# Audiovisual Direction (Basic Course) (with Workshop)

## Prof. Graziano Chiscuzzu and Marco Meazzini; Dr. Luca Sorsoli (workshop)

1. ***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with structured concepts on audiovisual production: planning, production phases and operational roles. It is divided into two semester-long modules with an attached workshop and aims to train students in managing all the operational stages involved in creating one or more personal and/or group audiovisual products.

The course includes an additional compulsory teaching activity focused on post-production, held by Dr. Sorsoli (please read below).

***COURSE CONTENT***

**Module 1 - Semester 1**

Module 1, led by Prof. Meazzini, aims to teach the basics of direction and to strengthen the skills acquired in the workshops taken in the first year of the DAMS course (see prerequisites). The introduction will be theoretical in nature, related to technical terminology, and focus closely on documentary pre-production. This will then be followed by a strongly practical component. Participants will experience what it means to manage a set base as a director, taking home a product that is finished in all aspects.

In semester 1, there will also be a single-subject part on the expressive, constructive and directorial abilities of a well-known director. For the academic year 2023/2024, Russian director Andrei Arsen’evic Tarkovsky is the chosen director (with a particular focus on the films of the seventies and eighties). There will be close analysis of the films agreed on in class.

Module 1 will conclude with a section on shooting and production, including creation of a basic audiovisual documentary product.

**Workshop**

Between semesters 1 and 2, students are required to attend a purely practical workshop.

**Module 2 - Semester 2**

Semester 2, led by Prof. Chiscuzzu, will focus on the methodological study of the systems and practices of audiovisual production, and on producing a more complex audiovisual product: the skills acquired in the module will indeed lead to the creation of an advanced product.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

MODULE 1

* The text for the single subject is yet to be confirmed. Three films will also be confirmed.
* VINCENZO BUCCHERI, *Il film – Dalla sceneggiatura alla distribuzione,* Carocci, 2003. [Purchase from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/vincenzo-buccheri/il-film-dalla-sceneggiatura-alla-distribuzione-9788843024629-209476.html)
* DANIEL ARIJON, *L’ABC della regia – Grammatica del linguaggio cinematografico,* Dino Audino Editore, 2005. [Purchase from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/daniel-arijon/labc-della-regia-9788886350914-307559.html)
* BILL NICHOLS, *Introduzione al documentario,* Il Castoro, 2014 (or previous editions).

MODULE 2

The reading list will be provided by the lecturer at the beginning of Semester 2.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of in-person introductory frontal lectures and practical sessions, with intensive modules and the use of professional shooting and editing equipment. Should the health emergency and the use of distance-learning continue, students will engage using personal devices (including smartphones).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

As a course assignment, students will work in groups to produce and edit audiovisual products based on the skills acquired during the course. These products will then be discussed in class and will contribute to the final individual mark. The mark will be out of 30 and will reflect students’ attitude and interest during the course modules (50%) and their positive contribution during the practical video task (50%). The final mark will be the arithmetic mean of the results for the three modules.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

It is a basic requirement that students have successfully completed the workshops from the first year of the DAMS curriculum.

Students are encouraged to work independently outside lectures, with their own equipment, from SLR cameras to smartphones, practising shooting and framing. Students are encouraged to use their own laptop in class, particularly in semester 2.

All modules of this course require attendance (75%).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# Audiovisual Production Workshop

## Dr. Luca Sorsoli

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with an intermediate-level knowledge of audiovisual production, with a focus on its third phase: post-production. Therefore, they will be guided through a learning path that gets inspiration from the theoretical knowledge acquired during year 1 and combines it with a strong element of film editing and montage. During the course, students will be invited to carry out an individual project and join different group editing calls, in order to react to the didactic proposals of year 2, especially through an open dialogue with the two lecturers of the Audiovisual Direction basic course, Dr. Chiscuzzu and Dr. Meazzini. There will be two different types of course, one specific for the students who are more independent and familiar with the use of technology, and another one offering a recall of the basic tools offered by DaVinci

***COURSE CONTENT***

MODULE 1**:** The course will be characterised by a first theoretical introduction based on the knowledge of the tools and the grammar of editing and colour correction, and then it will present the equipment at the laboratory. It will include practical activities to be carried out in class and at home.

MODULE 2: The course aims to be entirely based on practice; after a first brief introduction on the main editing software and the specifications concerning acquisition formats, it will carry out an in-depth analysis of the free software DaVinci Resolve, distributed by BlackMagic, with a focus on its main ‘tabs’. It will include editing activities held at UCSC laboratories. IN-DEPTH STUDY - students will have the possibility to carry out, together with the lecturer, an in-depth study of the topics explained (on a voluntary basis).

MODULE 3:this module will be focused on the use of colour and colour correction.

***READING LIST***

* *- La guida definitiva di DaVinci Resolve 16 -* a free PDF version can be downloaded from the Blackmagic website

For an in-depth study of this topic, students are invited to check the following texts (which are recommended but not compulsory):

* *- Correzione colore su DaVinci Resolve 16 -* a free PDF version can be downloaded from the Blackmagic website
* *- Color Correction Handbook: Professional Techniques for Video and Cinema -* Alexis Van Hurkman
* *- Manuale del montaggio. Tecnica dell'editing nella comunicazione cinematografica e audiovisiva -* Cassani, Centola
* *- La grammatica del montaggio. Il manuale che spiega quando e perché tagliare -* Bowen Thompson

***TEACHING METHOD***

At the beginning of the year, students will be divided into different modules, according to the instructions given by the lecturers of the Audiovisual Direction course. In addition, they will be informed on the first dates in which they will be given the possibility to approach editing, as well as the dates of the intensive classes in which they will work on the project.

The lectures aim to combine the theory and the practice, and will be characterised by a first introduction to the ABCs of editing, followed by the possibility, for students, to practice on their own, and workshop focuses. Since students will be able to see the lecturer’s desktop, they will manage to follow, step by step, the actions that need to be performed on their devices, and this will make the workshop more dynamic, complete, and based on the same level for every participant. Furthermore, the course will also include some face-to-face lectures, that will be considered as practical activities in which students will have the possibility to test their learning.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For the final assessment, students will be asked to shoot and edit videos, either in group and on an individual basis, and then discuss them. This activity will contribute to the definition of a final individual mark, that will be expressed in thirtieths and will take into account the students’ inclination and interest shown during the different modules (50%) and the constructive approach demonstrated during the practical realisation of the video (50%).

The students who do not have the possibility to attend the course or produce an insufficient work will be given the possibility to take an oral exam based on the texts (including the recommended ones) specified in the reading list. Class attendance is compulsory.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since this is the second workshop found by the students of the Direction curriculum during their academic journey, they are expected to have acquired the basic skills introduced during year 1. Some special openings of laboratory 2 will be organised in order to allow students to practice on their own.

Students are invited to use their own personal computer and to bring it at the laboratory, in order to be able to properly follow each step shown in class and then repeat it as an exercise aimed at the achievement of the intended learning outcomes expected from this module.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

1. These texts are available from the university bookshop as well as other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)