FDMA 2996 Post Production Editing

UNM-Valencia, Art Studio and Film & Digital Arts, Fall 2025

ONLINE COURSE

Professor: Jonathan Sims | Jsims01@unm.edu
Class time & location:ONLINE
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11am - 2pm on-campus* *and virtual by appointment
*see "How to Contact the Instructor" below for more info
Office: B&T Building Rm. 114
Zoom Office Hours Link: Inquire for link Meeting ID:
Cell [*for text only, please*]: 505.681.4009

Land Acknowledgment: UNM-Valencia is located on the traditional and ancestral Pueblo people and is unceded. This region holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this area. I acknowledge their connection to this land, and give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, and learn on their traditional homeland.

A note: Since 2020, the U.S. has experienced both the emergence of a global pandemic and the painful consequences of long-endured violence against the BIPOC community. These events have caused, and continue to cause, fear, stress, and pain for many members of our community, and will continue to impact each of us in various ways for times to come. Under these circumstances, it is completely normal to feel overwhelmed or anxious, and to have difficulty concentrating. I have designed this course with these challenges in mind, and am committed to continuing to work with all of you to create a positive and supportive learning environment. If your health, well-being, or school work are being impacted, I offer support services and resources in this syllabus and will meet with you anytime to discuss it as well. If your needs are not being met in any way, contact me and I will help you find services that will meet your needs as best I can.

Credit-hours: This is a three credit-hour course delivered in-person for 16 weeks. Class meets for five hours of direct instruction per week for the semester. Please plan for a minimum of 4 hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, open lab, projects, and class preparation) each week.

Course Description

Post-Production Editing focuses on the art and techniques of editing digital video content. Students will learn how to use industry-standard video editing software to transform raw footage into polished and engaging video projects. The course covers essential editing principles, workflow, and creative storytelling techniques. Through hands-on projects, students will gain practical experience in video editing and refine their skills in crafting compelling visual narratives.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate proficiency in using video editing software to assemble, manipulate, and enhance video footage.
2. Understand the principles of video editing, including pacing, rhythm, and continuity.
3. Apply storytelling techniques to create coherent and impactful video narratives.
4. Evaluate and critique their own and others' edited video projects.
5. Develop problem-solving skills to overcome post-production challenges.

Student Responsibilities & Course Policies

- **Health and Awareness**: UNM-Valencia is a mask friendly community if you are not feeling well. If you are experiencing any illness symptoms, please do not come to campus. Even without a positive test for any illness (covid, flu, etc…), if you feel sick, please stay home, rest and **take care of yourself first**. If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me (see "How to Contact the Instructor" section); I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. UNM-Valencia faculty and staff know that there is a complete life for you outside of your class and on-campus time. Please let us know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources.

- **Affirmed/Preferred First Name**: As part of its commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning, living, and working environment, the UNM-Valencia Campus recognizes that many people prefer to use a name other than their legal name to identify themselves. Here is a general website for it- https://oeo.unm.edu/resources/preferred-name.html.

- **AccessAbility Policy:** I can and want to make appropriate accommodations that will support you in this class by collaborating with you and the Equal Access Services at UNM-Valencia, 505-925-8560 or call/email any of the Advisors.. It is important that you take the initiative to inform me of your accommodations needs, as I am not legally permitted to inquire. In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor and/or Equal Access of the need for an accommodation.

- **School/Life Conflict:** Many of you face obstacles to your education as a result of work or family obligations or unforeseen personal difficulties. If you are experiencing challenges throughout the semester that are impacting your ability to succeed in this course, or in your undergraduate career more broadly, please reach out to me immediately so that we can work together to form a plan for your academic success. Reach out to me at anytime to discuss this!

- **Caregiver Responsibilities Policy:** I have great respect for students who are balancing their pursuit of education with the responsibilities of caring for children or other friends/family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss class or if your caregiving responsibilities are interfering with your ability to engage in this course, please contact me. I can be flexible and support your learning!

- **Citizenship and/or Immigration Status**: Everyone is welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM-Valencia as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on the UNM-ABQ campus website: http://undocumented.unm.edu/.

- **Course Conduct:** I am committed to creating a learning environment where diverse perspectives are recognized and valued as a source of strength. I request that all students work with me to create a class culture based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. As a class we will approach all discussions with curiosity, respect and civility. Disagreements and debates in academic discourse are expected and welcome, but personal attacks are never OK and will not be tolerated. I strive to ensure an open and welcoming classroom for all students. If I ever miss the mark, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We are all learning together.

- **UNM Email/CANVAS Access**: All UNM-Valencia students will be required to have a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: http://it.unm.edu/accounts/. UNM Net ID will give you access to the

computer labs on campus, Canvas and UNM Email.

- **Computer & Internet Policy:** Students will need to have access to a computer with **high-speed Internet** for this course. If you do not have access to a computer with high-speed internet at home, I want to help! UNM-Valencia and UNM-ABQ have implemented **laptop checkout options**.
  - If you are a **UNM-Valencia student** and you need access to a laptop, please contact the UNM-Valencia Library at :http://valencia.unm.edu/library/index.html
  - If you are a **UNM-ABQ student,** you will need to fill out this form: https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/summer-2023-laptop.pdf and send it to avdept@unm.edu. For more information on computer checkout and wifi access for UNM-ABQ Campus, visit this website: https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/student-tech-access.html.
  - **ALL students can request** access to a LoboVirtualDesktop. Here is the website: https://lobovirtualdesktop.unm.edu. Fill out the online form. This virtual desktop is a work-in-progress, and you would need a decent computer and internet connection to make this work. But, it would give you access to a variety of UNM owned software.
  - Students should have basic computer and file management skills for all courses, especially online courses. If you are struggling with these, reach out to tutoring and support services (see support section on syllabus).
  - If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me!
  - All students, whether online or in-person (or in-between) are able to access the computer labs on the UNM-Valencia Campus and the UNM-ABQ Campus regardless of where you are taking classes.

- **Access to internet**: The UNM-Valencia Campus has great wifi if you are on campus. UNM-ABQ does too- see this login info. This is a great list of internet options for qualifying households. This is an ABQ listing and map of wifi hotspots. If you still need access off-campus and do not have the resources, please reach out to me, Student Services, or any other faculty and staff.

- **Computer Lab Responsibility**: Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM-Valencia and UNM-ABQ properties is governed by "Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use" which can be found at http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.

- **Title IX:** Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM-Valencia faculty are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member must be reported by that faculty member to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html

- **Academic Integrity and Honesty:** Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University. You are capable of meeting my expectations for this course! The arts are such a personal, unique experience for each person, and your story and how you choose to share it with the world are so important! If you are concerned about how well you are doing in this course, please reach out to me instead of considering academic misconduct.

Participation

Student participation is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. Course participation and attendance is key to mastering skills and successfully completing projects. You are adults and I expect you to be motivated to grow your knowledge and abilities by engaging in coursework. You are still held responsible for all academic work required regardless of weekly participation and attendance. Class participation influences your grade heavily. Participation includes:

- You should complete all projects on time (to your best ability), participate in scheduled critiques/class discussions, and maintain a safe, respectable, positive online environment.

- You are required to attend class and be prepared for each weeks work.

- If you do not attend the first week of class you may be dropped.

- You will need to work a few hours each week in addition to the scheduled class times.
-

Grading Policy

- Grading is based on completion of course work and projects, the quality of your individual technical and critical development, and a personal commitment to your work. Personal commitment involves regular participation, consistent effort, completion of work, participation in critiques and class discussions and the general willingness to try. Make each project meaningful to yourself!

- Each assignment will culminate in a critique, which will consist of pinning up your work. Being prepared for these critiques, both with your completed work and your readiness to participate in the discussion surrounding your and your peers' artwork issuer meaningful part of the process of creating art. Attending the critique, even if your project is incomplete/late, is extremely important.

- If you are submitting work past the posted deadline, it is super important that you communicate your circumstances with me so that we can work out a plan for you to grow and succeed in this art class!

- Incompletes are rarely issued. If 75% of the semester's work/deliverables and participation have been completed with a satisfactory grade, and incomplete may be issued.

Grading Breakdown

Semester Requirements:

- Projects 50 points
- Quizzes. 20 points
- Final Project 30 points

Extra Credit: 05 points

Extra Credit will be offered throughout the semester for various points at a maximum of 10 points for the entire semester. Points will be added up and a letter grade will be issued according to this scale to the right:

A+	101+
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	50-59

How to Contact the Instructor

Zoom Link: Zoom link will be provided

During office hours, Zoom will be available for us to connect. If you would like to meet, please send me and email or text prior to or during office hours. If you are trying to Zoom in and I am not responding, please text me and let me know!

Email:

Email can be sent through UNM email (jsims01@unm.edu). PLEASE: in the subject line, write the class number, for example – "ARTS 1210". I will check email regularly and plan to respond to emails/messages within 48 hours/2 business days. At some points in the term, my inbox gets quite full, but I do want to hear from you! If you email me and don't hear back from me within two business days, please send a follow-up email. I will appreciate the gentle reminder.

Phone:

I am not available via phone call for this course. But, you can text me (no calls please) to my personal cell phone if needed at anytime: 505-681-4009. This and Remind are probably the best way to contact me for fastest response.

Office Hours:

Wednesdays 11am - 2pm on-campus, and virtual by appointment

Support Information, Resources, & Tutorials

UNM-Valencia Campus provides extensive academic supports for students, and these supports are there to support you to achieve the academic success you are truly capable of. Most students access them at some point in pursuit of their degree. **There is no shame is seeking help!** I have provided a list of the academic support offices offered by UNM-Valencia below.

Open Studio Time:
- Located in B106 Studio/Classroom: Times and hours TBD.

Support for UNM Canvas:
- https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html

UNM-Valencia Tutoring Services:
- Custom tutoring services are available through The Learning Commons. Even online tutoring is available!

Instructor Support:
- Please see "How to Contact the Instructor" for methods of contacting the instructor for help.

AccessAbility & Equal Access:
- UNM-Valencia's accessibility/ADA compliance
- UNM-Valencia's Equal Access Services

Mental Health and Counseling Services: All of us need a support system, and many students benefit from the use of counseling services. I know I do! UNM-Valencia has mental health counseling as part of the PASOS Recourse Center. Also, here is a list of services available in Valencia County and around the state: https://valencia.unm.edu/students/student-resources/index.html. UNM ABQ Students have access to mental health counseling via the Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) Center.

Supplies

Required:

- Video editing software. FCP, ADOBE, Da Vince

Optional:

- External Hard Drive

Dates	Schedule	Projects
Week 1	• Introduction to Video Post-Production • Understanding the role of post-production in the filmmaking process • Overview of video editing software (e.g., Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro) • Basic principles of non-linear video editing	Online discussion
Week 2	• The Language of Editing • Understanding the grammar of film editing • Analyzing the impact of shot composition and visual storytelling	• Online content
Week 3	• Continuity Editing and Match Cuts • Principles of continuity editing and maintaining visual coherence • Exploring match cuts and creative transitions • Editing a dialogue scene with continuity in mind •	• Hands-on Exercise 1 -Editing a dialogue scene
Week 4	• Pacing and Rhythm in Editing • The role of pacing in creating mood and emotion • Techniques for adjusting rhythm and tempo in editing • Hands-on Exercise 2: Experimenting with pacing in a short video •	• Hands-on Exercise 2: Experimenting with pacing in a short video
Week 5	• J and L Cuts, Split Edits, and Sound Design • Using J and L cuts to enhance storytelling • Understanding split edits for seamless transitions • Hands-on Project 2: Incorporating sound design elements in a video	• Hands-on Exercise 3: Incorporating sound design elements in a video
Week 6	• Narrative Editing Techniques • Understanding the principles of narrative construction through editing • Analyzing classic and contemporary narrative film editing • Hands-on Project 3: Editing a short narrative film	• Hands-on Exercise 4: Editing a short narrative film
Week 7	• Special Effects and Visual Enhancements • Introduction to visual effects (VFX) and compositing • Enhancing visual quality through color grading and correction •	• Hands-on Exercise 5. • Working with graphics

Week 8	• Editing for Different Platforms and Formats • Adapting video content for various platforms (e.g., social media, web, television) • Understanding aspect ratios and video formats • Platform-specific edits •	Online content for viewing.
Week 9	• Documentary Editing • The unique challenges and techniques in documentary editing • Storytelling in non-fiction filmmaking • Hands-on Project 4: Editing a short documentary film	• Hands-on Exercise 6: Editing a short documentary film
Week 10	• Collaboration and Feedback • The role of the editor in the collaborative filmmaking process • Providing and receiving constructive feedback on editing projects • Peer review and discussion on video editing exercises	Online content - Discussion with an editor.
Week 11	• Editing Iconic Scenes and Analysis • Analyzing iconic scenes from classic and contemporary films • Reconstructing and interpreting the editing choices made by directors and editors • Group discussion and presentation on selected scenes	
Week 12	• Editing for Emotion and Impact • Understanding the emotional impact of editing choices • Techniques for creating tension, suspense, and emotional connection • Hands-on Exercise 5: Editing a scene to evoke specific emotions •	• Hands-on Exercise 7: Editing a scene to evoke specific emotions
Week 13	• Advanced Editing Techniques • Advanced editing techniques such as time manipulation and multi-camera editing • Hands-on Exercise 6: Applying advanced editing techniques to a project •	• Hands-on Exercise 8: Applying advanced editing techniques to a project
Week 14	• FINAL PROJECT - MUSIC VIDEO EDIT. • Using provided footage and music, create a music video edit.	• FINAL PROJECT - MUSIC VIDEO EDIT.

Week 15	• Course Wrap-up and Conclusion • Reviewing key concepts and skills learned throughout the course • Evaluating personal progress and setting future goals in video post-production • Final Q&A and farewell •	
Week 16	• **Final Exam**	**Final exam**

Project 1: Editing a dialogue scene

Objective:
Using provided footage, match edit dialogue.

Consider: Matching action and eye lines.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link

Project 2: Experimenting with pacing in a short video

Objective:
Using the footage provided, create a sequence and re-cut it to make the pace quicker to meet time requirements.

Consider: The pace of the video, look for places you can save time, especially in dialogue.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Project 3: Incorporating sound design elements in a video

Objective:
Using provided footage and audio, edit a video sequence with the purpose of adding music and sound effect elements.

Consider: Music choice, sound elements to coincide with graphics and choice of dialogue audio.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Project 4: Editing a short narrative film

Objective:
Using footage provided, cut a short narrative film sequence.

Consider: Pace and story. You control how the story is told.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Project 5: Working with graphics

Objective:
Using graphics provided, create an opening sequence and motion graphic video.

Consider: You will need to make graphic ready for video using alpha channels and masking concepts.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Project 6: Editing a short documentary film

Objective:
Using footage provided, cut a short documentary sequence of 5min.

Consider: You will be given more footage than you need, choose what to cut and what to keep, use broil effectively. You will need to add music and add graphics.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Project 7: Editing a scene to evoke specific emotions

Objective:
Taking the footage provided, cut a sequence that evokes the Noir genre.

Consider: Create a video that fits a certain style of film. Pay attention to pace and tone.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Project 8: Applying advanced editing techniques to a project

Objective:
Create a video that includes the use of green screen material and includes time changes such as slo motion and time re-mapping.

Consider: What is the movie you put on the clean the house or for background noise? What film would you watch with commercials?

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.

Final Project: FINAL PROJECT - MUSIC VIDEO EDIT.

Objective:
Using the footage provided cut a music video.

Consider: Editors are often given a ton of material and asked to create something, this is your task. Do what you like with the material provided using concepts taught in class.

Process:
Edit and export as mp4 and upload to canvas or email link.