Instructional Processes***:

Students will:

1. Use the best production skills for production development. *Technological Literacy Outcome*

2. Internalize the work ethic by regularly attending class, being punctual, being dependable, cooperating with the teacher and other classmates, contributing to class discussion and projects, and acting in a professional manner. *Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategy*

3. Develop skills necessary to develop video products of good video and audio quality. *Technological Literacy Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome*

4. Apply good video methods in suitable problem-solving situation. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome*

5. Apply leadership and teamwork skills in carrying out team assignments. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Personal Development Outcome*

6. Use appropriate technology to function within a discipline. *Technological Literacy Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State’s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

**IV. Expectations for Student Performance***:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify various technologies used in the video production process. A

2. Describe the function of each production technology and how it contributes to the final product. A,C

3. Contrast the fundamental production approaches involved in ENG/EFP and studio production. A

4. Identify at least five distinct career choices within the field of video production and the most important skills required for each. B

5. Differentiate between skills necessary to operate equipment and applying technical skills to the creative solving of communications problems. C
6. Define basic aspects of good visual composition. A
7. Describe appropriate lighting techniques and instruments for studio and location production. A
8. Employ appropriate care when using equipment. B,C
9. Operate a PC to perform basic functions. A,C

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 50% of grade
   The midterm examination will represent 20% of the grade. The final examination will represent 30% of the grade.

B. Laboratory Expectations:
   N/A

C. Field Work: 30% of grade
   The production assignments will represent 30% of the grade.

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 20% of grade
   20% of the grade will be determined by attendance, participation, effort, growth, dedication and perseverance.

E. Grading Scale:

   90 – 100 A
   80 – 89  B
   70 – 79  C
   60 – 69  D
   below 60  F

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

   Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course (Pellissippi State Catalog). Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent.

   The VPT program believes a more stringent requirement is realistic because of the contractual commitment made by the College with local area employers. Therefore, to successfully complete VPT courses, students must attend at least 85% of classes.

   To be considered “ in attendance,” students are expected to be in class at the scheduled starting time for that class. Students will be considered “ tardy” from that time until 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time. Three such “ tardies” shall constitute an “ absence.” Students arriving any time after 10 minutes beyond the scheduled starting time for a class will be considered “ absent.”
B. Academic Dishonesty:

In keeping with college-wide policies, the student is expected to adhere to the general rules and regulations relevant to academic and classroom misconduct as outline in the catalog.

C. Other Policies:

Use of Equipment: Any act of misuse, vandalism, malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction, defacing, disfiguring, or unauthorized use of property/equipment belonging to Pellissippi State is subject to disciplinary sanction.