

# FILM 4520-001 Fall 2023 16mm Cinematography

## Kevin Hanson, Instructor

Kevin's Office: Art 261, Phone 801-581-7428, Office Hours TBD in class, Professor Hanson is open to longer conversations by appointment.

**Hello All**, we're a week from the official beginning of classes on August 21st. Our course, Film 4520-001, 16mm Cinematography, is designated as an "In Person" course. In 2020 it was taught as a "Hybrid & IVC" class. Meetings took place on zoom though we were also scheduled to meet in-person in our classroom when possible. So, if there were an emergency this semester, we already have the resources to make necessary changes and press on. I am very much hoping and expecting that things will go well.

Masks are a first line of defense when you are around others, even if you are vaccinated. Masks will not be required on campus, however: it is important that our campus remain "mask-friendly." Those who still wish to wear masks are encouraged to do so, especially those at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. I may mask for part of the semester.

**Some elements of this course are already on-line and can be completed at your convenience**, you may begin working on them now. Finishing those on-line elements will allow you to check out and use equipment early giving you a jump start on completing your films. I want all of you to have every chance at success making your first project on motion picture film. Delays are typically the greatest challenge to success in this course. Those delays may take place because locations and actors are difficult to schedule or you may simply end up waiting longer than you hoped for finished film to return from the laboratories in New York and Atlanta. Grades in this course are almost entirely based on finishing work. If some students finish sooner than others it makes life easier for all who are still working. So, this year I am hoping to get many, if not all, of you ready to start shooting the moment the semester begins. To that end, I am going to provide you all with the resources that you will need to successfully shoot starting right now. Students who chose to do this last year completed their assignments well ahead of deadlines and were better able to manage unforeseen circumstances and small accidents and still finish on time.

Filmed assignments require a camera, tripod, and other pieces of equipment. There will be a special check out system just for us, I'll introduce you to the procedure for check out during our first two meetings. It will be essential that we stay in touch with each other. Look for messages from me in your university email. They may come via CANVAS or directly from my umail account to your umail account. Please look for and read all of them.

The Bolex cameras you will be using have no automatic functions. You will have to set up the camera for your eye manually, you will load your film manually, focus manually, expose manually, and unload your own film. There is a lot to learn. Some of you may start out better prepared than others but all of you will have new things to deal with and you'll learn new ways of dealing with things you thought you were already familiar with. Reading and video tutorials will prepare you to shoot. If you prepare early, you may shoot early and finish early regardless of

changes that take place before or during the semester. The very first thing I'm going to equip you with is a quick review of the principles of filmmaking. I have annotated Tom Schroepel's extremely simple text explaining the essentials of cameras and image making. When you've had a chance to read and understand this resource and others that are beginning to appear you'll have the opportunity to take un-graded quizzes. Passing all of the quizzes will earn you the right to shoot weeks ahead of other students. No waiting means better access to equipment and time to weather the delays that inevitably occur. I'll be there for you, but you could really do this yourself with a little guidance, that's what I hope to provide now.

**Please read/view each unit below and complete the accompanying quiz as soon as possible:**

[The Basics \(annotated\)2.pdf](#). It's an easy 20 minute read, then take the proficiency quiz #1

[Exposure](#), it's a dense 5 minute read, go slow, then take quiz #2

View <https://vimeo.com/263879054> on incident light readings, then read [Steps for taking an incident Light Reading](#), and finally read [Light Meter Checklist \(for instruction\)](#), then take the proficiency quiz #3, continue with quizzes 4 through 7.

**You will not be allowed to check out equipment until you've finished all seven required quizzes.**

There are two "optional" quizzes. If you're smart you'll take those too.

Below is most of the course outline, some details are yet to come. Check it out.

**Important Announcements First:**

**The Use of Face Coverings on Campus** is not currently required in most settings, however; masks are a first line of defense when you are around others, even if you are vaccinated. Masks will not be required, however: it is important that our campus remain "mask-friendly." Those who still wish to wear masks are encouraged to do so, especially those at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Whether we like it or not, it seems that face masks will be a part of our lives intermittently for some time to come.

**This is an in-person class**, you are expected to attend and I will periodically take roll, however; should you feel ill and elect not to attend class in-person no penalty will occur as long as you stay in touch with me through CANVAS's messaging and as long as you don't abuse that privilege.

There will likely be at least **one "working week" during the semester** in which you will be able to check out equipment, shoot, edit, etc. but there will be no in-person classes. We will discuss the timing of that "working week" in class.

Students not familiar with Canvas should look at the [Canvas Getting Started Guide for Students](#) which can be helpful.

**Film 4520:****Cinematography (16 mm filmmaking), Kevin Hanson, Instructor**

Kevin's Office: Art 261, Phone 801-581-7428, Office Hours TBD, Professor Hanson is open to longer conversations by appointment.

**Students Who Complete This Course Will:**

- (1) Apply basic principles of physics to focus images**
  
- (2) Apply simple mathematical formulas to achieve exposure in a totally manual camera**
  
- (3) Be comfortable and proficient users of motion picture camera(s) and incident light meters**
  
- (4) Be comfortable and proficient users of both negative film stock and filters that influence exposure and color balance**
  
- (5) Complete a 16mm film**

**Overview**

You will shoot two 16 mm film projects and prepare them for exhibition.

First, you will create a film using one roll of 16 mm film edited in the camera as you shoot, with titles. In order to achieve this goal, you will learn to expose film using an incident light meter, calculate your exposures, and shoot with an all-manual Bolex motion picture camera.

Second, you will create a more complex film using 3 or 4 rolls of 16mm negative film transferred to video, edited, finished, and posted or exhibited.

Both films will be exhibited in class. You may choose to exhibit one or both outside of class. At least one of those two projects will be prepared for public display and festival submission.

You may expect to incur expenses producing these films. Students usually spend at least \$300 on this course in addition to the course fee. The Film & Media Arts department underwrites a large part of the expenses incurred in production but does not cover the direct expenses of purchasing and processing film.

**Assignments**

[A more detailed explanation of assignments is available at the course's CANVAS page. Two examples are appended to this document.]

**There are proficiency quizzes that you need to pass in order to access equipment.** They are available now in order to make it possible for many of you to pass them early. Those who are ready will be able to shoot very early on, helping to eliminate congestion on the check out front that could slow us all down. Even if you don't shoot early you should think highly of your peers that do, they're making your life easier. For each passed proficiency quiz you'll receive a point that will initially be applied to your One Roll Assignment. Later, quiz points beyond the 25 points for the project may count towards extra credit.

**1. One Roll Assignment** – Due: (shot by September 12th) (projected September 21st) Shoot a short documentary or narrative project, drama or comedy, on 1 one-hundred-foot spool of 16 mm film. Make your editing decisions in camera and be particularly careful to get good exposures. Shoot your film as though it has little latitude and therefore not much room for error. This film will be shot without sync-sound or dialogue. You may not act in your own film because you must operate your own camera. Evaluation will focus on story, composition, focus, and exposure. An opening title for your project must be included on this roll. (20 points for completion as described [including in photo title, that is a title embedded in a picture] + 1 to 5 points for story)

**2a. Final Film Plans** – in your plan you will: 1. describe your locations and quote light meter readings from those locations (is power available?); you will choose and list your film and filter needs, you will produce planning documents of your own preference that adequately describe the movie and the shooting strategy. (5 points [for a complete plan])

**2b. Short Film Footage** – Due: (to the lab by October 5 through 17) (work transferred to project in class by October 24 through 31) Shoot 3 one hundred-foot spools of 16 mm negative film. You must again operate your own camera. Evaluation will be based on story, focus, exposure, and composition. An opening photo title for your project must be included in these rolls. (30 points for completion as described [including in photo title] + 1 to 5 points for story)

**3. Short Film Edit** – Due: November 7 through 9. Edit your short film footage. Create a final edited version of the picture portion of your short film project. (10 points + 1 to 5 points for enhancement of story)

**4. Sound Mix** – Due: November 14 through 16. Create a multi element soundtrack for your film. (10 points)

**5. Final Film Preparation** – Due: November 28th. Create a festival ready exhibition file and upload to private Vimeo or YouTube account. (5 points)

– You may earn 5 extra points if you create a sound track for your one-roll film in addition to the required track for your short film and prepare both for exhibition – Graduate students in 6520 are expected to create a sound track for their one-roll and prepare it for exhibition.

**Many readings**, including those you need for proficiency quizzes, are already available to you in the "files" section (as seen in CANVAS in the menu on your left).

**The Filmmakers Handbook is strongly suggested reading** - it's cheap, around \$5 and will make your life easier - it's a reference book that many filmmakers own so you can keep it without guilt, It's at: [https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?sts=t&cm\\_sp=SearchF-home--Results&tn=the%20Filmmakers%20handbook](https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?sts=t&cm_sp=SearchF-home--Results&tn=the%20Filmmakers%20handbook) and at: <https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/-9780452286788>

There's a Bolex Manual in files and this one (that may come up quicker) at: <https://www.manualslib.com/manual/1013867/Bolex-H16-Reflex.html#manual>

**\* The Grading Scheme will look like this:**

20– points	D-
25 – points	D
50 – points	C-
55 – points	C
60 – points	C+
70 – points	B-
75 – points	B
80 – points	B+
90 – points	A-
95 – points	A

**\* Please do not depend on CANVAS to calculate or predict your grade. CANVAS distributes points on auto pilot that may or may not reflect how you are actually doing. I will frequently go over grading information in class.** (students may earn over 100 points in the semester)

## **More Important Stuff**

### Content of Films

- Some of the films, presentations, or lectures in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Since most of the films we see this semester will be new to both the audience and the instructor there will be no practical way to predict which films (and which discussions following the films) might conflict with the individual values of each student. This is a workshop course involving the production of art and the feedback given to each student producer is essentially the text for this course and the reason most, if not all, of the student producers are taking the course. We will not be able to avoid talking about things that may make all of us uncomfortable.

– Consider carefully the nature of this course before committing to taking it. Bear in mind that your fellow students and the instructor have no way to make an informed decision about which films or comments might be a problem for you.

### Accommodations

\* The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

## **Your Safety**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](https://safeu.utah.edu) ([Links to an external site.](#)).

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

# Proficiency Quiz #1 "The Basics"

**Due** Aug 22 at 11:59pm      **Points** 15      **Questions** 15  
**Available** after Aug 12 at 6pm      **Time Limit** None  
**Allowed Attempts** Unlimited

## Instructions

Please read and review the unit below and complete the accompanying quiz as soon as possible:

[The Basics \(annotated\)2.pdf. \(https://utah.instructure.com/courses/889039/files/149955477/download?wrap=1\)](https://utah.instructure.com/courses/889039/files/149955477/download?wrap=1) It's an easy 20 minute read, then take the proficiency quiz #1

This is proficiency quiz #1. You must get all fifteen answers correct in order for the quiz to speed you on your way to early equipment access. You can take it as many times as you need. Obviously you could simply try answers until you succeed, however; if you do that you will harm no one but yourself. You don't want to get back unfocussed, incorrectly exposed, or damaged film. It takes too long to recover from those mistakes. Read the material again.

\*\*Your score will show up in "Assignments" as a "15" but it won't, by itself, add to the total of 90 points you need for an "A." However a score of 15 will count towards extra points you get for completing online readings, tutorials, and proficiency quizzes before the beginning of class

[Take the Quiz](#)

68 You are currently logged into Student View

*Resetting the test student will clear all history for this student, allowing you to view the course as a brand new student.*

[Reset Student](#)

[Leave Student View](#)

# One Roll (your first roll of film)

**Due** Sep 12 by 11:59am      **Points** 25      **Available** after Aug 12 at 12am

1. One Roll Assignment – Due: (shot by September 13th, though many of you with proficiency will finish before this date) (projected September 27, or earlier) Shoot a short documentary or narrative project, drama or comedy, on 1 one-hundred foot spool of 16 mm film. Make your editing decisions in camera and be particularly careful to get good exposures. This film will be shot without sync-sound or dialogue. You may not act in your own film because you must operate your own camera. Evaluation will focus on story, composition, focus, and exposure. An opening title for your project must be included on this roll. You must observe safe shooting practices. (20 points for completion as described [including in photo title] + 1 to 5 points for story)

Ignore the note below from CANVAS that says you're submitting nothing. You will submit your developed film to the lab for shipment to Atlanta (color) or New York (black & white).

6d **You are currently logged into Student View**

*Resetting the test student will clear all history for this student, allowing you to view the course as a brand new student.*

[Reset Student](#)

[Leave Student View](#)