



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY “NEOFIT RILSKI” – BLAGOEVGRAD

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FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art

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MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM

Film and Television Directing – Professional Track

INFORMATION PACKAGE

For the Use of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

The educational model is aligned with leading European arts academies. Students in the Department of Television and Cinema Art receive modern, accredited training within Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs that are well-balanced between theoretical and practical disciplines. Emphasis is placed on fiction and documentary cinema, television genres, experimental cinema, contemporary media forms, and theatrical performance.

Instruction is delivered by established directors, screenwriters, and professionals recognized nationally and internationally, many of whom are award recipients and jury members at prestigious festivals.

Master’s Degree Program in Film and Television Directing – Professional Track

This Master’s program is designed for individuals with a relevant academic background and professional experience. The goal is to prepare highly qualified professionals with the degree of *Master in Film and Television Directing*, equipped for careers in electronic media and audiovisual production in Bulgaria and beyond.

Graduates may find employment in public and private television networks, film studios, advertising agencies, production houses, and educational film production companies.

The director plays a pivotal role as the creative interpreter of the screenwriter's vision. Working collaboratively with artists and technical specialists, the director is responsible for the artistic and technical realization of an audiovisual work. This requires both extensive cultural knowledge and proficiency with contemporary cinematic and media technologies.

The academic process encourages initiative and creative expression. Students develop critical thinking and practical skills through course assignments and real-world projects. Instruction is complemented by disciplines in screenwriting, visual storytelling, actor direction, staging, scenography, production, editing, sound, and music.

Training also includes media economics, marketing, and advertising design. Graduates are well-prepared to work in competitive professional environments and may pursue entrepreneurial ventures within the media and audiovisual industries.

The curriculum includes both theoretical and practical coursework. Students may also elect classes in pedagogy, psychology, and team-based production methodologies.

Graduate Competencies

Graduates of the program are fully qualified to:

- Work as directors in film and television (fiction, documentary, short forms);
- Assist in the development and execution of audiovisual productions;
- Operate in dynamic production environments, including commercial and public media sectors;
- Lead or contribute to independent and collaborative creative projects.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

/the ECTS manual of the European Committee is used/

Subject: Film and TV directing – Masters program FOR 2 SEMESTES

First semester	ECTS	Second semester	ECTS
Directing in Documentary film	6,0	Directing in Fiction Film	6,0
TV Directing	4,0	Producing	4,0
Contemporary dramaturgy	4,0	Exam	15.0
Optional disciplines		Optional disciplines	
<i>Elective Courses – Group I (Choose 4)</i>		<i>Elective Courses – Group II (Choose 2)</i>	
Visual Style in Cinema and Television	4.0	New Trends in Film Directing	3.0
Theory of Directing	4.0	Post-Production in Fiction Film	3.0
Post-Production in Documentary Film	4.0	Music in Screen Forms	3.0
Practical Training	4.0	Modern Technologies in Film and TV	3.0
Contemporary Scenography	4.0	Pedagogy of Professional Training	3.0
Special Effects in Film	4.0		
Philosophical Theories. History	1.0		
2 Semesters: 60 Credits			

Compulsory Courses

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM FILM AND TELEVISION DIRECTING Master's program for specialists - 2 semesters COURSE DESCRIPTION

DIRECTING IN DOCUMENTARY FILM

ECTS credits: 6,0

Weekly horarium: 3 hours of lectures, 3 hours of exercise

Knowledge check form: c.a./ current assessment/

Type of exam: practically

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Prof. Irina Kitova, PhD

Course outline:

The course "Directing in Documentary Film" provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge about the essence of documentary film, work in television and the phases of forming the finished audiovisual work from the idea to its final implementation. The training includes revealing the specific features of the documentary film and its difference from other types of cinema, clarifying the components that make up the documentary narrative, with particular attention paid to the living person as the object of film research. The different genres and their features are clarified. During the learning process, attention is also paid to new television forms - talk shows, reality shows, etc. In practical exercises, students will try to master the principles of building a logical, clear and emotional film narrative using the means of documentary film.

TELEVISION DIRECTING

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 2 hours of exercise

Knowledge check form: c.a./ current assessment/

Type of exam: practically

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Principal Assistant Petar Rusev, PhD

Course outline:

The course on "TV Directing" covers the specifics of the different television genres and forms. Concept and purpose of a television program. Selection of a presenter. Relationship between director, editor, presenter, artist. Directing a live broadcast. Types of TV productions. Work of the director in a studio or mobile equipment with a multi-camera shooting method. Cooperation between the director and the director on the console. Team interactions and professional standards.

CONTEMPORARY DRAMATURGY

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 3 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Principal Assistant Ivan Vladimirov, PhD

Course outline:

The discipline traces the metamorphoses in the perception of the objective visual world and the creation of subjective artistic images and the evolution of the screen image through dramatic means of expression. Contemporary forms of building the film narrative through nonlinear structuring and the use of various media, as well as newly emerging genres and trends, are also covered.

DIRECTING IN FEATURE FILM

ECTS credits: 6,0

Weekly horarium: 3 hours of lectures, 3 hours of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: practically

Semester: II

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Prof. Stanimir Trifonov, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Irina Kitova, PhD, Principal Assistant Ivan Vladimirov, PhD

Course outline:

The course "Directing in Feature Film" provides students with knowledge and skills for the director's work on a feature film - from the script to the mishung. Through theory and practice, they will delve into the very essence of the creative process and interaction with the actor and will become familiar with the ways - creative and technical - in creating a film unit from the overall structure of film production in the modern film process.

PRODUCTION

ECTS credits: 3.0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 2 hours of exercise

Knowledge check form: written

Type of exam: exam

Semester: II

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Prof. Stanimir Trifonov, Ivo Nikolov, PhD

Course outline:

The training in the course includes studying the basic rules, standards and principles in the production of an audiovisual work.

Subject connections with other courses. Production builds on the complex training of the film and television director. As an essential area of competence, the production of any audiovisual work or product is naturally linked to all specialisation disciplines relating to the directorial profession, regardless of the field of production.

ELECTIVE COURSES

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM FILM AND TELEVISION DIRECTING Master's program for specialists - 2 semesters COURSE DESCRIPTION

VISUAL STYLE IN CINEMA AND TELEVISION

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 2 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: practically

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Prof. Stanimir Trifonov, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Irina Kitova, PhD, Principal Assistant Ivan Vladimirov, PhD, Principal Assistant Petar Rusev, PhD

Course outline:

The course "Vision in Cinema and Television" examines the specifics of visual interpretation in various directions and cinematographies, introduces master's specialists to the peculiarities of film and television language. Specialists study the basic principles of the theory of cinema and television, the technique for their implementation. The emphasis is on the unity and specificity of form and content, models for the implementation of artistic ideas are studied and the creation of new visual models and approaches is stimulated, the main starting points in the plasticity of the screen image are formulated and independent thinking and visual taste are provoked.

THEORY OF DIRECTING

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 2 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Irina Kitova, PhD

Course outline:

The course "Theory of Directing" includes an initial set of knowledge about the expressive and visual elements and components of the film, about the communicative process, about audio-visual media, about the spatio-temporal arts, the place and role of the director in the creation of an audiovisual product. The discipline should develop visual and emotional memory, creative observation, the ability to tell stories through action, word and picture. The emphasis is on the fundamental difference between a film, a television product and other audiovisual forms and formats. Students are introduced to the diversity of contemporary searches in cinema and television.

DOCUMENTARY FILM POST-PRODUCTION

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 2 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art
, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Topalova, PhD

Course outline:

The course includes an introduction to the basic concepts related to the principles of working with documentary and archival material, interview editing, and a voiceover test. The different specifics of the individual forms and the features of the editing and post-production of the documentary film are examined. Students become familiar with the specific features of this very last part of the production of the film product in its two main components - picture and sound.

PRACTICE

ECTS credits: 4,0.

Weekly horarium: 2 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: practically

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Principal Assistant Petar Rusev, PhD

Course outline:

The course "Practice" aims to build skills related to the organization of production and the management of a film crew. Students of "Film and TV Directing" must learn to build a number of skills related to good professional communication, organization, creative approach during preparation, discipline during preparation, photography and post-production.

MODERN SCENOGRAPHY

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 2 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Principal Assistant Maria Onteva

Course outline:

The course includes studying the processes and methods of creating theatrical, film and television scenography, the design and implementation of theatrical and film costumes, the design and implementation of details and accessories in props, weapons and other special components participating in the overall visual spatial-plastic image of scenography.

SPECIAL EFFECTS IN CINEMA

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 2 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: practically

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Krum Ivanov, PhD

Course outline:

The course includes studying the theory of special and combined shots for cinema and television, practical classes to master the basic methodologies for working with special effects and their integration into the general screen plasticity.

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORIES. HISTORY

ECTS credits: 4,0

Weekly horarium: 3 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodological guide: Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Silvia Krasteva, PhD

Course outline:

The discipline "Philosophical theories. History" is an elective. The course traces the most influential and fundamental philosophical teachings for contemporary thinking and society. The leading representatives of existential philosophy with the key themes of human existence and the meaning of life and being are examined. The innovative philosophical teachings of phenomenology, philosophical hermeneutics, philosophy of language, and communication theory are introduced, all of which have become highways of contemporary scientific knowledge and ideas about man and society. The course also presents for consideration the most current areas that make sense of the post-global world and the rapid progress of technologies in the field of digitalization and artificial intelligence.

The topics raised about the design and self-understanding of man in modern times, new methodologies of communication, the instrumentalization of language, and interdisciplinarity are deeply related to the subject area of the program and the disciplines studied. They deepen students' understanding of man in the modern world, of his projections and of the search for new social and cultural discourses and technologies in the global civilization paradigm.

NEW TRENDS IN FILM DIRECTING

ECTS credits: 3,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II.

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Irina Kitova, PhD

Course outline:

The course "New Trends in Film Directing" will allow students to gain in-depth knowledge of the development of cinema and the profession of director in the last 20 years. Students should become familiar with the new trends that are moving the film language forward and gain knowledge about the aesthetic experiments and styles of the world's leading schools and directors. To become familiar with the principles of building a film work in Europe, Latin America, the Far East /Korea, Taipei, Hong Kong, China and Japan/, with Iranian cinema and the cinema of the Balkans.

FEATURE FILM POST-PRODUCTION

ECTS credits: 3,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Topalova, PhD

Course outline:

The course includes an introduction to the basic concepts related to working with feature material - space, time, dialogue, sound dramaturgy. The main concepts related to the principles of working with the construction of an episode, montage phrase, overall construction of works - feature and television are examined.

MUSIC IN SCREEN FORMS

ECTS credits: 3,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: practically

Semester: II

Methodological guide: Department of Music, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Valeri Pastarmadzhiev, PhD

Course outline:

The course covers basic musical concepts and terms, the principles of original music necessary to support the students' creative work in the direction of adequate selection and construction of the musical score of the film work. Within the framework of this course, students will become familiar with musical terminology, techniques, style decisions in order to build a musical culture, taste and knowledge that will support them in their future creative activity.

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN CINEMA AND TV

ECTS credits: 3,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: practically

Semester: II

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Krum Ivanov, PhD

Course outline:

The course covers basic technological stages that mark qualitative progress and influence not only the audiovisual production process, but also expand the corpus of expressive means and possibilities in cinema, television and digital media.

PEDAGOGY OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

ECTS credits: 3,0

Weekly horarium: 1 hours of lectures, 1 hour of exercise

Knowledge check form: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II.

Methodological guide: Department of Television, Theatre and Cinema Art, Faculty of Arts

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Irina Kitova, PhD

Course outline:

The discipline covers the most important aspects of professional training, in which the orientation towards practicing what has been learned, towards improving the acquired knowledge and skills through action, combined with an active, fulfilling and shared experience is recommended. This also applies to more routine activities on the part of students such as watching, listening, reading, presenting, including within the framework of lecture courses and classes. It is these new functional responsibilities that place students in new roles – as performers, as active actors in various professional positions, as partners of the teacher and their colleagues. This is also important for the future successful professional realization of students, as this will also be conducive to the development of skills and abilities for self-actualization in professional contexts and in the conditions of a dynamically developing professional field – not only cinema, television, but also the music industry, advertising, as well as new digital and virtual media.