| **Contact Information:** Jessica K. BrownsteinJBrownstein@tc-nyc.org |
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Dear Film 10 Students & Families:

 I hope you’ve all had a wonderful and restful summer vacation, I want to welcome you all to Film 10. This year will be an opportunity for you to transition from photographers to narrative filmmakers.

 Last semester, many of you showed an incredible capacity for working and communicating professionally with others, while responsibly and ably operating expensive cameras. This year you will analyze the effects and structure of narratives, as well as learning the necessary skills needed for directing and blocking actors. This will culminate in you shaping, writing, and generating your own narrative in the form of a non-sync sound Screenplay, which you will produce into a film in the Spring semester.

*Why Film?* It’s a question I hear in various forms from some of you when you’re frustrated, or when you’re genuinely questioning the validity of instruction in this subject. Why do we consider this an important subject for you to learn and base this school around? By examining films, the ones that really matter to you and capture both what your life is like, and also what you want your life to ***be*** like, we hope that you will learn how to write and conduct yourselves in ways that will help you mold your **reality**. When you are writing a film, you are creating a universe; you are ***godlike***. Writing a story lets us create scenarios we’d like to be in, have confrontations we can’t openly have, speak the way we wish we and others could speak, and above all, when we’re at our best, bring focus on the problems we want solved, while imagining their solutions.

Unlike *most* other types of art, filmmaking is a collaborative medium and requires us to learn how to work well with others. This is a skill that you’ll have to use throughout your adult lives. You won’t always like the people you work with personally, but you’ll have a cause or project you care about and will have to learn how to use the strengths of each person on your team to bring it to fruition. This is the very essence of leadership.

The focus of the beginning of this semester is on acquiring the necessary skills to analyze film. By learning how films are structured, you will, in turn learn how to structure and craft your own stories.

I hope you will keep this idea of effective and meaningful communication not only through this unit and the next, but also throughout your lives. If you find yourself struggling with some of the tasks we’ll be tackling this year, that’s a good thing! It tells me that you care and that you’re thinking critically. I consider this letter my promise to you that I will be open to your thoughtful feedback and appreciative of your work. All I ask in return is that when you come to this class, you come ready to listen and get to the day’s work. I will do my best to make this work worth your time and effort.

**Outline of the Fall Semester**

* Unit 0: Course and technology overview
* Unit 1:Mise En Scene & Color Theory-From Analysis to Creation
* Unit 2: Scene Structure and Screenplay FormatI
* Unit 3 – Intro to Screenwriting and Write a Non-Sync Narrative Screenplay

**Shooting & Editing:**

Throughout the first 4 units, and through most of the Spring semester, we will have regular shooting challenges where we will review, practice, and learn new skills with the Canon T3i you learned last year. These shoots will require excellent time management, planning, and teamwork.

Some of these projects will also require editing, using Adobe Premiere, in order for us to continue honing your skills with this powerful and professional editing software.

**Outline of the Spring Semester**

* Unit 1: From Photography to Filmmaking- Shooting a Scene
* Unit 2: Pre-Production
* Unit 3 – Production
* Unit 4-Post Production

Throughout the second semester, students will focus on applying their work on analysis, visual communication, collaboration and cinematography in order to create and promote their non-sync narrative films.

**Grading Policy**

**20% -** Performance Tasks – Including Shoots, Edits, Screenplays, and Screenplay Format, as well as Directing & Blocking Exercises.

**30%-** Assessments: Includes several “Do Now” quizzes throughout each Unit. Be prepared!

**35%-** Classwork and Participation: Includes class discussions/participation, preparedness, conduct, completeness of viewing sheets and class activities.

**15% -** Homework: I don’t assign much, which is why completion is essential.

| ALL classwork, projects and class notes are posted in Google ClassroomStudents may, at any time within the semester, return to a previous lesson to add enhancements and receive a better grade on any lesson or project.  |
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