

# MCMA 497, Section 101: Editing in Final Cut Pro X FALL 2015 - SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mark Stoffel

Office: Room 9G, New Media Center, Communications Building

Phone: 453-8464

E-mail: [mstoffel@siu.edu](mailto:mstoffel@siu.edu)

Mailbox: Dean's Office, room 1012

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

**Lectures:** COMM 9E (NMC), Wednesday, 3:00-5:50pm

**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 (October 20<sup>th</sup>)**

Course Introduction  
Introduction of the FCPX Interface  
Defining “Events” and “Projects”  
Importing files  
Append edit to the primary storyline  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK  
EXERCISES

### **WEEK 3 (November 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

Working with the Inspector  
Video Terminology / Video Basics  
Optimization and Analysis of media  
Working with still images  
Metadata and keywords  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK  
EXERCISES

### **WEEK 5 (November 17<sup>th</sup>)**

Filters & effects: Applying, viewing, modifying,  
and copying filter parameters  
Creating titles & credit rolls,  
Creating mattes & masks  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK  
EXERCISES

### **WEEK 7 (December 1<sup>st</sup>)**

FCPX preferences  
Exporting and Sharing using the FCP interface  
Understanding Codecs  
Exporting using Compressor  
FINAL PROJECT  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK

### **WEEK 2 (October 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Quiz #1  
3 more edit types: Connect, Insert, Overwrite  
Selecting, moving, trimming  
Introducing additional 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”  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK  
EXERCISES

### **WEEK 4 (November 10<sup>th</sup>)**

Quiz #2  
Importing from a camera / Capturing from tape  
Audio in FCPX: Importing, modifying  
Speed / variable speed  
Color Correction / Video scopes  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK  
EXERCISES

### **WEEK 6 (November 24<sup>th</sup>)**

Quiz #3  
Creating Compound Clips  
Key Framing for motion path, effects, and filters  
Advanced compositing  
Keying  
ESSENTIAL SHORTCUTS OF THE WEEK  
EXERCISES

### **WEEK 8 (December 8<sup>th</sup>)**

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
Attendance / Participation	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](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://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.**