

Film Studies Senior Production Thesis Guidelines

The Senior Production Thesis Guidelines have been developed with the goal of insuring that the focus of the thesis is on the process of filmmaking, both as an educational experience and as a means of demonstrating the creative and technical skills of the student producing the work. The guidelines address three main aspects: film production, film promotion and thesis evaluation.

Production

The roles that are most influential and determine the vision of the final work are those of the director and editor and therefore the thesis student is solely responsible for directing and editing the film. In addition:

- At a minimum, the student must also co-produce the film.
- While it is highly encouraged, thesis students are not required to write the screenplay. If the thesis student does not write the screenplay, the student must demonstrate that he/she has the rights to use it and the screenwriter must receive on-screen credit. The writer of the screenplay must be a currently enrolled Trinity College undergraduate.
- All crew members must be currently enrolled college undergraduate students. Professionals or alumni may not serve as members of the crew.
- Unless special permission is received in advance from the Director of the Film Studies Program, students must shoot their films with the equipment provided by the Film Studies Program (or equivalent equipment owned by the student) and within a 50mile radius of the Trinity College campus.

Promotion

It is also important that students are prepared with the skills needed to promote their final work. Thus, students must also create the content that is required to submit the film to a film festival. The creation of these materials is to be the sole responsibility of and the sole effort of the thesis student. The following materials must also be submitted with the finished film:

- Signed release forms for all cast and crew.
- A log line (3 lines maximum) and a medium length description of the film.
- A movie poster (24x36) design, which the thesis student must design and execute using appropriate software (ex. Photoshop, Illustrator).

- A press kit consisting of a director's statement and 4 production stills.
- A budget showing a full accounting of all funds spent in the production of the film.

Evaluation

The evaluation process is designed to provide adequate time for a fair evaluation of the film and its accompanying materials. Films and accompanying materials will be evaluated in terms of creative and technical achievement. The following deadlines related to the evaluation process must be met:

- The deadline for submitting the completed film and all accompanying material is 1 week before the last day of regularly scheduled classes in the term in which the film is produced.
- The film and its accompanying materials will be evaluated for a grade by two members of the faculty associated with the Film Studies program. The thesis advisor may not serve as an evaluator. In consultation with the thesis advisor, these evaluators must be identified and agree to serve as evaluators and the names provided to the director of the Film Studies Program within 2 weeks of the beginning of the term in which the film is produced. An evaluator must be a full-time faculty member who is associated with the film studies program and must have taught a course which could have been taken for credit toward the major.