

Video Production Bootcamp: Shoot a Dialogue Scene from Script to Set

This hands-on production course teaches students how to take a finished script through preparation, production, and wrap for a short dialogue scene using professional on-set workflows.

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: <https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/video-production-intensive>



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Course Outline

Day 1: Pre-Production — From Script to Shot List

- Script breakdown for production: identifying beats, actions, and logistical needs
- Storyboarding as an editing tool and planning coverage with the edit in mind
- Shot lists and production planning: organizing shots for efficiency on set
- Casting fundamentals: finding actors and running simple auditions
- Location scouting: evaluating locations for sound, light, and blocking
- Introduction to budgeting and funding: basic cost considerations and low-budget strategies
- Scheduling and workflow: call sheets, time management, and planning your shoot days

Day 1: Assignments

- Convert the script into a shooting (lined) script
- Create storyboards for the scene
- Cast actors
- Scout a location for the shoot and bring reference photos to class

Day 2: Production — Camera, Sound, and On-Set Workflow

- Review and critique of assignments with group discussion and instructor feedback
- Camera fundamentals: frame rate, shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, focal length, and lens choice for storytelling
- Composition and coverage for dialogue: master shots, over-the-shoulders, singles, and inserts
- The 180-degree rule and maintaining screen direction
- Lighting basics: three-point lighting and shaping light for actors
- Sound recording fundamentals: clean dialogue, lavalier vs. boom microphones, room tone, and audio consistency
- Slates and clapboards for syncing and organization
- Crew roles, communication, and efficient on-set workflow

Day 2: Assignments

- Shoot the scene
- Compile dailies and prepare footage for final review

Day 3: Delivery to Post

- Review and workshop of student footage
- Capturing pickups and final coverage: ensuring all necessary footage is captured, including inserts, cutaways, wild lines, and room tone
- Preparing footage for post-production: backing up files, labeling media properly, and delivering notes, logs, and assets to the editor
- Discussion of strengths, challenges, and next steps
- Planning remaining post needs such as pickup shots, ADR, and sound effects