**DRAMATIC SCENE ASSIGNMENT**

For this assignment, you and your partner will shoot and edit a short dramatic scene. You can put together a 3 person crew if you want. If you work by yourself you are still going to need some help.

1) You will need to find a script to shoot for this scene. One location and two actors maximum. The edited version of the scene should be at least three minutes long (including Titles and Credits) but no absolutely no longer than five minutes.

You can probably find a suitable scene in a script from a movie or tv show, or even from a stage play. Bookstores often have books of scenes for 2 actors that could easily be adapted for this assignment as well. You might want to check them out. Or if you are really ambitious -- write your own scene or use a scene from your short scriptwriting class. One of the basic goals of this assignment is to force you to maintain continuity and screen direction. Another is to light and block your scene in a way that is appropriate for your drama.

2) Sound will undoubtedly be one of your biggest problems and one of the reasons you really need a crew for this assignment. You’ll need someone handling the fishpole and mic. And someone directing. If you are the shooter/director you will will have to do lots of preplanning. You might enlist another person to operate camera and if you have another crew member, you might consider recording sound on an external DAT or mini-disc recorder. That will give you an audio backup. You can book the tv studio in the basement of the library in open times if you can actually use it. It’s hard to dress that space.

4) I’m not saying you can’t do it, but I’d prefer if you didn’t use crew members as actors. You folks are learning to work behind the camera and any time you spend in front of the camera is cutting into the time you should be spending elsewhere.

**EVALUATION**

1) I am particularly interested in seeing how you or you and your partner organize, set up, block, and shoot a dramatic scene. I would really encourage you to use the master scene shooting method to provide complete coverage. One of the great things about video is that you can look at what you’ve shot to see if you do have enough coverage. Always look at your footage before you break for the day and leave your set/location. And always record 30-60 seconds of room tone to help you smooth out your audio tracks.

2) I also want to see how well handle your actors and get good performances from them. This means it is worth spending some extra effort casting your scene. How well your actors perform is not only an indication of your directorial ability, but of your ability to find the right person for the role--i.e. casting. You've heard the old cliche that directing is 90% casting --- its probably true – maybe even more so in student productions.

4) How well do you record the on set sound? How well did you mix your final soundtrack in FCP?

3) Finally, I want you to do an editing job that not only maintains continuity, but that also works well in terms of pacing and dramatic impact.

4) You also need titles and a credit roll for this assignment too.