**Birmingham-Southern College**

**Media & Film Studies**

MFS 470 – Senior Seminar

Fall Contract

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Lectures: TBD

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Professor: Dr. Teddy Champion

Office: Humanities Center 121

Office Hours: TBD

Contact: rtchampi@bsc.edu

205-226-7841

I will frequently send out email announcements or lecture supplements via email. Plan on checking your bsc.edu email account frequently during the semester. We may also use Moodle to send out class emails.

*OFFICE VISITS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!!*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A directed study that involves an independently designed project. Students conceive, plan, and implement their project with the consultation of the instructor.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

* Develop a historical, analytical, or theoretical research question; or develop a creative project in the context of clearly articulated historical and generic conventions
* Conduct appropriate research and/or creative work
* Communicate the research findings and/or creative project in a presentation to the campus community

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Varies per student

**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Professionalism/Participation: 20%

Project proposal: 20%

Final project: 40%

Project presentation: 20%

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Professionalism/Participation:** We will set up regular class and individual meetings throughout the semester. Diligent participation is absolutely required in this seminar. You need to communicate with me regularly. This includes responding to emails and calls promptly. It also involves contributing to fellow classmates’ projects. Simply being present in class is not sufficient to receive an excellent participation grade. In addition to being present, you must also make informed, meaningful, and consistent contributions to class discussion.

**Project Proposal:** Depending on the nature of your project, we will devise a suitable proposal and deadline for approval. See separate guidelines handout. Proposals might undergo a strenuous process before they are approved, so timely completion of proposal drafts is vital.

**Final Project:** Once your proposal is approved, you will work with me and with fellow classmates to complete your project. Grading criteria varies for different kinds of projects, but the expectation is for high-quality, ambitious projects that represent the culmination of the MFS degree. See guidelines handout.

**Project Presentation:** All BSC graduates are expected to present a project publicly. In the MFS program, we typically schedule a showcase for students to show films and give research presentation on Honors Day. This spring, Honors Day falls on Thursday, April 29th. We will discuss more specific guidelines for your presentation as Honors Day approaches.

**LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments must be turned in when specified. Late submissions will directly affect your grade, and they will hinder your ability to make timely progress for your final project.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

Our policies are in place in order to limit distractions and allow your fellow students to get the most out of our time together.

* No food is allowed in class. Drinks are allowed, but do not drink anything noisy or messy during our lectures or screenings.
* I typically do not allow laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices in class. During production meetings, I may make an exception, but please ask first before using them.
* During class meetings, I encourage student responses, questions, and dialogue, but please refrain from interrupting your fellow classmates or the instructor.
* Respect the opinions of your classmates and instructor. Disagreements and debates may occur, but do not engage in personal attacks and argumentative tones, in or outside of class.

**THE WRITING CENTER, in HUMANITIES 102**

The Writing Center offers in-person tutoring Sunday-Thursday 4-8 pm beginning September 6th. Tutors provide one-on-one consultations for any student at any point in the writing process. Tutors will assist students in addressing any potential writing issues, including content development, grammar usage, and citation formatting. Each tutorial is about 30 minutes long, free of charge, and available on a drop-in basis. In light of COVID-19, all students must bring digital copies of their assignments and any other relevant materials. All students must abide by BSC guidelines and wear a mask in the Writing Center. Questions? Contact Laura Tolbert ([letolber@bsc.edu](mailto:letolber@bsc.edu)) or MK Foster ([mkfoster@bsc.edu](mailto:mkfoster@bsc.edu)).

**MOODLE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)**

Birmingham-Southern College uses the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS). Students are responsible for checking Moodle for course readings, assignments, and announcements. Work that is submitted late because of not checking Moodle is the responsibility of the student.

**Logging into Moodle**

1. Log onto the BSC access point by going to: [moodle.bsc.edu](https://moodle.bsc.edu/).
2. Enter your BSC username and password.
3. The Moodle dashboard will open, and your courses will be displayed in the middle of the screen.
4. Select your course to begin.
5. The course welcome page will open. Read the welcome section and follow the instructions for getting started.

If you do not have your User Name, contact the IT Help Desk at 205-226-3039 or[helpdesk@bsc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@bsc.edu).

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic misconduct (this includes conferring with classmates on graded assignments or exam answers, creating of “cheat sheets,” etc.). No electronic devices are allowed in class, especially during exams and quizzes. All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Honor Council, and consequences may result in failed assignment grades, an overall grade of “F” for the semester, and suspension and probation from BSC. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse.

Adhere to the Honor Code at all times: “As a member of the student body of Birmingham-Southern College, I recognize my responsibility to the traditions of the institution, to my fellow students and to myself. I recognize the significance of the honor system. I pledge that I have read and understand the Constitution of the Honor Council, including the Honor Code, and agree to be bound by its provisions.”

Additional information on the Honor Code and violations can be found in the Birmingham-Southern [Student Handbook](%20Student%20Handbook) and on the BSC website: [https://www.bsc.edu/campus/studev/honor-council/ index.html](https://www.bsc.edu/campus/studev/honor-council/%20index.html)

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you are registered for accommodations/academic adjustments, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. During this discussion, you are not expected to disclose any details concerning your disability, though you may discuss these details at your discretion. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Accessibility at BSC, please call 205-226-7909, email [accessiblity@bsc.edu](mailto:accessiblity@bsc.edu), or visit Student Services on the second floor of the Norton Campus Center (office 225). An appointment is recommended.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Inclement weather or other events beyond the control of the College that might cause risk or danger to students, faculty, and staff may occasionally result in changes to normal College operations, including cancellation of classes or events; the calendar schedule may be adjusted.

**TITLE IX**

Birmingham-Southern College is committed to the creation and maintenance of a safe learning environment for students and the campus community. The College forbids any type of sexual or gender-based misconduct among its students, faculty, and staff. The College encourages all members of the academic community to report suspected sexual and gender-based misconduct to the appropriate authorities so that it can be investigated, remedied, and eliminated. Such misconduct is prohibited whether the actor is a student, faculty member, staff member, contractor, visitor, or another member of the College community. BSC forbids retaliation against any person who has opposed, reported or participated in an investigation concerning sexual or gender-based misconduct.

In accordance with federal policy, all College employees are required to report information related to discrimination and harassment which includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. For this reason, if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the Title IX coordinator. As a student, you can report allegations of sexual misconduct to officials in Student Development (Assistant Dean of Students, Dana Bekurs; Associate Dean of Students, W. David Miller; Vice President for Student Development, David Eberhardt), Campus Police, or confidential resources in Counseling Services, Health Services, and Religious Life. Please refer to the [Title IX section](https://www.bsc.edu/titleix/index.html) of the BSC website for more information on filing a report and available resources.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

TBD

###### COURSE CALENDAR

Because of the nature of the class, in which each student will be working on a different project, our entire class will not meet together every session. I will set up regular meeting times with each student.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **Class Subject & Objectives** |
| 1 | Course introduction, pitch proposals, creating production calendar |
| 2 | Preliminary Proposals due |
| 3 | **FINALIZED PROPOSAL DUE**  Begin Pre-production |
| 4 | Pre-production and production |
| 5 | Individual meeting  Pre-production and production |
| 6 | Production |
| 7 | Individual meeting  Production |
| 8 | Production |
| 9 | **PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY WRAPPED**  Individual meetings  Begin Post-production |
| 10 | Show assembly cut |
| 11 | Show second cut |
| 12 | Show fine cut  Festival, Conference, Journal Submissions – verification required  (filmfreeway, withoutabox, etc.) |
| 13 | **FINAL CUT DUE** – Rehearsal for presentation |
| 14 | **FINAL DELIVERABLES DUE** – project files, binder, etc.  During Final Exam Period  \*Public Presentation date TBD |

\*Our Course Calendar is subject to change as instructor’s discretion. Please stay on alert for changes.