



SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

**Graduate Prospectus
MFA in Film & Television
2015-2017**

**Department of Communication
School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Shiv Nadar University
P.O. Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida,
Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. 201314
Tel: (0) 120 3819100
W: www.SNU.edu.in

MFA in Film & Television, Department of Communication, SHSS

In order to earn a Master’s Degree in Fine Art in Film and Television at SNU, students are expected to gain 52 credits over a period of four semesters. The Credits are spread across a bouquet of Core and Departmental Electives from among which they can choose. Each student must complete a total of 8 Core courses and 4 Electives. An outline of the options available each semester are given in the table below.

MFA COURSE STRUCTURE — Total Credit Requirements are 52 over 4 Semesters			
SEMESTER 1			16 CREDITS
Course Code	Course Name	Description	CREDITS
	Core Courses	All 3	12
	Art of Image	Fundamentals of Visual Imagery and Still Photography	4
	Audiography – I	Introduction to Sound Theory and Practice	4
	Screen Writing – I	Principles Guiding Dramatic Writing	4
	Departmental Electives	Any 1	4
	Sound Sense	Art and Aesthetics of Sound	4
	Cinema Between Two World Wars	Evolution of Cinema as an art form during the two wars	4
SEMESTER 2			12 CREDITS
Course Code	Course Name	Description	CREDITS
	Core Courses	Any 2	8
	Cinematography	Principles and Practice of Digital Cinematography	4
	Audiography - II	Recording, Designing and Mixing of Sound	4
	Principles of Editing - I	Exploring the Grammar of Cinema	4
	Screen Writing – II	Writing for Film and Television	4
	Departmental Electives	Any 1	4
	Cinema vs. Television	Exploring Variations in Screen Craft	4

	Masters of Cinema	Study of Great Directors and Their Films	4
SEMESTER 3			12 CREDITS
Course Code	Course Name	Description	CREDITS
	Core Courses	Any 2	8
	Directing Narratives/Fiction	Making a Short Fiction Film	4
	Directing Documentary/Non-Fiction	Making a Documentary Short Film	4
	Directing For Multi-camera Television	Learning Multi-camera Production	4
	Principles of Editing - II	Theory and Practice of Editing and Post-Production for Cinema and Television	4
	Departmental Electives	Any 1	4
	Proposal Writing, Pitching and Fund Raising	Learning to Sell Your Idea for a film	4
	Art Direction	Story Boarding, Set Construction and Design	4
SEMESTER 4			12 CREDITS
Course Code	Course Name	Description	CREDITS
	Core Courses	Any 1	8
	Narrative Film Project (Thesis Film)	Final Film Project — Fiction	8
	Documentary Film Project (Thesis Film)	Final Film Project — Documentary	8
	Television Series (Thesis Project)	Final Television Project	8
	Craft Specialization	Instead of Directing choose a craft	8
	Departmental Electives	Any 1	4
	Visual Effects and Grading	Compositing and Colour Correction	4
	Regional Cinema	Studies in Vernacular Films of India	4
	Film and Feminism	Feminist Film Genre Theories	4

Please note that the Departmental Electives are subject to change in keeping with developments in thinking and practice within the industry.

MFA (Film & Television)

Course Description

Year One

SEMESTER-I

Course Name: Art of Image

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: The course is designed to give the foundation for building of fundamentals of Cinematography...the Art and Craft of executing Motion Picture Imaging. It starts with Still Photography. It takes you step by step into appreciating and practicing the principles of visual design which govern any 'still image.' The key concepts practiced here are framing, composition and visual literacy. Students also learn the basic of a digital still image in terms of exposure, optics and the digital science. They go through the history of visual art culminating with the photo chemical photography and its gradual marginalization into a pure art form.

The second half of first semester is devoted to laying foundation of high end Motion Picture Imaging for use in film making.

Course Name: Audiography-I (Introduction to the art of sound)

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: Aim of this course is to provide an overall understanding of sound and its nature in audio-visual medium by studying the expressive power of sonic elements like voice, music and sound effects and their dramatic impact in cinema and television. This course will encompass the study of theory and principles of sound recording and designing as well as introductory hands on training in different stages involved in the production of professional soundtracks for audio-visual programs that will lay the foundation for advanced study and practice of the same in the following semester.

Course Name: Screenwriting-I

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:2:1)

Course Description: Students are introduced to cinema as a storytelling medium. Elements of the screenplay, including Premise, Theme, Plot, Character, Structure, Scene Design and Dialogue are studied with a view to understanding how the form of the screenplay can be used to tell a story effectively. The dramaturgy of well-crafted films is analyzed in class, via a deconstruction of their screenplays. Students also learn to discover stories, within themselves as well as in the wider world that they inhabit. They are encouraged to form

their own world-view in order to tell stories that are unique. They begin their journey as storytellers via writing exercises and class assignments.

At the end of this semester, students will emerge with an appreciation of the importance of storytelling in cinema, an understanding of the principles of screenwriting, and the basic skill to write a screenplay. Each student will write the screenplay for a 10-minute film, complete with dialogue.

SEMESTER-2

Course Name: Cinematography

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: The objective of this course in Semester 2, is to enter the realm of core Cinematographic practice both in fiction and non-fiction. Students start learning on entry level Cinema cameras. They learn how to take complex shots and the logic of apparent continuous action to deliver a unit of filmmaking called 'Scene'. They learn Movement in Cinema an enhance their skills to communicate precisely with the Visual language of Motion Pictures. They also learn the Technology of current Motion Picture and its challenges.

In the second half of Semester 2, the emphasis shifts from functionality to creating a mood and believability in Cinematography. Key concepts of Lighting in Cinema is introduced. Along with acquiring basic skills of lighting students learn use of elements of Colour and Production Design. Emphasis is given on appreciating and understanding the aesthetic of Cinematography in itself. Students learn to deliver effective Cinematography for Short Films.

Course Name: Audiography – II

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: Sound theory Sound Practice

In this semester we shall learn the techniques as well as study the underlying principles of digital audio recording, editing and mixing for cinema and television. The aim will be to provide in-depth theoretical knowledge, practical experience by means of short lectures and practical sessions comprising of following exercises:

1. Recording on location for film and television
2. Recording inside studio(Dubbing, V.O., Music)
3. Cleaning and editing of recorded tracks using latest software
4. Sound designing(Track laying, editing and pre-mix) for a given video

Final mixing and taking output.

Course Name: The Principles of Editing-I

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: This course will enable students to

- Generate an overall understanding of how moving images interact to create meaning and emotion.
- Understand concepts like *Montage*, *Decoupage* and *Mise-en-Scène*.
- Get an overview of how editing played an important role in the development of narrative techniques over time.
- Develop an understanding of how images in shots, shots in scenes and scenes in sequences all fit into the story arch and the role each one plays in building the narrative or theme.

This course will be largely lecture-driven using film clippings. Seminar-discussions, short film and full-length film screenings will be used to supplement the theory discussed. The course is designed to be student-led and driven where participation is vital to the learning process. Learning outcomes and evaluations will be mainly through presentations, seminar and term paper submissions. The largest objective is to generate an understanding of the broad strokes that govern the impact that films have through the analysis of technique in selected masterpieces of world cinema.

Course Name: Screen Writing - II

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:2:1)

Course Description: The screenwriting instruction becomes more in-depth during this semester, with classes focusing on films with more complex stories, themes, characters and structures. Students begin working with stories that have the dramatic potential for full-length feature films. Students also study various genres of films. This semester also sees students turning their attention towards the mechanics of writing for television. Students learn to use principles of drama to create stories for this powerful medium. Various kinds of fiction and non-fiction television shows are studied to gain an understanding of the distinctiveness of the medium.

By the end of this semester, students have a deeper understanding of the narrative, across film and television, and have begun discovering their own, individual inclinations as screenwriters and filmmakers. Each student will write a 4-page story for a feature-length film, and develop a concept note for a television show.

YEAR TWO

SEMESTER-3

Course Name: Directing Narrative

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: This course is an intensive exercise in all the departments of film production. From script to Screen. It's objective is make students capable to control the medium of film production, by way of exploring the craft. In order to tell the story aesthetically, the course will emphasize on the job and role of a director in a narrative film, which encompasses all the crafts for execution and guidance.

Film in its true sense in a collaborative art and medium, hence the course will discuss the relationship of a director with numerous state holders who are responsible to make the film from technicians, script writer to actor. The course will familiarize with the body of work done by master craftsmen in the field of of film making by screening their work, reading about them and critiquing them. The course will familiarize the distinct style and different approaches to film making.

Course Name: Directing Documentary

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: The course focuses on producing and directing short documentary. The course will emphasize on non-fiction field production. The class combines theory, history and practice of documentary film making. Hands on training, screening of various genres of documentary, discussion and lectures will be part of the course.

Special emphasis include on research, pre-planning and writing skill. At the end of the semester students produce/direct a short film 5-10min.

The basics of film language are studied in class and practiced in film exercises. The documentary exercise is meant to capture real life characters and their environment candidly. Student will learn how to treat and approach the documentary subjects as a visual story teller and what stylistic approach is most appropriate for their subject.

Course Name: Multi-cam Television Production

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: The course will deal with the modern digital T.V. Production in multi - cam set up of T.V. Studio. Students will be familiarized with the studio system in order to understand the functioning of *signal chain* from multi-cam studio floor to Production

Control Room (P.C.R.). Students are expected to understand and perform every role that the television studio has to offer. Students will learn the basics of television pre -production, production, direction, video-switching and online editing. Emphasis will be laid on studio communication system so that each members can understand and implement studio commands quickly, effectively and correctly. Various crew functions will be rotated so that every student is able to fill all studio positions. Students will also be trained in producing and directing live shows.

Students work in teams, each team is responsible for at least one complete production. In addition each student serves in various crew positions for the other productions.

Course Name: The Principles of Editing – II: The Art and Craft of Motion Picture Editing

Course Code:

Credits: 4 (L:T:P — 1:1:2)

Course Description: This course will look at the processes that work at the heart of the magic of cinema – the Art of Editing. It manifests itself in transitions like cuts and dissolves, choreography of movement and stasis, split-second timing or modulations in pace, the interplay of image and sound; of light, colour and graphic elements. This course will address the job of building those skill-sets that go into suturing motion and sound into great cinema. The course will enable the student to Recognize aspects of the various techniques and devices used in scene construction (mise-en-scène) in shots and learn how to handle them. Understand the intricacies and interaction of narrative and screen time.

Hone aesthetic sensibilities when looking at form and movement, colour and contrast, sound and silence.

Learn software skills to execute the processes that go into building sequences that create a narrative structure to fit the story arch using a combination of theoretical lectures, lecture-demonstrations with software, short and feature-length film screenings with discussions and video tutorials. Technical white-papers and manuals published by the related technology companies will have to be read and discussed, along with textbook references.

SEMESTER-4

Course Name: Directing - Thesis TV Show

Course Code:

Credits: 8 (L:T:P — 1:3:4)

Course Description: The final or thesis project in multi-cam T.V. Production is divided into pre-production and production. Pre-production is essential to the success of every project. During pre-production phase student will work towards project development which will start with working on final script of a drama or comedy. Each student will participate in the writing of 8-part television series and finally direct one of the episodes.

Students are expected to spend a great deal of time outside of class organizing scripts and rehearsing their production. During pre-production student will work on floor plan, furniture

and props under the supervision of a faculty mentor. They will prepare a book containing the diagram of character blocking, camera placement and movements, lighting plans and sound cues.

Screening, discussion and critique of national and international T.V. shows will be the part course.

Course Name: Directing - Thesis Film (Documentary)

Course Code:

Credits: 8 (L:T:P — 1:3:4)

Course Description: The main focus of this course is on producing and directing short documentary. The course will emphasize on field production, the class combines theory, history and practice of documentary film making. Hands on training, screening of various genre of documentary, discussions and lectures will be part of course.

Special emphasis includes primary research, recce, pre-planning and writing skill.

At the end of this semester students produce and direct a documentary film of 30 Min. duration on HD video format.

The basics of the film language are studied in class and practiced in film exercises. The documentary exercise is meant to teach the director to use the camera to capture life as it happens.

How will you approach it as a visual story teller? What stylistic approach is most for your subject.

Course Name: Directing - Thesis Film (Narrative)

Course Code:

Credits: 8 (L:T:P — 1:3:4)

Course Description: The culmination of 4 semesters of study, training and production experience will result into the thesis film. This will be an opportunity to take on a project at more advance level to translate from script to screen. Working closely with faculty mentor, students develop shooting script, cast, and plan and direct the shoot of a fiction film. Students work in collaborative team and alternate crew roles.

Course Name: Craft Specialization

Course Code:

Credits: 8 (L:T:P — 1:3:4)

Course Description: Upon the successful completion of 3 Semesters students have an option, if faculty committee allows, to opt for craft specialization in any one of these - Cinematography, Sound Recording & Design or Editing. Instead of directing their own thesis film, they have to work on negotiated number of thesis films or video projects in the capacity of cinematographer, sound recordist or editor, depending upon their craft of specialization.

Students who elect this option will have equipment privileges according to their areas of specialization.

Evaluation and Review

The procedure for evaluation will be a mix of **Continuous Assessment, Proficiency Test** for the courses which has skill building component, **Seminar** and **Term papers** for the courses which are theoretical in nature and **Review** by peer and review committee for media products.