



Department of Art
Doucette Hall 113 • 215 Meadville Street • Edinboro,
PA. 16444
phone: (814) 732-2406

TEACHING OBSERVATION

By Dietrich Wegner

I observed Brian Fuller's Film 1 class October 24, 2019. This is the first film course primarily populated by 2nd semester freshman and sophomore animation and film students. This course provides these students with a solid foundation in the use of film recording equipment, video editing software, and the basic concepts of film construction. As the professor, Brian Fuller serves as a mentor, purveyor of technical instruction and as critic during the students' introduction to film.

Professor Fuller began class promptly at 9am with an overview of what the students should expect in their first hands on interaction with sound recording equipment. He administered this synopsis in a brisk and efficient manner through pointed step by step questioning of his class. Mr. Fuller managed to simultaneously remind students about the purposes of each piece of highly technical equipment while checking the students' retention of information that had clearly been delivered previously. The speed and depth of the information he covered in this summary kept the students highly alert. His constant questioning into why each piece of equipment mattered and how it functioned clearly insured that the whole class stayed involved in the discussion. In discussing the chain of how a series of audio equipment was to be assembled, he asked a student what cable hooks up to a mic, how many prongs it should have and why that number of prongs mattered. The student called on was able to reply that the XLR cable was the appropriate cable and that it needed three prongs, two for carrying the audio and the third to ground the wire so there would be no feedback in the audio recording from the mic. After a basic outline of what is involved in sound capture was concluded Professor Fuller moved on to listing potential problems that might occur during recording. He followed each of these possible pitfalls with a prioritized list of solutions while reminding his students to "keep it simple". In covering the challenge of insufficient audio levels he reminded his students to remember they could move the mic closer or ask the actors to speak louder and if those methods failed then turn up the levels. At the conclusion of these discussions the students went to the equipment room, checked out audio equipment and gathered in the film recording studio. Here they had an opportunity to set up the audio equipment and implement and explore the concepts covered in the earlier discussion.

From my observation it is clear to me that Brian Fuller is organized and skilled at enabling student learning. He has a complete understanding of the concepts with which he is charged with delivering. Students regard him with respect, and appear to enjoy their time in his class. We are fortunate to have such a competent professor to guide and educate our students.

Sincerely,

Dietrich Wegner
Associate Professor of Art