HAW HAMBURG

Media & Film

- courses for exchange students –

- Dramaturgy
- Film Production Project
- Image Composition (Film Project)
- Media Production Project
- Perception (summer semester only)
- Short Cut (Film Project)
- Sound Design
- Video Technology & Production

NOTES:

Classes are held either in English or as a mixture of English and German, with English language support provided. Group projects can make English the team language. Students are only allowed to take a maximum of 30 ECTS credits in one semester. All courses take place on the Art & Media Campus Finkenau.

(September 2025)

Course Name: Dramaturgy

Course language: English / German (support will be provided if needed)

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)	**Responsible Lecturer:** Prof. Joachim Friedmann

Workload: 150 hours	**Lecture hours per week:** 4	**ECTS Credits:** 5

Course objectives:

The primary goal of the course is to bring media technology students closer to the artistic/creative people which is required as part of the preparation of a film, theatre production or an art project and to improve the way people with a technical background and people with an artistic background work together. Students are involved in the conceptional work and later in the project development in the field of work.

Contents:

In "open discussion groups" students look at topics such as text work, staging methods and production management. Students can be involved in the conceptual development and completion of a film project. They can also look at film, book or song texts in different genres to discover their own personal taste.

About didactics and workload distribution:

Students complete weekly tasks, such as sample texts, short presentations or conceptual drafts for films.

Students can work independently or as part of a student team. These projects can be completed with support from the technical staff of the video, audio and production labs.

Requirements for participation:
None

Type of exam:
Regular grading of the papers and tasks throughout the semester, presentation of group projects

Requirements for credit point allocation:
Regular participation in class discussions. Individual grades for the semester papers throughout the semester.

Literature:
Literature about Film, Theatre, Art, based on special themes during the semester

Course Name: Film Production Project*

Degree programmes: **Media Technology (Bachelor)**	Responsible Lecturer: Prof Dr. Friedmann, Christina Becker

Workload: 240 hours	**Lecture hours per week:** Project	**ECTS Credits:** 8

Course objectives:

In this module students develop an independent short film project with a duration of approximately 10 minutes. The project covers all key phases of film production – from idea development and scriptwriting to pre-production, casting, shooting, and post-production.

The scriptwriting phase is supervised by Prof. Joachim Friedmann, while the production phase is guided by Christina Becker. The post-production phase is independently organized and carried out by the students.

Contents:

Students are able to collaboratively develop and realize a short film project from the initial idea to the final production. They gain practical experience in all essential phases of filmmaking:

– Developing an idea and writing a screenplay
– Creating a storyboard and mood board
– Organizing and conducting a casting process
– Planning and executing the film shoot
– Applying professional film equipment (camera, lighting, sound)
– Independently organizing and completing the post-production process

About didactics and workload distribution:

This is a project-based class without lectures. A group of students produce a film during the first 15 weeks of the semester. Each student has a clear role as part of the project crew.

Requirements for participation

* Students must also take the course "Image Composition"

Course language:

English

Type of exam:

Project participation and completion of the project

Requirements for credit point allocation:

Regular participation in the preparatory meetings, a clear role in the week of filming (camera, lighting, sound, directing, production management, set design, Post Supervisor, etc.); successful completion of the film.

Literature:
Literature and manuscripts about storytelling, storyboard and filmmaking. Also:
- Joachim Friedmann - *Storytelling for Media: Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Narrative Design*
- Blain Brown – Cinematography: Theory and Practice
- Kris Malkiewicz – Film Lighting
- Michael Geisler – Filmproduktion. Ein Handbuch
- Thomas Schadt – Regie führen

Course Name: Image Composition (Film Project)

Course language: English / German (support will be provided if needed)

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)	**Responsible Lecturer(s):** Christina Becker, Nathalie Mai

Workload: 150 h	**Lecture hours per week:** Project	**ECTS Credits:** 5

Course objectives:

- Image Composition 2 is the practical application of the theory taught in first semester Media Technology and includes drafting, development and filming of a short film. Students will have a look at the basics of picture aesthetics and the techniques of storytelling:

- How an idea is secured through a storyboard

- Developing & building a functional set design

- Understanding the principle of non-linear film making

- Getting introduced to light, camera and sound equipment

- The footage is recorded to be processed in a reduced post-production, including editing within industry standard software AVID & experimenting and experimenting with another layer of storytelling: sound design.

Contents:

Students work as a group with a screen play and develop a storyboard and a shot list. They rehearse scenes and are introduced to using cameras and the labs. They film their version of the story and complete the post-production.

About didactics and workload distribution:

Students meet with Christina Becker and the tutors at the beginning of the semester to discuss the story that is to be filmed and to be put into groups. They meet regularly as groups in their own time and have a set week for filming the story in May or November. They will receive a schedule for further meetings.

In preparation for the shot, each group will have a detailed introduction into light, sound and camera equipment as well as a mandatory safety briefing for working at the studio.

Please note some meetings for this project can involve students speaking German. Translation and additional language support will be provided.

Requirements for participation:

Beginner level: Interest (and possibly some experience) in film projects.

Type of exam:

Participation during the producing process. The grade is awarded based on the final film product.

Requirements for credit point allocation:

Regular participation in the preparatory meetings, a clear role in the film team (stage directing, production management, camera, lighting, sound, set design, etc.); successful completion of the film project

Literature:

Literature and Manuscripts about Storytelling and Storyboard

Course Name: Media Production Project

Course language: English / German (support will be provided if needed)

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)	**Responsible Lecturer(s):** Prof. Marco Grimm, Christina Becker

Workload: 240 h	**Lecture hours per week:** Project	**ECTS Credits:** 8

Course objectives:

The students implemente an audiovisual project with a live-on-tape format, utilizing a multi-camera system. This also includes a portion of the recordings being done as virtual production with the Unreal Engine and Green Screen.

Contents:

The project can be the transformation of a theatre play, a current staging production or a talk show into a film production or an interactive (real engine, games) production. The Media Production Project is organized as a large project with different sections and is divided into section leaders and teams for production, recording, directing, picture technology, lighting, sound, staging technology, camera, dramaturgy, editorial, trailer, making of and catering.

About didactics and workload distribution:

This is a project-based class without lectures. A large group of students prepare a film or TV project during the first 15 weeks of the semester and then spend a week in the Production lab. Each student has a clear role as part of the project crew.

Requirements for participation:

Intermediate level: Some background in filming and experience in working on a film or television project.

Type of exam:

Project participation and completion of the project

Requirements for credit point allocation:

Regular participation in the preparatory meetings, a clear role in the week of filming (camera, lighting, sound, stage directing, production management, set design, TV presenter, etc.); successful completion of the film.

Course Name: Perception (summer semester only)

Course language: English / German, translation assistance will be provided

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)

Responsible Lecturer(s): Hans-Jörg Kapp

Workload: 150 h

Lecture hours per week: 4

ECTS Credits: 5

Course objectives:

The course enables the participants to discuss the emotional impact of a film sequence in perception-related.

Contents:

In addition to traditional story-related forms of film analysis the course explains cinematic design codes and techniques by analyzing the physiological principles of perception. By executing psychological (Gestalt Psychology), physiological and neurological theories participants are trained to recognize how technical and artistic means are used in order to achieve particular emotional reactions.

About didactics and workload distribution:

The course starts with lectures by Thomas Görne and Hans-Jörg Kapp and continues with presentations of film scenes analyzed by the participants. The lecture part will take place in English. The secondary literature is not completely available in English language, but certain exclusive texts are distributed to the English-speaking students.

Requirements for participation:

Intermediate level: Basic knowledge of film analysis

Type of exam:

Presentation and short report

Requirements for credit point allocation:

regular attendance; successful completion of the exam

Course Name: Short Cut (Film Project)

Course language: English *Screenplay & dialogue likely in German – translation and assistance will be provided

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)

Responsible Lecturer(s): Christina Becker, Nathalie Mai und Prof. Görne

Workload: 240 h | **Lecture hours per week:** Project | **ECTS Credits:** 8

Course objectives:

Students learn to be responsible for their own idea and for the successful completion of a project. As part of a small team, they learn to take responsibility for a team and define a clear role as part of the team.

Along a schedule for the whole semester students will produce their own short film with the support of lecturers and tutors of the labs.

Contents:

Starting the semester with a completed script, every student will choose a department to work in the realization of the screenplay. Camera, light & sound department will receive a detailed introduction to the equipment used as well as how to deploy it for storytelling purposes. In a professional postproduction workflow students will learn and use industry standard programmes.

About didactics and workload distribution:
- Every week meetings with groups and departments
- The schedule is distributed at the beginning of the semester and obligatory
- Students are encouraged to follow the schedule or seek out help self-dependent, either from fellow students or staff of the labs.

Requirements for participation:

Intermediate level – students should have completed small film projects.

Students must be able to work on their own as well as with a small team. They are responsible for their own timetable and for the completion of the project.

Type of exam:

Presentation of the end product at the end of the semester.

Requirements for credit point allocation:

Mandatory group meetings according to the schedule.

Successful completion of the defined project and presentation at the end of the semester. As part of a team, the student's role in the project must be clear and they must have a clear part of the presentation.

Literature:

Literature and Manuscripts about Storytelling/Storyboard/Film-Making

Course Name: Sound Design
Course language: English

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)	**Responsible Lecturer:** Prof. Thomas Görne

Workload: 150 h	**Lecture hours per week:** 4	**ECTS Credits:** 5

Course objectives:

Students learn to create film sound designs or to record music (depending on the semester: see below).

Contents:

The course focuses on technical and artistic aspects of sound design. Special emphasis is placed on music production or film sound. Generic topics: critical listening, applied analogue and digital signal processing, applied microphone technique, audio effect units, analog and digital sound synthesis, psycho-acoustic principles, perception of sound, applied room acoustics.

Special topics of music production: sound generation and radiation of musical instruments, basic instrumental recording, music-related stereo and surround techniques, use of filters, equalizers, dynamics and advanced effects, music mixing and editing, artistic principles of classical and pop music production.

Special topics of film sound: location recording, re-recording of dialogue and foleys, film-related stereo and surround techniques, distance perception and acoustical perspective, use of filters, equalizers, dynamics and advanced effects, mixing for TV and film; artistic principles of film sound design.

About didactics and workload distribution:

In the winter semester the main focus of the course is on music production; in the summer semester the main focus is on film sound. The course is held weekly and is accompanied by exercises in the sound lab.

Contact hours: 72 hours

Self-study: 78 hours

Requirements for participation:
Intermediate level: Basic knowledge of recording engineering

Type of exam:
Practical work (i.e., film sound design or music mix), presentation / colloquium

Requirements for credit point allocation:
regular attendance; successful completion of the exam

Course Name: Video Technology & Production

Course language: English & German - The introduction to the course and to the video lab is in German; translation support will be provided for non-German speakers. The project work can be in English.

Degree programme: Media Technology (Bachelor)	**Responsible Lecturer(s):** Prof. Dr. Marco Grimm, Nathalie Mai

Workload: 150 h	**Lecture hours per week:** 4	**ECTS Credits:** 5

Course objectives:

Students will be able to understand and work with different cameras and video equipment. The course has a technical focus, looking at the different technical aspects of filming.

Contents:

The course looks at digital video signals, digital film and television technology, High Definition Systems, equipment technology and studio technology.

About didactics and workload distribution:

This is a lab course with projects that are completed throughout the semester in teams.

Requirements for participation:

Intermediate level: Basic knowledge of video technology

Type of exam:

Oral examination with a presentation of the project completed during the semester.

Requirements for credit point allocation:

Successful completion of the lab projects and regular attendance.