



CINEMATIC STORYTELLING IN PRAGUE

2020 PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Cinematic Storytelling in Prague is an intensive program of lectures, screenings, workshops, exercises and mentored independent projects that invites participants to learn film practice in the context of film history and theory.

COURSEWORK

Coursework will include: attendance at lectures and screenings, participation in workshops, completion of assigned readings and tests, and completion of creative assignments and projects in close collaboration with peers.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

It is expected that each student will participate fully in the program. If, under extraordinary circumstances, a student cannot attend a lecture, screening, or workshop, he or she *must inform the lead instructor in advance*.

OPTIONAL CZECH CULTURE MODULE

Students interested in exploring Prague's hidden places and learning about its rich history and culture are invited to sign up for the optional Czech Culture module offered by FAMU culture maven Jitka Hejtmanova.

Jitka, a native of Prague, will take students on several half-day excursions and adventures around the city, and one full-day excursion outside the city. Students will not be graded or pay any additional fees if they participate in the Czech Culture module, but are asked to opt in or out of the entire module at the beginning of the program so Jitka can plan effectively.

GRADING

Cinematic Storytelling in Prague is a two-credit program for which students will receive one credit from Yale (for ART or FILM S-144) and one credit from FAMU. The Yale credit will be represented on student transcripts by a letter grade, while the FAMU credit will appear on student transcripts without a grade, and will not impact a student's grade point average.

The final grade for ART or FILM S-144 will be calculated as follows:

Projects: 60% (equally weighted, all group members receive the same grade)

Weekly reflections: 20%

Participation (in class): 10%

Collaboration (in practice): 10%

REQUIRED READING

All books should be purchased at home and brought to Prague (*The Filmmaker's Handbook* is available as an e-book from Amazon; *A Short History of Film* is available as an e-book via the Yale library system).

The Filmmaker's Handbook, S. Ascher & E. Pincus, 2013, ISBN 0452297281

In the Blink of an Eye, W. Murch, 2001, ISBN 1879505622

A Short History of Film, Wheeler Winston Dixon & Gwendolyn Audrey Foster, 2013, ISBN 0813560551

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The Silent Scene:

A two-minute silent narrative film, shot and edited on 16mm film, featuring at least two of the narrative innovations of the early twentieth century.

The Classical Scene:

A three-minute dramatic scene, shot on digital video on a studio set, using the techniques of continuity staging and editing developed during the classical Hollywood era.

The Chase Scene:

A three-minute dramatic scene, shot on digital video in public places, using point of view, dramatic irony, and parallel action to create and build suspense.

The Genius Loci Film:

A three- to five-minute film, shot on digital video, featuring a strong sense of place, the creative use of sound and image, a simple story and complex characters.

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

Arrival

Saturday, June 27

9:00-24:00: Students arrive at apartments (Karlovo Náměstí 15, Prague 2)

Sunday, June 28

13:00-19:00: Walking tour of central Prague (meet outside apartments)(Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

19:00: Welcome dinner (location TBD)

Assignment: Read A Short History of Film, Ch. 1-3. Read The Filmmaker's Handbook Ch. 1, 4, 6 & 7. Read the Bolex Guide (PDF to be distributed by email).

Week One

Monday, June 29

9:00-13:00: Excursion: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

13:00-15:00: Seminar: The Dramatic Scene (Priit Pohjala, FAMU)

15:00-16:00: Lecture: Shot & Sequence (Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Read The Filmmaker's Handbook Ch. 1, 4, 6 & 7. Read the Bolex Guide (PDF to be distributed by email). With your partners, prepare a scenario for your Silent Scene to be presented on Tuesday, June 30.

Tuesday, June 30

9:00-11:00: Workshop: Presentation and discussion of Silent Scene scenarios (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

11:00-12:00: Workshop: Storyboarding the Silent Scene (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

12:00-13:00: Lunch break

13:00-14:00: Workshop: Using the Bolex 16mm film camera (František Týmal, FAMU)

Assignment: Shoot your Silent Scene. Bring your film & Bolex kit to FAMU at 9:00 on Wednesday, July 1.

Wednesday, July 1:

- 9:00-13:00:** Workshop: Hands-on film processing, Groups 1 & 2 (František Týmal, FAMU)
- 14:00-19:00:** Workshop: Hands-on film processing, Groups 3 & 4 (František Týmal, FAMU)

Thursday, July 2

- 8:00-13:00:** Workshop: 16mm Film Editing, Groups 1 & 2 (@ **STUDIO FAMU, Room 503**) (Jon Andrews, Yale; Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)
- 13:00-18:00:** Workshop: 16mm Film Editing, Groups 3 & 4 (@ **STUDIO FAMU, Room 503**) (Jon Andrews, Yale; Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

Friday, July 3

- 9:00-12:00:** Screening & discussion of Silent Scenes (Jon Andrews, Yale; František Týmal and Priit Pohjala, FAMU)

Assignment: Read A Short History of Film, Ch. 4 & 5. Complete the Week One reflection and submit it via email by noon on Sunday, July 5.

Week Two

Monday, July 6

- 9:00-13:00:** Excursion: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)
- 13:00-14:00:** Lecture: The Continuity Style of Staging and Editing (Jon Andrews, Yale)
- 14:00-18:00:** Workshop: Staging the Dramatic Scene (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Read The Filmmaker's Handbook, Ch. 5, 10, 11 & 12. With your partners, finalize the screenplay for your Classical Scene.

Tuesday, July 7

- 9:00-12:00:** Workshop: Preparing for Performance (Petra Johannsen, FAMU)
- 11:00-13:00:** Lunch break
- 13:00-16:00:** Workshop: From Screenplay to Visual Plan (Jon Andrews, Yale)

16:00-18:00: Workshop: Using the digital cinema camera and digital audio recorder (Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Finish *In the Blink of an Eye*. Read *The Filmmaker's Handbook Ch. 13-14*. Draw a storyboard and create a shot list for your Classical Scene.

Wednesday, July 8

9:00-13:00: Production of Classical Scenes, Group 1 (Michael Gahut, FAMU)(@ **Studio FAMU**)

14:00-18:00: Production of Classical Scenes, Group 2 (Michael Gahut, FAMU)(@ **Studio FAMU**)

10:00-18:00: Full Day Excursion, Groups 3 & 4 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

Thursday, July 9

9:00-13:00: Production of Classical Scenes, Group 3 (Michael Gahut, FAMU)(@ **Studio FAMU**)

14:00-18:00: Production of Classical Scenes, Group 4 (Michael Gahut, FAMU)(@ **Studio FAMU**)

10:00-18:00: Full Day Excursion, Groups 1 & 2 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

Friday, July 10

9:00-12:00: Workshop: Digital Editing (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

13:00-16:00: Mentored editing of Classical Scenes (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

16:00-18:00: Screening & Discussion of Classical Scenes (Jon Andrews, Yale; Dimitris Polyzos & Priit Pohjala, FAMU)

18:00-18:30: Seminar: Introduction of the Chase Scene Project (Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Read *A Short History of Film, Ch. 6 & 7*. Complete the *Week Two reflection* and submit it via email by noon on Sunday, July 12. Prepare a scenario for your Chase Scene project to be presented on Monday, July 13 at 13:00

Week Three

Monday, July 13

9:00-13:00: Seminar: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

13:00-17:00: Workshop: Developing the Chase Scene project (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Draw a storyboard for your Chase Scene project to be presented digitally on Tuesday, July 14 at 9:00.

Tuesday, July 14

10:00-12:00: Workshop: Presentation & discussion of Chase Scene storyboards (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

12:00-13:00: Lunch break

13:00-15:00: Workshop: Location Cinematography (Janek Chajewski, FAMU)

15:00-18:00: Workshop: Location Sound Recording (George Cremachi, FAMU)

Assignment: Complete pre-production for your Chase Scene

Wednesday, July 15

9:00-24:00: Production of Chase Scenes

Thursday, July 16

10:00-14:00: Mentored editing of the Chase Scene (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

14:00-16:00: Workshop: Sound Editing & Mixing (TBD, FAMU)

13:00-15:00: Workshop: Rough cut critique (Dimitris Polyzos & Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

Friday, July 17

10:00-12:00: Workshop: Basic Color Correction (TBD, FAMU)

13:00-16:00: Mentored post-production of Chase Scene projects (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

16:00-18:00: Screening & Discussion of Chase Scene Projects (Priit Pohjala & Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

18:00-18:30: Introduction of Genius Loci project (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Complete the Week Three reflection and submit it via email by noon on Sunday, July 19. Read A Short History of Film, Ch. 8-10. Prepare a

scenario for your Genius Loci project to be presented on Monday, July 20 at 13:00.

Week Four

Monday, July 20

9:00-13:00: Seminar: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

13:00-16:00: Workshop: Presentation & discussion of Genius Loci scenarios (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Prepare a revised script/scenario for your Genius Loci project to be presented on Tuesday, July 21 at 9:00.

Tuesday, July 21

9:00-13:00: Workshop: Presentation & discussion of revised Genius Loci scenarios (Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

14:00-17:00: Individual pre-production meetings (TBD, FAMU)

Assignment: Create an audiovisual plan (storyboard, shot list & sound list) for your Genius Loci project to be presented on Wednesday, July 22 at 9:00.

Wednesday, July 22

9:00-12:00: Workshop: Presentation and critique of Genius Loci audiovisual plans

13:00-18:00: Independent pre-production time

Assignment: Complete pre-production of your Genius Loci project.

Thursday, July 23

8:00-17:00: Production of Genius Loci projects

Friday, July 24

8:00-17:00: Production of Genius Loci projects

Saturday, July 25

8:30: Meet at Prague main train station

8:58: Depart for Uherské Hradiště on Rx887, Slováký Expres

12:33: Arrive in Uherské Hradiště

Saturday, July 25 - Tuesday, July 28: Summer Film School (3 nights)

Week Five

Tuesday, July 28:

9:00: Meet at Uherské Hradiště main train station

9:27: Depart for Prague on Rx890, Slovácký Expres

13:04: Arrive in Prague

15:00-18:00: Genius Loci post production preparation (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

Wednesday, July 29:

9:00-15:00: Mentored editing of Genius Loci projects (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

15:00-17:00: Rough Cut Critique (Dimitris Polyzos & Priit Pohjala, FAMU; Jon Andrews, Yale)

Assignment: Complete the Week Five reflection and submit it via email by noon on Friday, July 31.

Thursday, July 30:

9:00-12:00: Mentored editing of Genius Loci projects (Dimitris Polyzos, FAMU)

13:00-16:00: Sound Mixing, Group 1, Color-correction, Group 2 (TBD, FAMU)

17:00-20:00: Sound Mixing, Group 2, Color-correction, Group 1 (TBD, FAMU)

Friday, July 31:

9:00-12:00: Sound Mixing, Group 3, Color-correction, Group 4 (TBD, FAMU)

13:00-16:00: Sound Mixing, Group 4, Color-correction, Group 3 (TBD, FAMU)

17:00-19:00: Screening of Genius Loci projects (Jon Andrews, Yale; TBD, FAMU)

19:00-21:00: Farewell dinner (location TBD)