**COURSE COM2105: AV PREPRODUCTION 1**

**Level: Intermediate Prerequisite: COM1105**:

**Audio/Video Description**: Students examine the value and need for audio and video preproduction, and explore strategies used to plan an audio and/or a video project using a variety of techniques. Students understand that preproduction is stage one in the audio and video process. Parameters: No specialized facilities or equipment required. This course supports the audio, video and animation sequence of courses.

Outcomes:

**Outcome 1** will be discussed in class.

**Outcome 2 – 4** identify and use an appropriate planning process in creating preproduction for a media format.

To get started today, you will need to look at the student film manifesto. This will give you some good advice. It is borrowed from a college level film making class and the advice is good. As well, there are several supporting documents to help with production planning. Please use these well.

You will need to create a production plan including the following sections (outcomes 2-4):

1. **Develop an idea**: You need to decide on your story or message, and how to get this across to the audience. You can try making a ‘mindmap’. If the film is about facts, you will need to do some research. You can get information from books, the internet, newspapers or even face-to-face interviews.  
   **Tips:**  
   Keep the idea simple. Short film is a whole genre in itself, so don’t try to squeeze a feature film into 4 minutes.  
   Show, don’t tell. Film is all about being visual; tell the story mainly in pictures and sounds, and don’t use too much dialogue. Some great short films don’t have any dialogue.
2. **Create a pitch**: When you have your idea ready you will need to pitch it to a group of people to get feedback and see if it’s a workable idea.
3. **Write a Script**: You will need to create a script. (see screen writing)
4. **Storyboard or Shot list**: convert your script or idea into a working storyboard with illustrations
5. **Establish Props and costumes**: Choose costumes and explain how props and costumes build up a mood and show where and when the film is set
6. **Choose a location**: choose and secure permission to use a location for your film

Present your plan to the class and be prepared to discuss the work regarding each of the following, if applicable:

* + - 1. how the elements and principles of design help facilitate good composition
      2. the technical and creative aspects of the work; e.g., quality, uniqueness
      3. areas of concern/difficulty
      4. the relationship of the short outline/script to the production plan
      5. the quality of the completed project
      6. meeting school and community standards; e.g., appropriate language

You will also be marked on your classroom management. Specifically you need to

1. apply consistent and appropriate work station routines

2. demonstrate good health and safety practices; e.g., posture, positioning of hardware and furniture

3. demonstrate security for hardware, software, supplies and personal work

4. communicate

5. manage information

6. use numbers

7. think and solve problems

8. demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours

9. be responsible

10. be adaptable

11. learn continuously

12. work safely

13. demonstrate teamwork skills

### **Other Sources of Filmmaking Info**

[**MovieMaker magazine**](http://www.moviemaker.com/) covers the entire art and business of independent filmmaking. The web site has many valueable articles and a subscription is a bargain for all you get.

[**Filmmaking.net**](http://www.filmmaking.net/) offers a filmmakers FAQ, forum, software downloads, used equipment listing, links and store.

[**Filmmaker.com**](http://www.filmmaker.com/) has articles, forum, software downloads, opinions of film schools from students and links.

[**Greg Pak, Filmmaker**](http://www.gregpak.com/filmhelp/) has a few articles and lots of links.

[**Filmmakers.com**](http://www.filmmakers.com/index.htm) offers some news, a forum and links.

[**Knowledge Hound, Film**](http://www.knowledgehound.com/topics/film.htm) has links and annoying popups.