

ASSESSMENT REPORT (REGULAR TEMPLATE)

NAME OF YOUR PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT/MAJOR OR MINOR/CERTIFICATE
<INSERT HERE>

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 - 2020

REPORT DUE DATE: December 4, 2020

This is our regular assessment template.

Given the unusual circumstances of the 2019-2020 academic year, each program/department/major/minor/certificate has two options of assessment:

- (a) Usual assessment report based on this template OR
- (b) Alternative assessment reflections on distance learning pivot based on the alternative attached template

Every program/department/major/minor/certificate can choose ONE of the two alternative reports to submit

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- **Who should submit the report? – All majors, minors (including interdisciplinary minors), graduate and non-degree granting certificate programs of the College of Arts and Sciences.**
 - **Programs can combine assessment reports for a major and a minor program into one aggregate report as long as the mission statements, program learning outcome(s) evaluated, methodology applied to each, and the results are clearly delineated in separate sections**
 - **Undergraduate, Graduate and Certificate Programs must submit separate reports**
 - **It is recommended that assessment report not exceed 10 pages. Additional materials (optional) can be added as appendices**
 - **Curriculum Map should be submitted along with Assessment Report**

Some useful contacts:

1. Prof. Alexandra Amati, FDCD, Arts – adamati@usfca.edu
2. Prof. John Lendvay, FDCD, Sciences – lendvay@usfca.edu
3. Prof. Mark Meritt, FDCD, Humanities – meritt@usfca.edu
4. Prof. Michael Jonas, FDCD, Social Sciences – mrjonas@usfca.edu
5. Prof. Suparna Chakraborty, AD Academic Effectiveness – schakraborty2@usfca.edu

Academic Effectiveness Annual Assessment Resource Page:

<https://myusf.usfca.edu/arts-sciences/faculty-resources/academic-effectiveness/assessment>

Email to submit the report: assessment_cas@usfca.edu

Important: Please write the name of your program or department in the subject line.

For example: FineArts_Major (if you decide to submit a separate report for major and minor);
FineArts_Aggregate (when submitting an aggregate report)

I. LOGISTICS

1. Please indicate the name and email of the program contact person to whom feedback should be sent (usually Chair, Program Director, or Faculty Assessment Coordinator).

Danny Plotnick, Program Director dplotnick@usfca.edu

2. Please indicate if you are submitting report for (a) a Major, (b) a Minor, (c) an aggregate report for a Major & Minor (in which case, each should be explained in a separate paragraph as in this template), (d) a Graduate or (e) a Certificate Program

A Minor

3. Please note that a Curricular Map should accompany every assessment report. Has there been any revisions to the Curricular Map since October 2019?

Yes. It is attached. All that has changed are some of the course numbers which were updated in curriculog in Fall 2020.

II. MISSION STATEMENT & PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Were any changes made to the program mission statement since the last assessment cycle in October 2019? Kindly state “Yes” or “No.” Please provide the current mission statement below. If you are submitting an aggregate report, please provide the current mission statements of both the major and the minor program

Mission Statement (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

Mission Statement (Minor):

The Film Studies minor at USF is a liberal arts-based program that combines film practice and film theory. In today’s media landscape, being able to tell a story in 3-5 minutes with video and audio is an essential skill for artists, activists, journalists, citizen filmmakers and creative professionals. Our program teaches students how to analyze historical and contemporary film movements, as well as how to use the tools of the trade to create their own personal works, and to be creative and innovative storytellers in their own right.

The Film Studies Minor works within, and is infused by, the USF Jesuit mission, which stresses ethical decision-making and promotes social justice goals. Students graduating from the program should not only demonstrate a deep understanding of media in contemporary society, and be able to create short video works; they should also reflect the University’s social justice mission in their concern about the ethical values of the media system and its role in serving human needs.

2. Were any changes made to the program learning outcomes (PLOs) since the last assessment cycle in October 2019? Kindly state “Yes” or “No.” Please provide the current PLOs below. If you are submitting an aggregate report, please provide the current PLOs for both the major and the minor programs.

Note: Major revisions in the program learning outcomes need to go through the College Curriculum Committee (contact: Professor Joshua Gamson, gamson@usfca.edu). Minor editorial changes are not required to go through the College Curriculum Committee.

PLOs (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

PLOs (Minor):

No changes made to the PLOs.

Program Learning Outcomes Film Studies

- a. Students should develop an understanding of the language of film.
- b. Students should be able to analyze and critically discuss the aesthetic quality of contemporary videos and films and should understand the formal and rhetorical devices to understand film language on its own terms.
- c. Students should gain an understanding of film as artistic expression and understand how film communicates ideas through image and sound.

3. State the particular Program Learning Outcome(s) you assessed for the academic year 2019-2020.

PLO(s) being assessed (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

PLO(s) being assessed (Minor):

Learning outcome #3:

“Students should gain an understanding of film as artistic expression and understand how film communicates ideas through image and sound.”

III. METHODOLOGY

Describe the methodology that you used to assess the PLO(s).

For example, “the department used questions that were inputted in the final examination pertaining directly to the <said PLO>. An independent group of faculty (not teaching the course) then evaluated the responses to the questions and gave the students a grade for responses to those questions.”

Important Note – WSCUC advises us to use “direct methods” which relate to a direct evaluation of a student work product. “Indirect methods” like exit interviews or student surveys can be used only as additional complements to a direct method.

For any program with fewer than 10 students: If you currently have fewer than 10 students in your program (rendering your statistical analysis biased due to too few data points), it is fine to describe a multi-year data collection strategy here. It would be important to remember that every 3 years, we would expect you to have enough data to conduct a meaningful analysis.

Important: *Please attach, at the end of this report, a copy of the rubric used for assessment.*

Methodology used (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

Methodology used (Minor):

For each project, students receive extensive feedback in the form of raw footage critiques, rough cut critiques and final critiques. They receive feedback from their fellow students and from the instructor. After each critique session, students have the opportunity to incorporate the feedback that they receive into the cuts of their film. Students can receive more feedback at any time during the post-production process by attending office hours.

Each film is critiqued in the following five areas.

1. Is the **Story** unique and told in an effective way? Taken into consideration are the following.

- Is the story unique?
- Is the plot clear? Can we tell what's happening in the story?
- Is there underlying thematic content?
- Is there a discernable arc to the story?
- Is there a beginning, middle and end?

2. Is the **Cinematography** effective? Taken into consideration are the following.

- Is the film well shot?
 - Is the film well composed?
 - Is the film well lit?
 - Is the film in focus?
 - Are the compositions comfortable?
- Does the style of cinematography help tell the story?
- Did the student shoot enough material/coverage to support the story?

3. Is the **Sound** effective? Taken into consideration are the following.

- Has the production sound been recorded in a clear and audible manner?
 - Is there any level of sound design? If so...
- Are the levels good in the mix?
- Does the sound design help tell the story?

4. Does the **Edit** strategy serve the story? Taken into consideration are the following.

- Does the editing scheme support the clarity of the story?
- Does the edit strategy serve as a storytelling device?

5. **Effort.** Taken into consideration are the following.

- Did the student work hard on the film?
- Did they re-shoot if necessary?
- Did they work hard in the edit to overcome production problems?
- Did they spend enough time in each stage of production?
- Did they incorporate the feedback received during critique into their final film?

For the assessment, each film is rated on a scale from 1-4 for the above categories. A narrative analysis is also attached to each category. The scale is as follows:

- 4-Excellent
- 3-Above Average
- 2- Average
- 1-Below Average

IV. RESULTS & MAJOR FINDINGS

What are the major takeaways from your assessment exercise?

This section is for you to highlight the results of the exercise. Pertinent information here would include:

- a. how well students mastered the outcome at the level they were intended to,
- b. any trends noticed over the past few assessment cycles, and
- c. the levels at which students mastered the outcome based on the rubric used.

To address this, among many other options, one option is to use a table showing the distribution, for example:

Level	Percentage of Students
Complete Mastery of the outcome	8.7%
Mastered the outcome in most parts	20.3%
Mastered some parts of the outcome	66%
Did not master the outcome at the level intended	5%

Results (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

Results (Minor):

Here are the notes on the assessed projects.

I have assessed one class from Spring 2020 and one class from Fall 2019.

At the end of this section, I have included a table that summarizes the findings.

Intro To Video - Spring 2020 - Final Project

Story – Score 4

I really like how you've told this Pandemic story. Yes, it is about the Pandemic, but it is also very much about you and your mother, and your maturity as a young person. It shows that familial bond, and it shows how you are approaching the world we live in. Additionally, I like how it works as a companion piece to your narrative. Your directorial voice emerges in these two films.

Cinematography – Score 4

The film looks great. I like that you were able to get your hands on the DVX. Your compositions are great. We feel the solitude and the empty space, but we also feel the beauty. We see the beauty that you talk about. The sunset out the window, the night time shots, the rain. It all looks great through your lens.

Editing – Score 3.5

I love how the film has come together. You had to play with the length. You want enough time and open space for this film to breathe, but you don't want it to overstay it's welcome. I think you have hit a fine balance. I like those family photos at the end. That was a really nice touch that elevated the film in the final act.

Sound – Score 3

The production sound was great and I love all the song choices. You create a lot of mood with the music. Nice work there. The place you need to spend a little time with is the sound edit and the sound mix. As discussed in class, I think that news report is a bit loud, as is the last song. There is a lot of clipping at the audio edits. You need to smooth those out. And, as we discussed, the sound edit when you Mom says. "██████, I love you. Bye" is odd. That is maybe more of a picture edit than a sound edit issue, but it's an area you need to address. Touch those up and you have a great film that speaks to the moment.

Effort – Score 4

██████, great work all semester long. I appreciate how hard you have worked and how active you have been as a participant in class.

Grade A

████████████████████
Story – Score 3

██████, I really like this story. I like hearing the story of your family and seeing the generations of your family come together over food. As discussed in class, I think there is more emotion to be mined in this film. We talked about some structuring that may help your story come across in a more impactful fashion.

Cinematography – Score 3

The film looks very nice. The shots of the food are compelling. I like the interview set-ups with each of your family members. They all seem relaxed on camera and look and come across in a nice fashion. What is missing is the family together. This is a film about togetherness, yet everyone exists in their separate universes. You need to get that last bit of broll where we see your family together, and that will also help the emotional impact of the story.

Editing – Score 2.5

Right now the story is assembled for clarity. I understand what is happening in the film, but the emotion is not coming across to the extent that it can. As discussed in class, I would try for a slight different structure. Start with you Mom and let's here her talking about your grandmother in an emotional way. Then you dad can make the food, and then everyone comes together and eats the food. That will have more impact. Once you get that structure in place, you can figure out where your brother fits in the mix. I could see him working in a couple of different spots. I also don't love the way some of the b roll fits in. I think it can play a little more smoothly over the interviews. I also don't love the picture-in-picture look of some of the photos. Also, work on centering the subtitles.

Sound – Score 3.5

The sound is nice. I like the quality of the interviews and I like how you've incorporated the music. That is all nicely done.

Effort – Score 4

██████, I appreciate all your hard work over the semester, your positive presence in class, and how much you talk about your classmates' work. Great job.

Grade B+

████████████████████
Story – Score 4

This is such a personal, emotional story. I love how much you and your girlfriend were willing to open up on camera. That honesty is refreshing. I know that everyone in class was moved by the film, and I think that will be the case with any audience that sees the film.

Cinematography – Score 4

The film looks great. The shots are composed really nicely and I like the interview set up. I also like how you came up with a very distinct visual style that feeds into the emotional nature of the film. Using the Super 8 look gives the film a personal home movie feel, like we are being given a glimpse deep into someone's life. Also, since a lot of the b-roll is home movies, using the Super 8 feel fits really nicely with the modern home movies you present. The look is really nice.

Editing – Score 3.5

The film is strong as is. You could be done and people will really like it. I have this nagging feeling though, that you either need to give your girlfriend more time, or cut down your time just a bit, or give her more b-roll. There is a visual/editing difference to how you handle each of you. I think you may want to balance out the treatment. However, given that this film is a gift from you, you can balance it more to your words since it is a love letter to your girlfriend. I would play around with the cut just a bit to try some things out.

Sound – Score 4

The film sounds great. I like how the interviews are recorded and the music works perfectly. The mix is very nice.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, I love how invested you were in this film. It is clear that you were passionate about this project. I'm really happy with how it turned out, especially since you were not entirely pleased with the first film. Great work.

Grade A

Story – Score 3.5

██████████, I really like this story. I like that you also changed up your story when you realized your brother wasn't giving you what you needed. That was a smart move. Your sister is really an engaging character. I think you can still better establish the importance of school for her. If you do this, the film will have more emotional resonance.

Cinematography – Score 2.5

I feel that the color and lighting on your original shoot were problematic. I like your decision to go b&w, but I still want more visual pop from a film about fashion. The film is visually a little flat. I might even spend a little more time color grading and get a more contrasty b&w. More white. It feels a little gray.

Editing – Score 3

I think you can do some more work at the edit level to elevate the film. Big key is to make that desire for college more clear. It is buried amidst a bigger conversation. Give it some space. And then when it is revealed she gets into the school of her choice, play with the timing of the text. You steal her thunder with that current placement. Also, at times, you can open up the edit. You often crash one thought into the next. Give us some gaps to allow the emotion and the story to sink in. I really like your color overlays as ways to add pops of color to your film. Play around with that some more. Subtitles – make them bigger, make them two lines if need be. I really love the ending. That is beautifully cut and I like the split screens. Focus on the editing prior to that point.

Sound – Score 3

I like the sound. The interview is clean. A little more space in the editing will help make it clearer at times.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, I love the energy you put into this project and the class in general. Your presence has been really nice in the class.

Grade B+

Story – Score 4

██████████, I love that you chose to shine a light on your community. This is a really well-written, informative, heartfelt piece. As a filmmaker, one thing you can do is shine a light on under represented communities – and that is what you did here.

Cinematography – Score 3

I love all the shots that are here. I love that you used the mobility of the iPhone to capture images from the car. I really like the compositions with the stark/empty streets. The pandemic allowed you to get some striking images in this regard. I do wish there was a greater variety of images however. One more type of image would really have helped elevate the film and create a greater variety. You talk so much about your community, but given the empty streets, we don't see them that much. The film is about giving voice to and bringing a community into the light – I want to see them a little more. You start to do this, with the close-ups (loved those), folks doing agricultural work, the guy with the food cart. More of this style would enliven things.

Edit – Score 3

You've done a nice job of editing what is here. If you had another round of images, you would have been able to build your essay in a slightly different way. As discussed in class, there is a shift in tone in the film when we start to see those close ups. It feels as if we are going to get more up close and personal with the townspeople of Indio. But after we get a taste of that, there is a reversion to the empty streets and photography from a car window. With another type of footage, you could continue to transform the footage and the film in the latter half of the piece. Your film calls out for that. What I would also say is, if you can't get those types of shots in the short term, go get those this summer and add those faces and voices to your film – when people are back on the streets.

Sound – Score 3.5

I think the sound recording is very strong. As mentioned, I wouldn't mind hearing some other voices. Again, this notion of bringing more elements into the film. Cesar Chavez's voice would be a great one. The voices of the agricultural workers, the townspeople. That would also help elevate as well. Again, I know you are limited at this moment, but you could pull that from the web if need be.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, it has been a joy having you in class this semester. Not only do you work hard on all your projects, but all of your insights into other people's films shows that you really care about your fellow classmates. Grade A-

Story/Editing – Score 3.5

██████████ This is a really nice piece. I like how the narrative clarity has improved with each subsequent cut. It was evident in the initial audio cut, but then got lost in the first cut with the picture. Too much similarity in the broll throughout made the narrative harder to track. In the final piece, you did a great job structuring the 3 acts of the doc and using the broll to guide us through the film. Really nice work. It shows the challenges of editing a doc, of finding and shaping the story in the edit room. I appreciate all the cuts you gave to me, so we could really track the progress of the film.

Cinematography – Score 3

I love that you were able to put together a film primarily with footage you didn't shoot. The footage you did shoot looked really good. I like that you used the mobility of the iPhone to give the film some energy. I wouldn't have minded a little more broll of your friends in their new locations. Ultimately you did a pretty good job defining them in their new locales, but some more shots that really read "Idaho" would have been nice. But again, I like that you kept going back to your friends to get more footage.

Sound – Score 4

Really nice job recording the interviews. The production sound was really nice. Also, really good song selections. I like when you used them and how you used the different songs to create mood. The overall mix was really strong as well. Great work on this front.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, I really appreciate how hard you worked on this project. It is clear to me you spent a lot of time in the edit to get this piece right. Great job. Grade A

Story – Score 4

This is a beautifully written, heartfelt piece. I love that you used something so personal. I also like that you took something you wrote awhile back and reinterpreted it into film form. That's a really smart choice and I imagine this version of the poem has a slightly different meaning to you now that you've revisited it and reinterpreted it several years down the road from its original conception.

Cinematography – Score 4

I love the animation style. I love that you keep adding new elements and slightly different styles as the film progresses – the writings underneath, the birds flying, the live action. As a result, the film builds and transforms and we stay transfixed waiting to see where it takes us.

Editing – Score 4

The length of the piece feels right. The mood of the piece feels right. You did nice job editing the sound for narrative clarity and for emotional resonance. Great work.

Sound – Score 4

Wow, the sound design and mix is really detailed and nice. This feels like a fully realized film at the sound level. This elevates the film, in my mind. So many little details. Also, in the rough cut, the voice was a little dry and empty and you created a very rich sound bed. I would bring the reverb/echo down in the opening, but other than that, this is spot on. Also, I love that you went with this echo – since it was inspired by our weird echoey viewing experiences. I love that you took a mistake and turned it into a style!

Effort – Score 4

Clearly this was a labor of love. Really nice work Spencer. And I appreciate all the smart feedback you give in class.
Grade A

██████████
Story – Score 4

This is a really nice portrait of a friend. You do such a good job shining light on his journey. I also appreciate that you went back, after the first cut, to plumb some more emotional depth. That decision really manages to elevate the film

Cinematography – Score 4

This film looks great. I don't feel the "limitations" of working with an iPhone. You really use the natural light in your house to full effect. I love both the interview setups and all the broll. The film is full of energy, and the bright, poppy cinematography style really adds to that.

Editing – Score 4

I love that I saw three very distinct cuts of this film. The film I saw over the weekend was just about done, and then on Monday, you delivered a very different cut that really raised the overall quality of the film. It's clear that you know how to tell a story and structure a story. The interplay between the interviews and the b roll is really nice as well. You shot a ton of great b roll and you knew when to use it.

Sound – Score 4

The interviews sound great and I like how it was mixed with the music. Nice work.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, it is clear that this film was meaningful to you. Your roommate is going to love this film. I appreciate how hard you worked, how much time you put into your edits. That is doing justice to your subject, which is such a big part of documentary filmmaking. Making the best film you can shows tremendous respect to your documentary subject! Way to go.

Grade A

██████████
Story – Score 3

Overall, I really like your film. The place that it needs a boost is at the story level. You talked to me about the timelessness of creativity. That theme is getting a bit lost in the mix. We talked about a couple of ways

you can address that. Adding some more quotes, 1-2 voices talking about creativity. Right now, it is beautiful and captivating as is, but more as a piece that is nice to look at. Some work is needed to help elevate the meaning.

Cinematography – Score 4

Holy Moly – this film is really beautiful. The original photography is fantastic and then the style and efx you added in post really make this a standout visual piece. You should be really proud of how gorgeous this film looks.

Editing – Score 3.5

Right now, I love the mood and tone of the film. You accomplish that through the pacing of your cuts and the collision of your images, and the look that you’ve created in post. As we discussed in class, there are a couple moments where the lyrics of the song you are using disconnect from the images and create meanings that you don’t intend. “Gentle people” over an image of a gun. When you are using a song that is not your own, you really have to pay attention to those connections.

Sound – Score 3

I like how you’ve used the song in the film. It does help create the mood. But as discussed, it feels a little cliché to me. Perhaps if you add some voice or other text, you can get that song to work the way you intended. But right now it isn’t working for me...but as we went over in class, most of the class really liked how it was working.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, I really appreciate your input all semester long and how you elevated all the discussions that we have. And I appreciate what a challenging semester this was for you – as you really were living in isolation. Given that, I appreciate how hard you worked on this film and how much ground you covered.
Grade A

Story – Score 4

This is a really nice story that is a beautiful family history. I love how you get an intergenerational story going. Your mom has a great presence on camera, and I appreciate recording your grandmother on the phone. Also, you have a presence in there as filmmaker and as someone in conversation with your mom.

Cinematography – Score 4

██████████, this is a really beautiful film. The interview is breathtaking. The composition, the lighting, the colors. You made that work. And all the food photography is great. This is food blog worthy. And you have a nice collection of b-roll.

Editing – Score 3

The way you construct the story is excellent. The way your mom and grandmother’s stories weave in and out of each other is really nice. I also love the way you interspersed and worked with the b-roll. There is a clear arc and method to your storytelling. I did feel the film was a little long. If you could cut 30-60 seconds, the film will be that much better for it. You can maintain the story and the emotion even if you deliver the film more economically. As discussed you can finesse the subtitles as well – but to be honest, I didn’t have trouble reading them, but some of your classmates did.

Sound – Score 4

I really like the sound recording and mixing here. The balance of music to interview is really nice. I also like how seamlessly you moved between songs. That always occurs at the right time.

Effort – Score 4

██████████, great job staying engaged in the class up in Portland. I know you were jumping back and forth between the Bay and Portland, but it’s clear that you really cared about this film and the class

Story – Score 4

■■■■, this was a great mini-history rolled into a tight package. I appreciate the level of history. I also like how you added your personality to the mix. That clearly comes across in the footage and style you chose, but also your delivery and weaving in your family's story. Nice work. I learned a lot!

Cinematography – Score 3.5

I really appreciate how many images and pieces of footage you gathered for this film. I don't think I ever asked you the total, but it was a lot. And I know how time consuming that must have been. Ideally, for something like this, you'd always be working with high res footage, and every now and again there was some lo-res material in there. Not the end of the world by any means.

Editing – Score 4

Really great job figuring out how to layer and mask all of this stuff in Premier. This is a job for after effects, but you used what you had and you made it work for you. That is really resourceful. Also, it is clear that you were aiming for this sort of visual style and you really brought it to fruition here in the edit. Great work.

Sound – Score 3

This is the one area that the film needs work. You need a consistent sound bed throughout. When you use sound efx and music (especially in the second half of the film), it is really effective. However, the first half of the film is missing a lot of those flourishes. I know you've recut since I saw it, but I encourage you to keep working on the film after the semester if you have some time – to really get those right sounds. Also, I'm hearing that Adobe has extended the CC license through early July.

Effort – Score 4

I really appreciate the hard work on this project. I know that your computer was a bit challenged by Adobe, so I appreciate you sticking with it! It was a pleasure having you in class this semester.
Grade A

Story – 4

Great job telling the story of Stax. You jammed a ton of info into a really tight package. Nicely done! Haven't watched the recut yet, but it sounds like you addressed the slanted floor issue, so that makes me happy.

Cinematography – Story 4

Great job assembling that archival material. There are a ton of shots in here. I know that must have taken a tremendous time to assemble, so I appreciate you combing through the internet to find all of that material. You got a nice range of material, from album covers, to stills, to shots of the building, to video footage and more.

Editing – Score 4

Really nice. The music cutting was really great. I like the way you moved all the material. There was a lot of nice energy and movement in the footage. I'm assuming you did that and did not grab that from pre-existing movie footage. Because you packed so much history into this, there was a lot of transitioning between eras, and you took us there seamlessly; introducing Booker t; introducing Otis; the death of Otis; the move into the 70s; the dissolution of the label. All that was handled deftly.

Sound – Score 3.5

Great choice of music. You hit so many high points. You knew when you needed high energy and you knew when you needed ballads. Really good work choosing music and transitioning between songs. As mentioned, your voice gets a little buried in the mix at the head of the film, and we need a wiser audio decision at the end of the film to signal the end of the film.

Effort – Score 4

■■■■, I love that you gave us a little bit of Memphis – your home town. You took advantage of Sheltering In Place back home and gave us a great history lesson.
Grade A

Story – Score 3.5/Editing - Score 3

██████, this is a fascinating story. Personally, I am interested in the Queen Mary and so I found this really illuminating. I love the access you got as well. You did a great job structuring the film, and that structure really improved between rough cut and final cut. As discussed in class, if we listened to just the audio, you have a stellar story. However, since there is a level of sameness to much of the b-roll, we sometimes lose connection to the story when the b-roll isn't spot on, or if it occasionally miscast. You have some great shots of young kids in the army on the ship as part of military transport, but that footage is placed in the Katzenstein part of the film. There are moments in the escape from Germany part of the story where we are seeing the opulence and fancy folks on the ship. These moments undercut the power of the story. One more pass where you rearrange some b-roll will really help the legibility of the story and better attach us to the characters you introduce. That said, you did a great job introducing the captain, Katzenstein, and the narrator this time through. You just need that level of precision throughout.

Cinematography – Score 4

The film looks great. I love the high res archival footage you have access to. What a find! I think you could spend a little more time digging into the WWII archive. That might help flesh out the fleeing Germany section. The footage you have in there that addresses this is great, but you need a little more.

Sound – Score 3

Great job recording the interview. That is really clean and clear. I like how you use the classical music, but as discussed, it is very samey throughout the film. You have different chapters in your film, mounting tension, a coming war, panic-on-the-streets, escape! Different scores for different sections will help us navigate the shifting moods and plot points of your film. Given that much of the Queen Mary footage is similar, you need to let the score help you tell the story.

Effort – Score 4

██████, I really appreciate your hard work all semester long. I like how you took part of your hometown and brought it to the screen.
Grade A-

Story – Score 3.5

██████, this is a really fascinating window into the world of folks who are having to work during the Pandemic. I kind of wanted to get to the Peet's part of the story quicker. Though, you do a nice job contextualizing the situation, this info isn't particularly new info to the viewer. I would argue that trimming your opening news blast and getting to the story more quickly would have greater impact.

Cinematography – Score 3.5

The film looks really good. I like the way that you shot your interviews. They pop and have energy. I also really love the inclusion of the shots of the store. Those really help tell your story. I also like the shots on the bus and I like how you've turned those black and white.

Editing – Score 2.5

I feel like the film is shaping up, but to a large extent this feels like a rough cut. I like how you have cut down the interviews. I can see the edits. And you did a good job editing to make a cogent story. That said, with so many jump cuts, you really could have laid those interviews over b-roll. That also may have had a greater impact. Hearing someone talk about how they don't feel coffee is essential and playing that over the exchanges at the cash register would have an elevated impact.

Sound – Score 3.5

This all sounds good. The interviews are recorded very nicely. I also like the diegetic sounds within the store. That is nice. No need to let music editorialize the situation. Let the work speak for itself.

Effort

I really appreciate the challenges put in front of you this semester after we hit the Pandemic. You did not have easy choices put in front of you. I do wish you had been able to attend class and get more feedback on your project from class. Like I say, this film could be really powerful, and is powerful, but with another pass at the editing, you could really raise the level of the film.

Grade B+

██████████

Story – Score 3.5

This is a really emotional and personal story. It is so kind that your aunt and uncle were willing to share this with you. Your structure was very nice as well. I like how we move from intros, to seeing the twins, then head back for the story. I also like that you included your voice to move us into act 3.

Cinematography – Score 3

The film looks good. I do feel the composition of the interviews is okay, but there is a lot of head room. I really wish those could have been on a tripod as well. But I certainly understand the limitations you were working with. The archival footage of the twins is great. The film really comes to life when they make their appearance. I wish you could have gotten a little more b-roll of your aunt or uncle around the house or doing chores or something. The medical part of the film is fascinating, but that's a long time to just have interviews without the aid of b-roll

Editing – Score 3

I love when the music comes in and one of the twins pops up from beneath a blanket. That's a great moment. And I like that opening blast of archival footage you use. As mentioned, I do wish you could have had more b-roll in the medical part of the film. Also, you have that cut between two interviews of your aunt in different locations. That's a bit odd. That should have been covered by some b-roll. That kind of move can be a bit jarring. At 4:30, there is a pause that takes us into the 3rd act. I think you could have tightened that up just a bit. The pause is long enough that it almost feels like the film is about to end. But again, the overall editing structure of the film is quite nice.

Sound – Score 4

The interviews sound great and I really like the way you use music. The sound design with the music is quite nice and the level of the mix works really well. Nice job.

Effort

██████████, I really appreciate the challenges you had after we hit the pandemic. I know that you were jumping around a lot and your access to the internet was not so great. I wish you could have participated just a little more – you would have gotten a lot out of getting more feedback on your film.
Grade A-

Advanced Narrative Film – Fall 2019 – Final Project

Please note, that for this class, after the initial final cut grading, students were given several days to make additional changes to their project. These changes are reflected in the addendums that follow their grades. I changed their 1-4 point ratings to reflect these new notes.

██████████

Story – Score 3.5

I really like what you did at the story level. I will say that the Script had a couple of cheesy elements in it – the pick up vibe of the final scene for example. But, in many respects you re-wrote the film in your edit. I think it's Tarantino who said, in the Cutting Edge film, that the edited film is the final draft of the screenplay. That certainly applies to your film. I like that we feel this guy's emotional journey. Some of that was lacking a bit in the screenplay, but comes out much more in the final edit of the film. Deciding to make the final scene less pick uppy, making him less aggressive in the scene with the canceled rider. All of these touches help us see and feel the decisions he has to make.

Cinematography – Score 3.5

I love the fact that the majority of your film takes place in a car at night. That is a tough ask, and you did a really nice job making this look good. I'm glad that you explored and purchased accessories to help insure that the shoot went smoothly. Throughout the entire process you challenged yourself and did research and brought in equipment to make the shoot go smoothly. The interior shots look really nice as well. Every now

and again, you get a weird focus anomaly, which I think is the result of a mounted camera in auto focus. Every now and again, I notice that and don't love it, but that is a minor annoyance at best.

Editing – Score 4

I love how far this film came from your initial cut to your final cut. I love that you were delivering a new cut on a weekly basis. I am really proud of the effort you put into your film, pushing yourself to continually hone the piece. This really paid dividends. I love that you were willing to make some radical changes to the structure of your film, rearranging scenes, cutting scenes down significantly, and being willing to deviate from your script. It took you awhile to move off of your positions, but this is why it was crucial that you delivered your initial cut very early in the game. It gave you time to live with your original choices and then move on from them. Great work. There are still the two little scenes I might look at - The line from the business man about whether Uber is working out and the line from the last ride about whether he really wanted to go back to school.

Sound – Score 3.5

The film sounds really good. Again, much of the film takes place while driving, so this is no easy feat to get good quality sound. I like the way that you work with the score and I like the little touches, like the sound bed you have when the final ride puts her hand on his leg.

Effort – Score 4

██████, I can't tell you how pleased I am with the effort you put into this film. You really pushed yourself. Not only did you hit every deadline, but you delivered in advance of your deadline. This allowed you to deliver extra drafts and plenty of edits. All of this allowed you to get lots of advice and help along the way. And most importantly, gave you the time to really work on the film at the edit level. Great job.

Grade – A (95)

████████████████████
First off, I just wanted to say this feels more like a complete rough cut than a final cut. That said, here are my thoughts on your "final cut".

Story – Score 3.5

This is a really fun script and story. That enthusiasm comes out in full force during the first act of your film – the scene with all the girlfriends sitting around and gabbing. After that, the film starts feeling much rough and falls a little flat. The dating scene, which works great in the script, is a little harder to understand in the final film. The third act could land a little stronger. We need to really see her recognize that the pizza guy is the one. That's close but could be clearer.

Cinematography – Score 3

The opening scene looks great. I love the art direction, the lighting and the visual energy. I love how you showcase their mystical attributes. The second half of the film is less strong visually. We don't always see the dates' mystical signatures – and this lack of clarity affects our read of the scene. There are visual gags you are making them, but they're not landing them – which is a result of how those scenes were shot. I think you can fix that with how you handle the audio, or looking for alternate shots within those scenes. The night time encounter that is crucial to land the film is ok. It's a bit dark and doesn't pop as much, but the colors of nighttime are kind of nice.

Editing – Score 3.5

Again, the first scene is great, but then the energy drops. I think you can do a lot to tighten up the following sequences. The waking up/phone call/bathroom scene – Tighter edits. Fewer shots. Cutting to the action. The date scene – try using voice over/phone call tactic to bring out the jokes. This sequence should be the centerpiece of your film, and it doesn't hit the way you want it to. You need to work the magic of editing to make this happen. Also, I feel strongly that the presence of the girlfriends really needs to come back. They are so great. If you don't have their voices, it has to be via voice over of your main character. I also think the 3rd act could land a bit more. Maybe it's about the transition between the pizza guy and masturbation. Perhaps some sort of sparkly sound cue that ties all of that together.

Sound – Score 3

The mix is a bit of a mess. The levels are all over the map. And you need to balance the L-R channels of your sound. And again, I think some v.o. will be your friend. Watch the first episode of the new season of End of The F**king World.

Effort – Score 3

It really looks like you've been working hard on the film. I do wish I saw this cut 2 weeks ago, because I feel like you have a lot of work in front of you and not much time to do that work.

And the thing is, you have a really good film here. It's not fully realized at this point, and the material and script deserve to be fully realized. Let's see what you can manage in the next week.

Addendum

Nice job tightening up the dating scene. Identifying the dates is a nice touch. I'd identify the first date. I'd also stylize them and give them a little sound efx. That will make it more complete. I think you could still work on the sound mix in this scene. The dialogue could be brighter in the mix. That scene still plays a little murky, so I would play with it just a bit more to make it hit.

New Grade – A higher A

First off, I just wanted to say this feels more like a complete rough cut than a final cut. That said, here are my thoughts on your "final cut".

Story – Score 3

It's really hard to talk about story in a film like this. This feels like a fever dream of sorts and so trying to gauge "narrative" is always going to be a little confusing. I think for me the key is that we need to understand whether we are in the dream or the real world. And that becomes a bit confusing at times. If we are supposed to be confused (which is a fine thing to throw at an audience), we still need a signal to clue us in that confusion is an ok place to be. I think you can fine tune things in this regard.

Cinematography – Score 4

The film looks great. I love the grading you have on the scenes of him walking in the woods. That wasn't mentioned in the class, but I really liked it. All of the green light stuff is great as well. I also love the layer of effects that you have going. You do a nice job of creating your dream world with the cinematography. This feels very in control.

Editing – Score 3.5

I love how you move us from the waking world into the dream world. That is very clear and in control. Once we get to the shower sequence, that is where things lose control a little bit. In class, we talked about some different approaches you could explore. Again, the notion that he is no longer in the dream world at the outset of the shower scene is confusing to me. The final scene is great. I love how that plays out. So essentially, your first and third acts are really strong, but the 2nd act – the deep dream plays out too confusingly.

Sound – Score 3.5

What is here is really good. I like how you've mixed the music and diegetic sounds. This gives us a nice sense of the world.

Effort – Score 3

I love all of your ideas and the vision of your films. It's clear you have a directorial voice. I do feel like you started this very late in the game, or at least, ran into any number of production challenges that delayed getting all the footage in a timely fashion. It would have been great to have this cut 2 weeks ago. You have a lot to do over the next week to fully realize this film. I can't wait to see what you come up with.

Grade B (this can definitely come up as you make changes) 86

Addendum:

I like the way the shower scene works now. The way the songs meld together and then the advent of the shower sounds are really nice. The flow of this section, and back into the forest works really well. I like the forest walking sounds, but I'd bring them down a little bit in the mix.

New Grade – a higher A

██████████
Story – Score 2

██████████, though I like the concept of your story, the execution is a little confusing. The sped up nature of your film and the blazing speed of the text cards moves way too fast. The story clarity is dependent on the text cards, and because I can't read or process them quick enough the story doesn't land.

Cinematography – Score 2

The film looks ok, but you don't have enough coverage and there are many continuity errors. He looks out the window during the day, but sees the girl at dusk. He leaves the house during the day, but then he is following her at night. The night time scenes are too dark to be read properly and give narrative clarity.

Editing – Score 2

Without the text cards, it would be hard to understand the film. Part of this is on the lack of coverage, but also, the editing is a bit confusing. Part of that is the discontinuity around time of day. Part of it is on the speed of the film.

Sound – 2

You made a silent film. I don't mind that you delivered a silent era film, but the lack of sound, also feels like a decision made because you ran out of time. Many silents are accompanied by music. You could have done this.

Effort – Score 1

██████████, this is a pretty rough film given that you had an entire semester to work on it. The fact that we never really saw a full rough cut was problematic. It's clear you put effort into your shoots, but without ever having a complete rough cut, you didn't have time to reshoot or put together missing pieces to your puzzle. You missed almost every deadline and missed a lot of classes and the final film is indicative of that.

Grade C

██████████
Story – Score 2.5

The film in it's rough cut is confusing. You do a nice job showing the dynamic between the two sisters in the first scene, but after that the narrative is a little hard to follow. As discussed in class, you need to better establish that she is thinking of Leanne and that Leanne is the sister.

Cinematography – Score 3

The film looks really nice. All the locations are nice, you get the proper coverage in each spot as well. I like the grading decision to throw the white vignettes on the flashback scenes as well.

Editing – Score 3

As discussed in class, you need to bring narrative clarity to the mix and this can be done with editing. Establishing ██████████ in the first scene when your character is checking out Instagram is important. Then, losing the text bubbles. I think those bubbles are causing confusion. We discussed some strategies to take your lead down memory lane without having it be a scavenger hunt. I know that this was your initial plan, but sometimes you have to abandon plans. You have the material and now you have to find the film.

Sound – Score 3

Nice all around work here. The film sound really nice

Effort – Score 4

I appreciate all the hard work you put into the film. You now have one last batch of editing work to do to bring you over the finish line.

Grade B (this can definitely go up with greater narrative clarity at the end of your film)

Addendum

██████████

I like how you introduce Leanne in the first scene, how your main character is editing a photo with her. I then like how you segue into the flashbacks with Leanne. That is much tighter and narratively more clear. Good work there. I think the cuts to the current day are still confusing those. It's unclear how we got there from the flashbacks. I would try, pulling those out and let her experience those 3 flashbacks and come back to the bedroom like she has thought about the past in that bedroom moment. I think you then need a new scene, where she then takes a shot at going to the location of the party or wherever ██████████ ultimately is. Once there, and once ██████████ is rude to her, you can let the flashbacks play out in there devastating way. I think the scavenger hunt aspect of the film has to completely go away. It only creates confusion. But this cut is a big step in the right direction.

New Grade – B+

██████████

Story – Score 3

I really like the story of this film. The narrative clarity was missing in the initial draft, but you've managed to make the first 2 acts really come across. I still think the 3rd act needs greater clarity.

Cinematography – Score 4

The film looks really good. You've done a nice job capturing images, and giving yourself enough images to work with. Great work here.

Editing – Score 3.5

You did a great job moving from rough cut to the final cut. I love that you had those quick 1 shot flashbacks. I do think part of the problem with the final act is the subtitles. These feel weird to me. I would encourage a voice. But as we also talked, I think you can restructure some of the questions and answers to bring your point across more clearly.

Sound – Score 4

The film sounds great. Again, I suggest a voice instead of subtitles at end. And maybe you can do something with the sound of that voice or the soundscape to suggest that she is no longer alive. I wouldn't overdo it, but maybe there is something there to be done.

Effort – Score 4

I appreciate all your hard work in class, always having assignments in on time, and working hard on the re-writes and re-cutting of your film.

Grade B+ (this can definitely go up with greater narrative clarity at the end of your film)

Addendum

██████████

Watching your film again, I really appreciate the sound design. I like all the little music stabs, the clicking of the toaster oven, the moments of silence. I like the phone call with the Mom as well. There are funny lines in there like "God is not telling me to go to law school" and her threatening to take a picture of the sink. The subtitles at the end work a bit better for me on second viewing. I still feel like some people might be confused by this ending, but I appreciate your willingness to commit to it.

New Grade - A

██████████

Story – Score 4

This is a really heartfelt, endearing story. I love the scale and the scope of it. The characters and the story are well developed. Great work.

Cinematography – Score 3.5

The film looks really good. The lighting on the interiors of the final scene are pretty cool as well. That's got a great look. I do think there is something a little goofy about screen direction in the first fight scene. But I don't know that people care about that so much anymore.

Editing – Score 4

You've done a nice job here. I was afraid that the length of the film would indicate that you could make this shorter, but the overall length feels nice. I would spend a minute tightening up the first scene as discussed in class, but otherwise the film builds the way you want it to and feels satisfying at the end. I do like the way you improved on the transition between scenes 1 & 2. That was a real nice improvement from the rough cut.

Sound – Score 4

This is the one area where you could still spend a little more time. All told, the sound quality is quite good, but there are a couple moments that could be more solid. The ordering food line is buried and makes that opening a bit confusing. You want to be sure to nail this opening. You can work on the mix in the the café scene. The friend gets buried a little bit. I love the inclusion of the music in the café scene, but you can work on the timing of it as we discussed in class. Finally, I wish it was all in sync. You should pay attention to how this plays out on the big screen tomorrow. Note any problematic areas and maybe look at those.

Effort – Score 4

■■■■, Great job all semester long. This is a big project and you delivered. You always pay a lot of attention to detail and that pays off in your films.

Grade A

Addendum:

■■■■
Nice work on the film. It really brought the house down. You must be pleased. It seems like the timing of the music in the café scene works better. I also want to add that how you use music throughout the film is really nice. Your use of music in the final scene is really expert. The levels move around, but in all the right ways. There is a particular moment where the song swells and takes over at just the right moment.
New Grade – Higher A

Story – Score 3.5

■■■■
This is a very heartfelt and endearing story. I like it a lot and it feels really personal as well. The first two acts play out really well, but the last scene, as we discussed in class, doesn't quite land. That needs to be much more emotional. Looking forward to seeing how you address that in your final cut.

Cinematography – Score 3.5

The film looks really good. I just wish that the light didn't change so dramatically in your final scene. That is pretty noticeable. Not sure if there is a way to color grade that problem away.

Editing – Score 3

You have all the elements you need to really make this film shine. As discussed, you need to work on bringing out the emotion of the final scene. The phone call with mom, the awkwardness with the roommate, the walking to school – all of those scenes are really emotional and hit the emotional marks you are aiming for. You need to do the same with the final scene. It's clear to me you can do it. I think you just ran out of time in your editing process. As mentioned in class, I think you might also try messing around with making the bus and classroom scenes more brief. I don't know that they need to be that long – but you want to make sure they still have the emotional impact that they do carry, but just at a shorter length.

Sound – Score 3.5

It still seems like you are working on the sound of your film. The phone call needs to sound like a phone call. The room tone of that scene is also all over the place. Think about if sound can help you land the final scene as well.

Effort – Score 3.5

Really nice work on the film Fabiana. I do feel like you were often behind in class and with your deadlines, but you did manage to make a really nice film that you should be proud of.

Grade B+ (this can definitely go up with greater narrative clarity at the end of your film)

Addendum:

■■■■

Really nice job on the new cut of the film. I like the mix of the phone call scene. I like how the music comes in and works with the title. I like how the music is working in the text bubble scene. I think the music works really well in the 2nd walking scene with the photos. That melancholy music and how it flows into your final scene is really nice. I think it helps the final scene land. That scene is much more effective now. I do feel that the bus scene is maybe a bit too short. It happens too quickly and I don't feel the impact on her as much as I did earlier. Maybe you need to revert. But all told, great job.
New Grade – A

██████████
Story – Score 3.5

I like this story a lot. As it sits right now, there are still some elements that make the narrative a bit confusing. As we talked about, better translations of the Spanish to English will help with that. Right now, there is a little too much work needed to make sense of the translation. A cleaner translation will improve the narrative clarity tremendously.

Cinematography – Score 3.5

The film looks really nice. I love the phone call scenes in the apartment. Those are quite nice. The lighting in the bedroom scenes and the outdoor/bar/café scene create a nice mood as well, though I feel a little more coverage may have enlivened them a little bit.

Editing – Score 3.5

I think you can tighten things up a bit. I think the outdoor/bar/café scene and the first bedroom texting scenes go on for a bit too long. You convey what you need to. Those scenes visually only hold interest for so long, so shortening them will go a long way.

Sound – Score 4

The sound mix is really awesome. This is fantastic work. Tops in the class. So kudos to you for doing that. The sound is really satisfying in the film. As mentioned, there was one moment in the phone conversation where the mix gets a little odd, but again, great work overall.

Effort – Score 4

Great work. It seems like you spent a lot of hard work on the film. I think the film really elevated between rough and final cut as well. Just a little more work to do.

Grade A-

Addendum:

██████████
I love that you fixed the language. This makes the narrative so much easier to follow. I also appreciated that you made the bedroom and café/bar scene a bit shorter. The film is tighter and more clear. Nice work.
New Grade – A

██████████
Story – Score 3

Right now, I think there is a little narrative confusion going on. You have a number of strands of story – the old girlfriend, the new girlfriend, the different newscasts. As discussed, now that your story has changed from your initial idea, maybe you don't need all of these elements. Maybe you need to simplify. The film is now not really about technology, so maybe some of the news reportage goes away?

Cinematography – Score 4

There is some really beautiful camera work going on in your film. The shots of your main characters and their dates are really stunning. Great work. The film is really easy to look at.

Editing – Score 3

Here is where you need to put in a lot of heavy lifting. You have the footage you need to make a strong film. Right now, I think you are too focused on cutting it like you wrote it. But you didn't shoot it like you wrote it, so now you have to remake your film in the editing. You have the ability to do that. We discussed a lot of

possibilities when you showed your rough cut. Absorb all of that and try to make it work. Again, as discussed, you might only get part of the way there by Friday's screening, but keep cutting after that point if you still feel you have a ways to go. You want to come out of the class with the best possible film you can.

Sound – Score 3.5

The film sounds good. Your on-set sound is very strong. I think one thing we talked about it is maybe there can be some sort of voice over to set up the break up with the first girl. Think about how sound can tell some of the story you might be missing or might help you transition from scene to scene.

Effort – Score 4

██████, you seemed really upset in class yesterday. I know that you are not enamored with what you presented, but I want to assure you that you have the raw materials to make something strong. Films transform when you shoot. Films transform when you edit. At times, you have to let go of your preconceived notions of what you wanted, and deal with what you have. That's the stage you're at and I have confidence you can rally. I also appreciate that you had some very interesting challenges to deal with at the casting level and I understand how that set you back in your timeline. I appreciate the effort you put in and the obstacles you've overcome. I'm looking forward to see what you can do with the material you have.

Grade B (this can definitely go up with greater narrative clarity at the end of your film)

Addendum

██████ I appreciate all the work you put in on this new cut. It is much stronger. I like the new V.O. at the start of the film. This really establishes what is going on. I like the moment of seeing the tv broadcast on the laptop. The tv scene is still a bit long to me. It starts feeling tangential. Though you tie your film back to the idea of technology and love, it is not so evident at this point. Shortening that scene will be beneficial. I still think there is some confusion in the story of the new girlfriend not really being there and only being a technological interaction.

You have 3 scenes with her. 1 where she seems to be in a real relationship, one where they are in the same space, but not communicating, and then the revelation of it being a text based relationship. I like that final reveal, but I wonder if people will really understand what's happening prior to that moment. I would try pulling the sync audio off of the first scene with the new girlfriend, and having that be v.o. based between the two. Maybe that will give us a hint of what's to come. Then maybe shorten the scene with Bob. Maybe lose the porn scene. I would see how that plays out. It's getting closer! I'm glad you're sticking with it.
New Grade B+

Story – Score 3

██████ This really improved from the rough cut and is sure to be a crowd pleaser. This is ridiculous and funny. I love the subtitles. The codependency is really fun

Cinematography – Score 3

The film looks good. The running scenes are fun. I think the shot of the Prop C info doesn't read. I think someone not from San Francisco, would have trouble following this key plot point. Maybe hold this shot longer, maybe save it with sound.

Editing – Score 3.5

Great job moving from rough to final cut. I was concerned by the rough cut. But you have brought in the 3 act structure and amped up the funny

Sound – 3

I like this. I still would have pushed for a vape vox. I think that could have elevated this.

Effort – Score 3

■■■■ this feels a bit rushed, to say the least. You had a killer script and I think you got behind and didn't have the time to pull together your grand vision. I still think you can make an exciting film, but I think you've got to push it a little more.

Grade B
Addendum

■■■■
Nice job on pulling your film together. I do like the Vape sound and how that signals its telepathic title cards. That work in a way that I maybe hadn't anticipated. I like how you use music throughout and how the diegetic sounds (like the birds) come in from time to time. I still feel the end is a little anticlimactic. Not sure that his resignation of using cigarettes really lands or how we are supposed to read that moment.
Grade A-

■■■■
Story – Score 3.5

I like this story. My one issue is that it gets a bit overdramatic at times. The heavy panting, the heavy music, the accusatory tone of the person in the mirror. If you can pull back a little bit, then I think it will have a better, creepier impact. Over-dramatization can move us toward cheesiness as opposed to impact.

Cinematography – Score 4

The film looks good. I really like what you did with the split screen. That is awesome. And the quick shots of the murder scene work really well. Nice work here.

Editing – Score – 3

Nice job moving this from your rough cut to your final cut. The way you weave all the elements together is really effective. That strategy was missing in your first cut, and now the film has a lot more impact as you've brought this style to the film. You should spend a little bit cutting around your actress's performance. Again, the heavy breathing is a bit much, I think her big accusation could be brought down in tone a bit. Maybe you have some more reads?

Sound – Score 3

This is where you still have a lot of work to do. Every now and again, she is buried in the mix. We also talked about trying some different music choices as well. Music might change the tenor of the acting as well.

Effort – Score 4

Great job all semester working on the project. It is clear you put a lot of effort into the film. Nice work.

Grade B+ (this can definitely go up with greater narrative clarity at the end of your film)

Addendum:

■■■■
The film seems stronger with some of the changes you make. I like that the song is quieter. It is less overly dramatic at that point. It seems like you cut down some of the overdramatized moments from your lead as well – like the panting scene. This makes the performance feel a little more controlled. Nice work.
New Grade - A-

■■■■
Story – Score 3.5

I like the story at play. I love the 1st and 3rd acts. You've got a nice set up and then the end/resolution is really strong as well. I think the 2nd act could be a bit stronger – mostly in the placement of the outdoor/dream scene, which I'll discuss more down below.

Cinematography – Score 3.5

The film looks really good. The office feels like a horrible office and then the apartment, before the drug kicks in is also really drab. I like how that is contrasted with the dream/outdoor world and the dancing world. It seems like you spent a lot time grading to bring this about. Nice job.

Editing – Score 3.5

I think this is the area you can spend a little more time on. As discussed in class, when we move to the outdoor scene, it feels like we have moved on to a new scene, when in fact, we have moved to an interior head space. You want to better connect this scene to the apartment drug scene, so it feels connected and not separate. Make the outside scene feel like an extension of the indoor scene as opposed to a new scene.

Sound – Score 3

I love the room tone of the office. I appreciate how you've made a consistent sound throughout. You do have to work on the mix. The V.O. is very loud at times and the audio mix is generally all over the place. As discussed in class, I think re-recording the v.o with slightly different reads will really help the story. The side effects section feels very out of place in the film. You want to hear mounting panic/concern in the voice, and that will ride us into the drug scene a little more effectively. Likewise, I think the outdoor scene v.o. sits a oddly as well. It's not too bad, but we discussed some ideas around this in class as well.

Effort – Score 4

I appreciate all the effort you put into the film and how on top of the project you were all semester long.

Grade A-
Addendum

██████
Nice work on this new cut.

I like that the first v.o. is shorter and the second v.o. is gone. I'd still like to hear a different read on the existing v.o.

I love how you recut the transition to the innerstate/dream sequence. This feels like an extension of the trip and not a new scene. After this scene, some of the music/audio cuts lose a bit of energy to me. I think you could make some smoother transitions for greater impact. Finally, there is one odd continuity moment at the end. She looks up the street (towards freedom), then you cut back to her and she is looking toward work, and then her head swivels to look toward freedom again. Directionality is important in this moment, so I think you want to make sure there is nothing odd going on at this juncture.

New Grade – A

Film Studies Assessment October 2020						
Intro Video Production Spring 2020	Story	Cinematography	Edit	Sound	Effort	
	4	4	3.5	3	4	
	3	3	2.5	3.5	4	
	4	4	3.5	4	4	
	3.5	2.5	3	3	4	
	4	3	3	3.5	4	
	3.5	3	3.5	4	4	
	4	4	4	4	4	
	4	4	4	4	4	
	3	4	3.5	3	4	
	4	4	3	4	4	
	4	3.5	4	3	4	
	4	4	4	3.5	4	
	3.5	4	3	3	4	
	3.5	3.5	2.5	3.5		
	3.5	3	3	4		
Average S 20	3.68	3.54	3.32	3.57	4.00	
Advanced Narrative Fall 2019	Story	Cinematography	Edit	Sound	Effort	
	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	4	
	3.5	3	3.5	3	3	
	3	4	3.5	3.5	3	
	2	2	2	2	1	
	2.5	3	3	3	4	
	3	4	3.5	4	4	
	4	3.5	4	4	4	
	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	
	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	4	
	3	4	3	3.5	4	
	3	3	3.5	3	3	
	3.5	4	3	3	4	
	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	4	
Average F 19	3.19	3.42	3.31	3.31	3.50	
Average Both classes	3.44	3.48	3.31	3.44	3.75	
Scale of 1-4						
4 - Excellent						
3 - Above Average						
2 - Average						
1 - Below Average						

V. CLOSING THE LOOP

1. Based on your results, what changes/modifications are you planning in order to achieve the desired level of mastery in the assessed learning outcome? This section could also address more long-term planning that your department/program is considering and does not require that any changes need to be implemented in the next academic year itself.

Closing the Loop (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

Closing the Loop (Minor):

Given the challenges of the past year, moving to remote learning in the Spring of 2020 and continuing through that mode of delivery for 2020/2021, I believe that the Film Studies program has responded very well to these challenges. The professors and staff members in our program responded quickly and smartly to the challenges placed in front of our program. In the spring, we came up with solutions to get students the equipment they needed to complete their projects. This was no easy task. At the curricular level, we responded in a way that helped students achieve the stated learning outcomes of the class, and managed to do so in a compassionate way, recognizing all the personal challenges students faced and continue to face. I was beyond pleased with the final films created by our students in all of our spring classes. All of our professors spent the summer redesigning courses for the remote environment, and to-date, the program has successfully moved into this mode of teaching. This has been a

significant amount of work and change to the classes. I believe that some teachers may take some of the redesign elements necessitated by remote learning, and be able to incorporate said changes into classes when we return to the in-person mode. Sometimes these challenges can give one some good ideas to take forward.

2. What were the most important suggestions/feedback from the FDCD on your last assessment report (for academic year 2018-2019, submitted in October 2019)? How did you incorporate or address the suggestion(s) in this report?

Suggestions (Major/Graduate/Certificate):

Suggestions (Minor):

It was suggested that we shorten the Mission Statement and have done so. Beyond that, there were no pressing issues to address.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

(Any rubrics used for assessment, relevant tables, charts and figures could be included here)

Here is the updated curricular map:

Film Studies Courses

