MCMA 497, Section 201: Editing in Final Cut Pro X  
FALL 2016 - SYLLABUS

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Class Share: nmc.siu.edu (username: mcma497stoffel, password: fcp)

Lectures: COMM 9A (NMC), Wednesday, 12:00-2:50pm

Course Description: MCMA 497 is a hands-on introductory course into the  
essence of Apple’s editing software FCPX. The course is designed for students  
who need more than just basic operational knowledge of Final Cut Pro for future  
media production curricula. No previous knowledge of the application is required,  
but basic familiarity with Macintosh computers is expected.

Course Objectives:

1. You will learn how to use and to navigate within the FCP interface  
2. You will become familiar with fundamental and essential video theory  
   and terminology  
3. You will master nearly all video and sound editing functions available in  
   FCPX, enabling you to optimize your creative potential

Learning Methods:

Each class will build on the previous class, so it is highly recommended that you  
not miss any lecture. Each week’s session will typically be divided into two parts:  
First there will be a lecture portion, featuring the introduction, explanation and  
demonstration of editing techniques (for details see “Course Structure” below). In  
the hands-on, second half of the session you will practice these newly acquired  
techniques in a series of exercises. All necessary media files will be provided for  
you. You are expected to complete these exercises for a short review during the  
following lecture. NOTE: Use FCPX as much as you can; play with it,  
experiment, try to find your own solutions for complex visual sequences. Only  
then will you become truly fluent with the application.
MCMA 497 Course Structure:

WEEK 1 (August 24th)
Course Introduction
Introduction of the FCPX Interface
Defining “Libraries” - “Events” - “Projects”
Edits: Append, Connect, Insert, Overwrite
Selecting, moving, trimming
Adding audio & adjust sound volume
Sharing
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK
EXERCISES

WEEK 2 (August 31st)
Quiz #1
Editing tools and techniques: Ripple, roll, slip, slide
Applying transitions: Cuts, dissolves, wipes
Working with the “Precision Editor”
Expand audio-video, Separate audio-video, for “split edits”
Working with the Inspector
Video Terminology / Video Basics
Metadata and keywords
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK
EXERCISES

WEEK 3 (September 7th)
FCPX preferences
Importing Media, Organizing and saving
Creating a Camera Archive
Audio in FCPX: Importing, modifying
Transform, Crop, and Distort effects
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK
EXERCISES

WEEK 4 (September 14th)
Quiz #2
Speed / variable speed
Color Correction / Video scopes
Filters & effects: Applying, viewing, modifying,
and copying filter parameters
Compositing
Creating titles & credit rolls,
Creating mattes & masks
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK
EXERCISES

WEEK 5 (September 21st)
Creating Compound Clips
Key Framing for motion path, effects, and filters
Advanced compositing
Keying & Masking
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK
EXERCISES

WEEK 6 (September 28th)
Quiz #3
Exporting and Sharing using the FCP interface
Understanding Codecs
Exporting using Compressor
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK
FINAL PROJECT

WEEK 7 (October 5th)
Additional tips and techniques
Masks, Compound Clips
Q & A
FINAL PROJECT
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 8 (October 12th)
Quiz #4 – Final Project Due

Equipment requirement: external hard drive (USB, FW, or Thunderbolt) to store class projects
Grading:

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F

Point Structure
4 Quizzes (15 pts/ea.) 60 points
1 Final Project 30 points
Exercises 10 points

Grading Details:

Tests: 60 Points
There will be four tests (each one worth 15 points), true/false and multiple choice, covering editing techniques, fundamental video terminology, and keyboard shortcuts, all as discussed during lecture. These tests will be conducted electronically via D2L (online.siu.edu).

Final Project: 30 Points
You are expected to recreate a complex editing sequence that was assembled using a wide variety of advanced video and audio editing techniques – all of which will be covered in class. Your grade will be based on how closely your own version resembles the original. All raw footage will be provided along with the “master” sequence.

Exercises: 10 Points
….. for posting your finished exercise to the class share after each lecture.

Misc:

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism and cheating will result in penalties ranging from an “F” on an assignment to expulsion from class or the University. Please see the University’s guidelines for further information on this matter.

Emergency Procedures
Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

NOTE: THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING THE SEMESTER. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.