
Teaching observation for Brian Fuller
Prepared by Bradford Pattullo

I observed Professor Brian Fuller's ART 456 (Narrative Filmmaking) class on Thursday, October 27th. This is a senior level studio class and the capstone experience for students in the PennWest Edinboro film program. The students in this class act as a production crew and one narrative film is produced over the course of the semester, with each student taking a different role in production and post-production. There were nine students present. On this day the crew was supposed to have had a "visual lock" on their film but they didn't. A visual lock of the class film would have been color corrected with a fine-tuned edit, but their production wasn't yet to that point; Professor Fuller expressed disappointment at this as students took their seats. The class began with Fuller showing a clip from *Citizen Kane*; he instructed students to listen to the audio. He played the clip several times, asking questions of the class and building on their answers. The topic of this discussion was sound recording, editing, and mixing. Through a very entertaining and engaging back-and-forth with the class, Professor Fuller was able to emphasize the importance of overlapping dialog, and he presented techniques for making on- and off-screen speakers seem closer or further away from the listener. He also discussed the concept of "J-cuts" and "L-cuts", cinematic terms for edits that contains dialogue from a previous or subsequent shot. Also during this discussion, Professor Fuller was able to casually demonstrate his impressive knowledge of film history.

After the screening, Professor Fuller wrote the topics of discussion on the white board. During the first topic of discussion, which was "client satisfaction", he discussed the group's inability to have a visual lock for their film. He impressed upon them the importance of meeting deadlines and reflected on the events in the production that had led to this point, and how to move forward. He emphasized the collaborative nature of film production, which led into a brief discussion of career paths within this field. Professor Fuller then had one of the students share their screen so they could work as a group on the edit of the film, heavily emphasizing the audio. The class was engaged and they clearly knew what was expected of them. The student who was doing the editing really knew his way around Adobe Premiere, our main editing software. I took my leave as the editing of the film seemed destined to continue for some time.

Respectfully submitted,



Bradford A. Pattullo
Professor of Art, Animation