**C229 Single Camera Production – Week 11 Spring 2025**

**Week 11 Lab Reality Check:**

* You should be shooting your visual narrative projects this week using either the Canon R5C or C100. Don’t use dialog, but it’s fine to have NAT sound and sound design (optional).
* There’s no lab quiz this week.
* In lab next week you’ll watch projects, plan your final narrative projects, and practice capturing audio with the Sound Devices MixPre. **Please send me any visual narrative projects that came out well**.

**Lecture Announcements/Agenda:**

* No lecture next week! (Jim will be at a conference) But there will be lecture notes and a short Canvas assignment.
* Review visual narrative project
* Coverage
* Clapperboard / Slating procedures - Add a Camera Slate to next week’s Lab Booking (assuming you want to learn to use one).
* Special guest today: [George Logothetis](https://mediaschool.indiana.edu/people/profile.html?p=glogothe)
* Short in-class Canvas attendance exercise

**Readings/Watchlist:**

* [What is Film Coverage: Step by Step Guide](https://filmlifestyle.com/what-is-film-coverage/)
* [How to Shoot a Scene Using Basic Coverage](https://youtu.be/oNePOOLv-ew) (Excellent examples of coverage and blocking)
* [Joel & Ethan Coen – Shot | Reverse Shot](https://youtu.be/5UE3jz_O_EM)
* [The Clapperboard Explained](https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/how-to-use-a-film-slate/) (StudioBinder)
* [A Guide to Using a Clapperboard](https://www.masterclass.com/articles/guide-to-using-a-clapperboard) (Masterclass)
* [Sound Device MixPre](https://sites.mediaschool.indiana.edu/learn/957-2/) (Media School Tech Tutorial)

**Visual Narrative project requirements**

In groups of 4-6:

* Create a 3-minute short film, using the visual narrative method. Do not use any dialog! Use your knowledge of framing and lenses to tell a story with only shots! It’s fine to use diegetic (NAT) sound, to apply sound design, and to use effects and music. Students are welcome to submit their own story ideas- or the instructor can provide one.
* Filmed in appropriate fps and shutter speed, 1920 x 1080, with proper white balance, focus, and exposure.
* Exhibits knowledge of 180-degree rule, 30-degree rule, coverage/continuity, and visual storytelling
* Final product delivered as H.264
* Use either the Canon C100 or R5C camera, and whichever lenses are appropriate.

Point breakdown:

* One video of appropriate length: 1 point.
* Video is technically sound (in focus, white balanced, appropriate fps/shutter speed, properly exposed, etc.): 2 points.
* Attention is given to continuity and framing, as a tool to tell the story: 2 points.

**Due by the start of the week 12 Lab**

**Final Narrative Project** – The final project is a short narrative film with at least 2-3 consecutive scenes, that’s 5-10 minutes long. Depending on your lab instructor, you’ll be given a script to work with or you’ll have the opportunity to use your own script.

This project should be shot during weeks 13 & 14, and completed by Week 15 (Monday, April 28). Here are a few examples of short films created in C229:

* [Trigger Warning](https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_bnbl1o8s) (6:08)
* [Noir](https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_zycrlrs1) (5:48 In 4x3 Can you spot the continuity error?)
* [Day Before Election Day](https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_193i6ggw) (6:04)

**Coverage Basics (Don’t forget to capture these shots!):**

**Establishing Shots & Master Shots** – In planning scenes, it’s important to establish the place and time of day. Often this will be an exterior **establishing shot**. These are not to be confused with **master shots**, which show the arrangement of people and objects within the physical space. Think about the Seinfeld TV show. Before we go to a scene inside Jerry’s apartment, we usually see the exterior shot of his apartment building. (The camera tilts up and we hear a bass riff.) This tells us where we are and what time of day it is. <https://youtu.be/StGksELo9Vs?si=fIgY6NSdWBtqOpfN> (Reminds me of Too Many Cooks) Then we usually go to a master shot- a wide shot of inside his apartment to show us who is there, what they are doing, and who is bursting through the door.

As we move deeper into a scene or story, we use tighter shots:

Medium Closeups (MCU)

Over the Shoulder shots (OTS)

Closeups (CU)

Extreme Closeups (ECU)

Reverse Angle and Reaction shots

**Pivotal emotional story points** (moments of loss, love, discovery, etc.) are best expressed with some form of a closeup.

**Transitional shots** are important and useful to show the passing of time or a change in location.

* To show the passing of time at the same location, one could use an establishing shot captured at different time of day. (E.g. nighttime). Other artful approaches could be used- such as a time-lapse sequence of light changing through a window, shadows moving across the floor, a flower blooming or dying, etc.
* To show a change in location, we’ll often show an iconic skyline or exterior shot of an element unique to the environment. (We travel to France by the exterior wide shot showing the Eiffel Tower or Arc de Triumph.

**Slating** – Slating is carried out by the camera department before every scene is shot. The slate is crucial for identifying takes and for synchronizing audio and video in post. Usually, it’s called for by the AD and carried out by the 2nd AC. On a slate you’ll find variations of the following:

* Production Company / Project title
* Director name / DP name
* Date
* Scene #
* Take #
* Camera roll #



It’s important that the slate is visible in the frame.

* [The Clapperboard Explained](https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/how-to-use-a-film-slate/) (StudioBinder)
	+ <https://youtu.be/bd7BPX8oEeE> (RocketJump Film School)
	+ <https://youtu.be/Ul04AA3R4d0> (Inglorious Bs - Camera Angel)
* [A Guide to Using a Clapperboard](https://www.masterclass.com/articles/guide-to-using-a-clapperboard) (Masterclass)

**Vocabulary:**

* Clapperboard (slate)
* Closeup (CU)
* Coverage
* Establishing Shot
* Master Shot
* Medium Shots (MS)
* Over the Shoulder Shots (OTS)
* Reverse Shot
* Slate & Slating
* Visual narrative