



# CINEMATIC STORYTELLING IN PRAGUE

## 2019 DRAFT SYLLABUS

**Note: This syllabus is provisional, and subject to change until the end of the program. The structure of the program will not change significantly, but individual workshops, lectures, etc. may be added, eliminated or moved due to changes in the availability of instructors and facilities supplied by our partner institution.**

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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 exceptional circumstances, a student cannot attend a lecture, screening, or workshop, he or she *must inform the instructor in advance*.

### 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)

**Participation and collaboration: 20%** (10% in-class participation, 10% for collaborative effort)

**Take-home tests: 20%**

## 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 that helped film to become the dominant storytelling medium 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 29

**14:00-24:00:** Students arrive at apartments

### Sunday, June 30

**19:00:** Welcome dinner (location TBD)

*Assignment:* Read A Short History of Film, Ch. 1-3

## Week One: The Birth of Cinema

### Monday, July 1

**9:00-11:00:** Seminar: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**11:00-12:00:** Introduction of the Silent Scene project (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**12:00-13:00:** Lunch break

**13:00-13:30:** Lecture: Shot & Sequence (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**13:30-14:30:** Workshop: the Dramatic Scene (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**15:00-17:00:** Lecture/Screening: “The Birth of Cinema: From Spectacle to Story” (Dr. Michal Bregant, director of the National Film Archive)(@ **Bio Ponrepo**)

*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 story pitch for your Silent Scene to be presented on Tuesday, July 2.

### Tuesday, July 2

**9:00-11:00:** Seminar: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**11:00-12:00:** Presentation and critique of Silent Scene pitches (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**12:00-13:00:** Lunch break

**13:00-14:30:** Workshop: Developing the Silent Scene project (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**14:30-15:30:** Workshop: Storyboarding (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**15:30-16:00:** Lecture: Film and the Camera (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**16:00-17:00:** Workshop: Using the Bolex 16mm film camera (Jon Andrews, Yale **or** František Týmal, FAMU)

*Assignment: Complete your storyboard, and prepare a shot list, for your Silent Scene.*

### **Wednesday, July 3**

**9:00-11:00:** Seminar: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**11:00-17:00:** Mentored production of Silent Scenes on 16mm reversal film with Bolex camera (Jon Andrews, Yale, František Týmal, FAMU)

*Assignment: Read In the Blink of an Eye pp.1-52.*

### **Thursday, July 4**

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

Seminar/Excursion: Czech Language & Culture, Groups 3 & 4 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**13:00-14:00:** Lunch break

**14:00-18:00:** Workshop: Hands-on film processing, Groups 3 & 4 (František Týmal, FAMU)

Seminar/Excursion: Czech Language & Culture, Groups 1 & 2 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

### **Friday, July 5**

**8:00-13:00:** Workshop: 16mm Film Editing, Groups 1 & 2 (**@ STUDIO FAMU, Room 503**) (Jon Andrews, Yale; František Týmal, FAMU)

Seminar/Excursion: Czech Language & Culture, Groups 1 & 2 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**13:00-18:00:** Workshop: 16mm Film Editing, Groups 3 & 4 (**@ STUDIO FAMU, Room 503**) (Jon Andrews, Yale; František Týmal, FAMU)

Seminar/Excursion: Czech Language & Culture, Groups 1 & 2 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**18:00 - 19:00:** Screening & discussion of Silent Scenes (Jon Andrews, Yale; František Týmal, FAMU)

*Assignment:* Read A Short History of Film, Ch. 4 & 5. Complete the Week One take-home test and submit it via email by noon on Sunday, July 7.

## **Week Two: The Classical Cinema**

### **Monday, July 8**

**9:00-11:00:** Seminar: Czech Language & Culture (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

**11:00-12:00:** Seminar: Introduction of the Classical Scene project (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**12:00-13:00:** Lunch break

**13:00-13:30:** Lecture: The Continuity Style of Staging and Editing (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**13:30-14:30:** Workshop: Staging the Classical Scene (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**15:00-17:00** Lecture/Screening: "The Classical Cinema" (Dr. Michal Bregant, director of the National Film Archive)(@ **Bio Ponrepo**)

*Assignment:* Read The Filmmaker's Handbook, Ch. 5, 10, 11 & 12. With your partners, create overhead staging diagrams, draw a storyboard and create a shot list for your Classical Scene.

### **Tuesday, July 9**

**9:00-12:00:** Workshop: Acting for Film (Mary Angiolillo, FAMU)

**11:00-13:00:** Lunch break

**13:00-14:00:** Lecture: Film Lighting (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**14:00-16:00:** Workshop: Film Lighting (Michael Gahut)(@ **Studio FAMU**)

**16:00-17:00:** 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.

### **Wednesday, July 10**

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

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

**9:00-18:00:** Full Day Excursion, Groups 3 & 4 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU )

#### **Thursday, July 11**

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

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

**9:00-18:00:** Full Day Excursion, Groups 3 & 4 (Jitka Hejtmanova, FAMU)

#### **Friday, July 12**

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

**13:00-17:00:** Mentored editing of Classical Scenes (Dimitrios Polyzos, FAMU)

**17:00-18:00:** Screening & Discussion of Classical Scenes (Jon Andrews, Yale; Michael Gahut and Dimitrios Polyzos, 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 take-home test and submit it via email by noon on Sunday, July 21.*

### **Week Three: Post War Cinemas**

#### **Monday, July 15**

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

**13:00-14:30:** Independent location scouting & writing time

**15:00-17:00:** Lecture/Screening: "Post War Cinemas" (Dr. Michal Bregant, director of the National Film Archive)(@ **Bio Ponrepo**)

Assignment: *Prepare a scenario for your Chase Scene project to be presented on Tuesday, July 16 at 9:00.*

#### **Tuesday, July 16**

**9:00-11:00:** Workshop: Developing the Chase Scene project (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**11:00-13:00:** Workshop: Location Sound Recording (George Cremachi, FAMU)

**13:00-14:00:** Lunch break

**14:00-16:00:** Workshop: Location Cinematography (Janek Chajewski, FAMU)

**16:00-18:00:** Workshop: Previsualization & Pre-production (Jon Andrews, Yale)

*Assignment: Complete the audiovisual plan for your Chase Scene project.*

### **Wednesday, July 17**

**8:00-17:00:** Production of Chase Scene projects

### **Thursday, July 25**

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

**14:00-16:00:** Workshop: Sound Editing & Mixing (George Cremachi, FAMU)

### **Friday, July 18**

**10:00-12:00:** Workshop: Color Correction (Janek Chajewski, FAMU)

**13:00-17:00:** Mentored post-production of Chase Scene projects (Jon Andrews, Yale, TBD, FAMU)

**17:00-18:00:** Screening & Discussion of Chase Scene Projects (Jon Andrews, Yale, TBD, FAMU)

**18:00-18:30:** Introduction of Genius Loci project; assignment of pre-secured locations & DAMU student actors (Jon Andrews, Yale)

*Assignment: Complete the Week Three take-home test and submit it via email by noon on Sunday, July 21. Read A Short History of Film, Ch. 8-10. Prepare a script/scenario for your Genius Loci project to be presented on Monday, July 22 at 13:00.*

## **Week Four: The New Wave Cinemas**

### **Monday, July 22**

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

**13:00-14:30:** Workshop: Presentation & discussion of Genius Loci scenarios

**15:00-17:00:** Lecture/Screening: “New Wave Cinemas” (Dr. Michal Bregant, director of the National Film Archive)(@ **Bio Ponrepo**)

*Assignment: Revise your script/scenario for your Genius Loci project to be presented on Tuesday, July 23 at 10:00.*

## **Tuesday, July 23**

**10:00-12:00:** Workshop: Developing the Genius Loci project (Jon Andrews, Yale)

**12:00-14:00:** Independent location scouting & writing time

**14:00-18:00:** Individual pre-production meetings (TBD, FAMU)

*Assignment: Prepare to shoot your Genius Loci project.*

## **Wednesday, July 24**

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

## **Thursday, July 25**

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

## **Friday, July 26**

**10:30:** Meet at Prague main train station

**10:58:** Depart for Uherské Hradiště on Rx889, Slováký Expres

**14:33:** Arrive in Uherské Hradiště

**Friday, July 26 - Tuesday, July 30:** Summer Film School (4 nights)

## **Week Five: Contemporary Cinemas**

### **Tuesday, July 30:**

**11:00:** Meet at Uherské Hradiště main train station

**11:27:** Depart for Prague on Rx888, Slováký Expres

**15:04:** Arrive in Prague

### **Wednesday, July 31:**

**9:00-17:00:** Mentored editing of Genius Loci projects (Dimitrios Polyzos, FAMU)



*Assignment: Complete the Week Five take-home test and submit it via email by noon on Friday, August 2.*

**Thursday, August 1:**

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

**13:00-16:00:** Sound Mixing, Group 1, Color-correction, Group 2

**17:00-20:00:** Sound Mixing, Group 2, Color-correction, Group 1

**Friday, August 2:**

**9:00-12:00:** Sound Mixing, Group 3, Color-correction, Group 4

**13:00-16:00:** Sound Mixing, Group 4, Color-correction, Group 3

**16:30-17:30:** Screening of Genius Loci projects (Jon Andrews, Yale; TBD, FAMU)

**18:00-20:00:** Farewell dinner (location TBD)