Unit Title	Film Language and Technologies
FHEQ Level	4
Unit Code	DFP18103
Credit Value	30
Unit Type	Mandatory Subject

Learning Hours

Staff – Student Contact Hours		Independent Study Hours	
Classes	80	Independent Study	150
Supervised access to resources	10	Preparation for Assessment	20
		Unsupervised Access to Resources	40
Total			300

Unit Description

Film has a language, a grammar, and once this is understood, and married to the creative technologies underpinning digital film production, then filmmaking reaches a new height of emotion and meaning.

This unit provides you with an introduction to the basics of digital film production equipment and the location-focused techniques involved in professional digital film production.   Alongside this, you will focus on the application of film language through technology in the creation of short films

You will be introduced to digital film production equipment, techniques, and language through practical demonstration and then experimentation, so that you gain both practical experience, a real sense of the vocational context in which your Pathway is set, and an opportunity to explore the tools with which you will work across your course. This practical application is supplemented through lectures introducing underpinning concepts and broader ideas.

You will be introduced to a range of digital cameras, microphones and sound recording systems / sound mixers, recording and replay systems, location lighting, monitoring, and post production systems from a practical and operational standpoint, at a fundamental level. You will also develop an initial understanding of sequence construction, image composition and control, visual-aural relationships, mise-en-scene, post-production, and location shooting during this process that will underpin work in successive units.

Study in this unit will offer cohort overview, and Pathway application, encouraging you to explore your chosen discipline from the first engagement with the practicalities of filmmaking.

The Five Principles underpin the Mindsets and Skillsets Manifesto and are the foundation upon which all course curriculum frameworks and unit specifications are based. The relevant Principles as stated below have been mapped against the Learning Outcomes relevant to each course unit and at each level (see Programme Specifications for full description of the Five Principles):

1. Cultivate / Where the individual thrives.
2. Collaborate / Where disciplines evolve.
3. Integrate / Where education engages industry.
4. Advocate / Where purpose meets practice.
5. Originate / creativity meets technology.

Unit Indicative Content

This unit is comprised of six areas:

- Health and Safety
  Manual handling, risk assessing, electrical safety and testing, rigging, location safety, set construction safety, Studio safe practice, shooting conventions

- Film Language
  Shot size, composition, camera position and angle, shot-to-shot relationships, lens selection, light and colour, diegetic / non-diegetic sound, sound design, continuity, parallel editing, ellipsis, montage, transitions, costume, props, mise-en-scene, set dressing

- Production Technologies:
  Digital film cameras, settings and Menus, viewfinders aperture, shutter speed, exposure, lenses, colour temperature, depth of field, timecode, on-board audio, clapperboard, tripods
  Lighting, power sources and consumption, lighting measurement, hard and soft sources, colour temperature, inverse square law, grey scale, types and functions of lights.
  Sound recording, acoustics, types of microphone, positioning mics, digitising audio, noise, location conventions, digital solid state recorders, timecode generators, digital field mixers.

- Post Production Technologies:
  Non-linear editing systems, ingest, digitisation, digital video processing, digital audio processing, common codecs, file naming and organising, metadata, exporting, post-production conventions, editing software, sound design software.

- Monitoring and Testing
  Histograms, SMPTE colour bars, setting up monitors, systems, audio and video signal patching and routing, conventions of monitoring and testing.

Production
- Application of learning to the production of short films (including client based and competition themed).

Unit Aims

- Cultivate an initial set of creative and operational skills that will allow students to begin independently producing collaborative work quickly and effectively.
- Introduce students to a wide range of production tools, technologies, and associated skillsets, and enable the development of vocationally focused creative mindsets.
- Integrate knowledge and understanding of the basic technical principles with knowledge and understanding of creative principles central to their vocation.
- Enable students to reach a common level of knowledge, understanding, and practical skills, across Pathways, as a basis for further study and collaborations.

Unit Learning Outcomes

LO 4 (Pre) Production

Identify, select and apply an appropriate selection of processes, materials and methods that inform creative and academic practice.

Related Principle: COLLABORATE

LO 6 Critical and creative mindsets

Demonstrate enquiry into what makes good practice - both creatively and academically

Related Principle: ORIGINATE

LO 7 Employability

Evidence nurturing professional transferrable and employability skills, including the ability to manage time and work to clear briefs and deadlines, respond to set goals, and communicate effectively.

Related Principle: CULTIVATE

Learning and Teaching Methods

Cohort Lectures
Pathway Seminars
Practical Demonstration
Practical Workshops
Fortnightly Pathway Film Language Student Presentations

VLE Materials
Supervised Access to Resources
Independent Study
Self-directed research
Presentation of work in progress
Collaborative group work

Assessment methods and tasks

On-going Formative Assessment with be offered through regular Film Crits on a group basis within an inter-Pathway group setting. A mid-term Pathway based Formative Assessment will focus on individual role development.

Summative Assessment will take the form of an individual Presentation, demonstrating research into and application of film language and technologies to the production of a portfolio of films, evidencing this with excerpts from research materials generated, and from the film productions.

Assessment tasks	Weighting (%) *(one grade or multi-grade unit)*
Individual VLOG Presenting Research and Production Portfolio	100%

Indicative Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria are the basis on which the judgment of the adequacy of the work is made. A more detailed assessment criteria will be specified in the brief.

Through Individual VLOG Presenting Research and Production Portfolio you will be assessed on:
- Degree of appropriateness in both creative and technical choices (LO4)
- Strength of self-reflection and awareness (LO6)
- Range of skillsets developed and applied to productions (LO7)

Essential Reading list

1. Figgis, M. (2014) *Digital Film-making*, Revised ed., Faber and Faber, London
2. Goldman, M, Weiss, B, & Leipzig, A. (2015) *Filmmaking in Action: Your Guide to the Skills and Craft*, Bedford, New York, USA
3. Monaco, J. (2009) *How to Read a Film: The World of Movies, Media, Multimedia: Language, History, Theory*, 3rd ed, Oxford University Press, Oxford
4. Morante, L. (2017) *Editing and Montage in International Film and Video: Theory and Technique*, Focal Press, Oxford
5. Schenk, S, & Long, B. (2017) *The Digital Filmmaking Handbook*, 5th Edition, Foreing Films, Los Angeles, USA
6. Viers, R. (2012) *Location Sound Bible: How to Record Professional Dialogue for Film and TV*, Michael Wiese Productions, Studio City, USA