

Advanced Video Production Curriculum

Chambersburg Area School District

Course Map Timeline: 1 Semester / 90 days (45 min classes)
2025

Unit	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	
Unit 1: Advanced Cinematography	11 Days					
Unit 2: Production Planning and Directing		12 Days				
Unit 3: Advanced Audio and Sound Design			12 Days			
Unit 4: Editing with Intention				14 Days		
Unit 5: Genre and Style Studies					13 Days	
Unit 6: Portfolio and Capstone Project						28 Days

Topic: Unit 1 **Advanced Cinematography**

Key Learning:

- Visual storytelling is enhanced by advanced camera techniques and intentional lighting design.

Unit Essential Question(s):

- How do advanced cinematography techniques transform a scene?

Concept: Manual Camera Controls	Concept: Camera Movement Techniques	Concept: Lighting for Mood and Style
PA State Standards 9.1.12.H, 9.1.12.J	PA State Standards 9.1.12.H, 9.1.12.J	PA State Standards 9.1.12.H, 9.1.12.J
Lesson Essential Question(s): - What is the impact of ISO and aperture on exposure in challenging lighting? - How does shutter speed affect motion in video? - When and why should filmmakers use manual focus? - What are the benefits and risks of shooting in LOG format? - How does white balance affect the tone and realism of a scene?	Lesson Essential Question(s): - How do dolly, crane, and handheld shots influence viewer perspective? - When is steadicam preferred over handheld for movement? - What safety protocols are necessary during mobile camera operation? - How does blocking relate to camera movement? - What are the pros and cons of using drone footage?	Lesson Essential Question(s): - How do color temperature and gels affect mood? - What lighting setups emphasize emotion? - How does chiaroscuro create tension and mystery? - What is the role of practical lighting and realism? - How can filmmakers use motivated lighting effectively?
Unit Vocabulary: LOG format, Chiaroscuro, Steadicam, Blocking, Practical Lighting, Color Temperature		

Topic: Unit 2 **Production Planning and Directing**

Key Learning:

- Pre-production and directing are essential to guiding cast, crew, and creative vision.

Unit Essential Question(s):

- What does it take to lead a successful film production?

Concept: Script Breakdown and Scheduling	Concept: Directing Talent and Crew	Concept: Visual Planning Tools
PA State Standards 9.1.12.A, 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.C	PA State Standards 9.1.12.A, 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.C	PA State Standards 9.1.12.A, 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.C
Lesson Essential Question(s): • How is a script broken down for production planning? • What is a strip board and how is it used? • How do call sheets and shooting schedules keep a production on track? • How do weather, location, and availability affect scheduling? • What software supports film scheduling?	Lesson Essential Question(s): • How should a director communicate with actors? • What leadership styles work best on set? • How can a director encourage creative input from crew? • How does a director manage time under pressure? • What ethical responsibilities do directors have?	Lesson Essential Question(s): • What is the purpose of a shot list and storyboard? • How do directors use floor plans to block scenes? • What are animatics and when are they used? • How do visual references support mood boards? • How does a director plan transitions between scenes?
Unit Vocabulary: Stripboard, Call Sheet, Blocking, Animatic, Shot List, Mood Board		

Topic: Unit 3 **Advanced Audio and Sound Design**

Key Learning:

- Sound design adds depth and emotion to video through deliberate audio choices.

Unit Essential Question(s):

- How can we use sound to emotionally engage an audience?

Concept: Foley and Ambient Sound	Concept: ADR and Voiceover	Concept: Mixing and Mastering
PA State Standards 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.E	PA State Standards 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.E	PA State Standards 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.E
Lesson Essential Question(s): • What is Foley and how is it produced? • How does ambient sound enhance realism? • What is the difference between ambient and room tone? • How do Foley and SFX differ in function? • How are footsteps, doors, and subtle sounds captured?	Lesson Essential Question(s): • Why is ADR used in film? • What makes ADR convincing? • How does a sound booth improve VoiceOver quality? • What are the techniques for matching lip-sync? • What is the difference between narration and internal monologue?	Lesson Essential Question(s): • How do levels differ for dialogue, music, and effects? • What tools balance frequencies in a mix? • What is audio ducking, and when is it used? • How can EQ affect emotion? • What's the difference between mixing and mastering?
Unit Vocabulary: ADR, Foley, Room Tone, Ducking, EQ, Mastering		

Topic: Unit 4 **Editing with Intention**

Key Learning:

- Editing drives pacing, emotion, and narrative structure in film.

Unit Essential Question(s):

- How do editing decisions influence storytelling?

Concept: Advanced Techniques	Concept: Color Grading	Concept: Graphics and Motion Design
PA State Standards 9.1.12.F, 9.1.12.G	PA State Standards 9.1.12.F, 9.1.12.G	PA State Standards 9.1.12.F, 9.1.12.G
Lesson Essential Question(s): - How do jump cuts and match cuts differ? - When are L-cuts and J-cuts most effective? - What is the montage and what does it communicate? - How do editors establish continuity? - What is the 180-degree rule and when can it be broken?	Lesson Essential Question(s): - How does grading differ from correction? - How do color palettes evoke mood? - What tools apply LUTs and filters? - How do editors match shots from different cameras? - What’s the difference between warm and cool tones?	Lesson Essential Question(s): - How are lower thirds animated? - What makes a good title sequence? - What are motion graphics and how are they created? - How can keyframes enhance text movement? - How do editors use templates for consistency?
Unit Vocabulary: L-Cut, J-Cut, LUT, Keyframe, Motion Graphics, Jump Cut		

Topic: Unit 5 **Genre and Style Studies**

Key Learning:

- Understanding genre conventions informs creative decisions.

Unit Essential Question(s):

- How do genre expectations shape filmmaking choices?

Concept: Narrative Genres	Concept: Documentary Subgenres	Concept: Experimental Film
PA State Standards CC.1.3.9-10.E, CC.1.5.9-10.C, 9.1.12.A, 9.2.12.L, 15.4.12.K	PA State Standards CC.1.3.9-10.E, CC.1.5.9-10.C, 9.1.12.A, 9.2.12.L, 15.4.12.K	PA State Standards CC.1.3.9-10.E, CC.1.5.9-10.C, 9.1.12.A, 9.2.12.L, 15.4.12.K
Lesson Essential Question(s): • What visual and audio elements define horror? • How is comedy timing created in editing? • What are the tropes of sci-fi and fantasy? • What camera work is typical in drama? • What differentiates a thriller from an action film?	Lesson Essential Question(s): • What are the modes of documentary? • How do documentaries establish credibility? • What is ethical storytelling and nonfiction? • How does reenactment affect viewer trust? • What techniques make a doc emotionally powerful?	Lesson Essential Question(s): • What is experimental film? • How is visual poetry different from narrative? • What makes non-linear editing compelling? • How can filmmakers use abstraction? • How does sound design work without dialogue?
Unit Vocabulary: Tropes, Verisimilitude, Non-linear, Experimental, Participatory Mode		

Topic: Unit 6 **Portfolio and Capstone Project**

Key Learning:

- The capstone project allows students to synthesize their skills into a polished work.

Unit Essential Question(s):

- How do we create a final product that reflects our skills, voice, and professionalism?

Concept: Capstone Planning and Pitching	Concept: Production and Collaboration	Concept: Portfolio Development
PA State Standards 9.3.12.A, 9.4.12.B	PA State Standards 9.3.12.A, 9.4.12.B	PA State Standards 9.3.12.A, 9.4.12.B
Lesson Essential Question(s): - What makes a strong project pitch? - How do you choose a project scope? - How do you build a production plan? - How can peer feedback shape pre-production? - How do you refine an idea into a clear vision?	Lesson Essential Question(s): - What’s your role in the group project? - How do teams manage tasks and communication? - How do you solve on-set problems quickly? - How do you document your process? - How do you give and receive constructive feedback?	Lesson Essential Question(s): - What makes a strong demo reel? - How do you present work professionally? - How do you write an artist statement? - What platforms host creative portfolios? - How do you showcase teammate in your reel?
Unit Vocabulary: Pitch Deck, Demo Reel, Artist Statement, Peer Review, Capstone		