Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should **not** be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
CINE 330
MICRO BUDGET FILMMAKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this condensed exploration of filmmaking, students learn the process of developing a low-budget film. Translating a minimum budget into the maximum quality on screen is the main focus of this course. Topics include setting up a production company, financing and development, pre-production planning, production techniques, post-production workflow and distribution. Students will prepare a producer's breakdown and production budget for a micro-budget screenplay.

RATIONALE
Changes in technology have drastically lowered barriers to entry in independent filmmaking. With the advent of digital cinema, filmmakers can now make feature length productions at a fraction of the cost. Exploring and understanding the financial planning of a production budget is crucial to being a successful filmmaker. This course will break down the planning and budgeting stages of a feature independent film from pre-production all the way to distribution.

I. PREREQUISITES
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio and video equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
D. Windows Media Player

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Analyze and breakdown a screenplay to establish a cost of production.
B. Develop a comprehensive line-item budget for a production.
C. Develop a detailed film production schedule.
D. Understand various resources available for independent film production.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Textbook readings, selected articles, websites, and video presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

The student will post a thread of 250–300 words (3 sentence for Discussion Board Forum 1, and 500 words for Discussion Board Forum 3) in response to the provided prompt, and post a reply, of at least 150 words, to 2 classmates’ threads (only 1 thread is required for Discussion Board Forum 1). All forums must be supported by course content, outside materials, and/or Scripture references using current APA or Turabian formatting.

D. Budget Analysis

The student will be provided with a 5–10-page screenplay and will also be supplied a mock budget for the screenplay. The student is required to write a 2-paragraph analysis of the budget, identifying any shortcomings and creating a plan for fixing problems. The student will submit the final product in a Word document.

E. Problem Solving Paper

The student will be provided with 3 potential production problems. The student will choose 1 of the problems, and write a 2–3-page analysis and solution to the problem. The paper must be completed using current APA or Turabian format.

F. Budget Justification

The student is required to write a 250-word justification for talent-hiring costs, for a $50,000 budget project. The student must cite at least 2 references from the course readings. The student will submit the final product in a Word document.

G. Script Breakdown

The student will create an “8th’s” Script Breakdown from the provided screenplay. The student will watch a presentation where the first 3 pages of the Script Breakdown will be completed with examples. The student is required to complete the remaining pages of the screenplay using Mr. Schultze’s example. The student will submit the final product a Word document.

H. Exams (2)

The student will complete 2 open-book/open-notes exams that consist of 20 multiple-choice, true/false, and multiple-answer questions each, and are based on the Reading & Study information. The student will have 30 minutes to complete each exam.
VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (3 at 60 pts ea)</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Analysis</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Solving Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Justification</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Script Breakdown</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# Course Schedule

**CINE 330**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jones et al.: ch. 1&lt;br&gt;Lyons: pp. 27–28&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist&lt;br&gt;Class Introductions&lt;br&gt;Contact Information Quiz&lt;br&gt;DB Forum 1</td>
<td>10 0 0 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jones et al.: ch. 2&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>Budget Analysis</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lyons: ch. 3&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 presentation</td>
<td>Problem Solving Paper&lt;br&gt;Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lyons: chs. 7–9&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>Budget Justification</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jones et al.: ch. 3&lt;br&gt;Lyons: ch. 10&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>Script Breakdown</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Jones et al.: ch. 4&lt;br&gt;Lyons: ch. 11&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 3</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jones et al.: ch. 5&lt;br&gt;Lyons: ch. 12&lt;br&gt;1 presentation</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.