

Fall 2007
Department of Film

Portfolio Review Criteria

- **Film 220: Basic Elements of Filmmaking (16mm film)**

For portfolio review, students applying to any of the three tracks may submit their 16mm film final project from Film 220 as one of their portfolio media projects. Suggested running time for the final 16mm film projects is between 3 and 4 minutes with the maximum being approximately 5. The faculty looks for creative accomplishment and gives this greater weight than technical abilities.

- **Curiosity** – Passion for exploration, increasing one's experience and knowledge as evidenced by both the conceptual planning and execution of the film.
- **Perceptual Skills** – The ability to find qualities of interest in things, people, and events immediately around oneself.
- **Process and Discovery** – Evidence of conceptual and aesthetic development in the film materials generated over the period of your principal cinematography. The ability to recognize inherent strengths in the material generated so that these strengths are built upon during subsequent image acquisition and during the editing process.
- **Creative Voice** – The ability to draft and execute a production and editing plan that utilizes the inherent strengths of the material generated while maintaining a personal creative voice.
- **Technical Competency** – Evidence of self-sufficiency in using the basic tools of 16mm film production -- including control of lighting, exposure, composition, camera operation and editing.

Good to excellent film projects usually have some, if not most or all of these qualities. They engage their subject matter with innovative and stimulating ways of thinking. They demonstrate considerable development of the original idea and/or curiosities through engaging the world and film materials. They have well composed, well exposed, and striking imagery. Projects that are often predictable with very little development of ideas or form are not very highly rated.

Here is a list of things to look for as you are making your film:

- Have you posed a question, perception, or situation to explore and learn about?
- Is your camera work purposeful and directed?
- Do you have a sufficient number and/or variation of striking images to create an engaging final project?
- Are your image relationships subtle and nuanced rather than clichéd?
- How is your personal point of view and/or personal visual style being developed through your process?
- Does your editing create pacing and rhythms?
- Is your film concise and directed? Does it tell the story or develop its subject efficiently?
- Does your film have an overall structure – a beginning, an end?

Your final film must be in 16mm, mounted on a reel, with properly labeled head and tail leaders. A credit list is required for any and all materials or activities that you did not produce or perform. If you received help with camera-work or have used written materials other than your own, give credit for this assistance. No copyrighted images can be used in the film without the written consent of the artist or copyright holder. Include these credits and permissions with the materials you submit for portfolio review.