

EFA Film and Video Arts



If you take this class you will:

- **Learn how to make good strong compositions.** You will understand and practice how the frame fits around a subject to maximize its visual impact. Eventually, you will just feel what makes a good composition every time you frame a shot. People will pay more attention to your videos because you “catch” their eyes.
- **Learn about everything a video camera can do for you.** Control is very important in making sure your camera captures the images you imagine. All the buttons, dials, and menus will be explained so you can make the camera work for you.
- **Understand the film language.** Does the shot move or is it static? Is the camera being held in the hands or is it on a solid support? How is the camera looking at the subject? Down? Up? Slanted? Far away? Close up? What are we hearing? Does the sound go with the image? Contrast to it? We take a lot of these things for granted as we watch films. Now these tools of the “language” are in your hands.
- **Learn to see light and to capture it more effectively.** You will also learn how professional directors of photography handle lighting, and you will acquire techniques that will be useful when you shoot.
- **Learn how to edit video with the professional editing program Final Cut Pro.** This program allows you to edit and make effects to put your work on a level with professional filmmakers. Together with After Effects, Photoshop, Flash, and sound composing programs you can do practically everything you see in the movies, on television, and on the internet.
- **Learn which genre of film best suites you.** Narrative, documentary, and experimental are all studied and practiced in the class. You will find which one best expresses what you are trying to say. One or the other may not come easy for you, but if you make an honest effort, you cannot fail and you will discover the skills you have inside of you.
- **Have a strong portfolio and lots of exposure for your work** when you leave this class. We provide you with a DVD at the end on which to put all your projects, but that’s not all. Throughout the year you will be posting your work on the internet through Facebook, YouTube, EFA websites, or your own personal websites. EFA puts on two public shows of your work, and we get you entered into film festivals where other filmmakers and a widely diverse audience looks at what you do. You might even win awards or be noticed by someone who offers you opportunities outside of school.
- **Be prepared for post-high school.** At the end of your EFA experience, you will have a skill set that is steps ahead of other students at your grade level. Many of our students have gone on to film school and been able to skip some of the beginning classes because of what they have learned in EFA. If you go to work in the film industry, your knowledge of the filmmaking process will get you noticed and allow you to advance at a quicker rate to the position you wish to attain. Even if you don’t do anything in film or video after high school, you will have a better idea of who you are and what it is you want to pursue in life as a result of having explored yourself in EFA.