

Beginning iMovie Syllabus

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1) Introductions

- * Instructor and students introduce themselves.
- * Instructor gives a brief summary of the course and warns that CCTV's Digital Editing Basics course (including Mac OSX proficiency) is required. After this course, students will be certified to edit in the computer lab during the Drop-in Hours. Those who want to use CCTV's Edit Suites will need to take CCTV's iMovie in the Edit Suites course.

2) iMovie's Capabilities and Limitations. Why Edit with iMovie?

- * If available, instructor screens a short project edited with iMovie demonstrating the various features the students will be learning how to use.
- * Instructors explains that iMovie's advantages over other editing software programs is that it is FREE with any new Mac, quite intuitively laid-out and easy to learn (manual is 100 pages, compared to Final Cut's 2000 pages!), and optimized for working from DV material. It is NOT suitable for working from analog (e.g. VHS) material; nor is it nearly as feature-rich as Final Cut.

3) Setting Up the Edit Hardware

- * The first thing is to connect everything you need – usually an external Firewire drive and a DV camcorder or VTR for the purposes of capturing from videotape.
- * Instructor demonstrates how to connect up an external Firewire drive to the computer, as well as how to dismount it properly. Instructor stresses the importance of dismounting a drive before disconnecting it, and the damage that could occur if you don't.
- * Instructor then demonstrates how to connect up a DV camcorder for the purposes of capturing.

4) Setting Up the Edit Software

- * Students launch iMovie and create a New Project.
- * Since CCTV doesn't have firewire drives for everyone, instructor makes sure that each student knows how to navigate to the Member User's Documents folder, create a New Master Folder with their full name, and save their New Project in that folder. The instructor stresses how important this is in a multi-

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user, multi-computer environment like CCTV, where it would be very easy to lose track of your stuff and get it mixed up with others' projects or files.

- * The instructor then observes that we will skip the next natural step in setting up the computer, namely the setting of iMovie's Preferences, in favor of getting to "fun stuff" more quickly. We will come back to Preferences as they come up, though, and encourage you to always reset them at the beginning of each edit session.

5) Brief Overview of the iMovie Interface

- * Instructor shows the students the hand-outs identifying the various parts of the iMovie interface, and briefly names the major areas of the screen and what happens in those areas.

6) Importing Video

- * With guidance from the instructor, one student imports video from the DV camcorder, and then saves their project.
- * Instructor explains what just happened, and shows students where the actual video clip is really stored on the computer. Then students and instructor talk about the relationship between the small iMovie project and the large video clip "containing" (actually, pointing to) it.
- * Instructor then reminds students how much hard drive space video actually takes up (3.5 MB/sec!), and asks them to compute how much drive space an hour of digitized footage would take up.
- * The instructor shows students how to trash unwanted imports, and explains that they're not really gone and freeing up space until the Trash is explicitly emptied.

(15-minute break)

7) Creating A Rough-Cut Sequence on the Timeline

- * Instructor shows the students how to edit their show by dragging clips from the Clip Pane to the Clip Viewer, and then re-arranging these on the timeline.
- * In the process, instructor describes the following things, among others:
 - how to switch from Camera Mode to Edit Mode;
 - how to adjust the Mac's sound using the Speaker icon on the Title Bar;
 - how to use the Full Screen View, which can be useful for revealing problems masked by the small monitor and/or lighting in the lab;
 - the differences between Timeline Viewer and Clip Viewer, and how to switch between them;
 - using the arrow keys to move frame by frame through a clip;
 - how simply dragging a clip from the Clip Pane to the timeline removes it from the former, while holding down the Alt/Option key while dragging makes a copy of it on the Timeline while leaving it still in the Clip Pane;
 - how the audio associated with a video clip is normally "hidden", but can be extracted onto one of the audio tracks by clicking on the clip and then choosing Advanced > Extract Audio.

8) Trimming, Cropping, and Splitting Clips

- * Instructor then has each student fine tune their clips by learning how to, successively, Trim, Crop, and Split their clips. Students will be encouraged to describe in their own words the differences between these 3 options.

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- * Instructor also demonstrates how to remove clips from the timeline. Instructor explains that even when something is removed from the timeline, it still exists in the project and hard drive.
- * Instructor has students realize the power of the Edit > Undo feature. iMovie has the ability to Undo the last 32 actions of the current edit session!

9) Adding Transitions; Rendering Them

- * Instructor asks the students to name the type of transition that they have been using so far (cut), and then asks the students to name other types of transitions (Dissolve, Wipe...). The instructor should also raise the question as to when each of these transitions would be appropriate.
- * Students then are shown how to add their own transitions between clips.
- * The instructor will ask the students to explain why the transitions aren't instantly viewable. Through this discussion, students will be reminded that special effects take time to be created ("rendered" in edit-speak), and the resulting stuff is another video file taking up 3.5 MB/sec on the hard drive somewhere. Instructor will encourage students to navigate to their project folder and find out what names their transitions were given, where they went, and how big they were. Instructor also observes that, unlike many editing software apps, iMovie renders everything automatically in the background while enabling you to continue editing. This is time-efficient, but space-inefficient. Instructor should make sure students know how to trash files to free up space.
- * This is a good time to point out that iMovie nicely shows students how much space remains in their hard drive. Students should be encouraged to free up additional space whenever this iMovie indicator turns yellow or drops to the larger of 2 GB or 10% of the total hard drive capacity (for ex. 4 GB for a 40 GB drive, 6 GB for a 60 GB drive).

10) Adding Video Effects

- * Students will learn how to speed up and slow down their clips, and even play them in Reverse.
- * For our last trick...Students are shown how to add effects to an entire video clip, and then to a subclip using 2 different techniques: Marking off a subclip using the Crop markers, and splitting the clip into 2 pieces and then applying a filter to one of those pieces.
- * Just like transitions, video effects need to be rendered and that rendering can take longer and take up more drive space on longer clips.

11) Back Up...Setting Preferences

- * Now that we know more about editing iMovie, let's talk about something we should always do when launching the software. It's called setting Preferences. You need to do it every time you sit down at the computer so that you don't inherit the last user's settings, since Preferences are settings files that stay with the Software, not with your iMovie project.
- * The instructor then will tell the students which preferences to set, how to set them, and why.

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Session #2

12) Questions and Review

- * As a form of review, students try to answer each others' questions.

13) Working with Audio

- * Instructor explains that we have mainly been working with video, but now it's time to look at the audio. With the instructor's guidance, students learn about and briefly practice the following things related to audio:
 - Importing clips on a CD into iMovie
 - Switching to Timeline Viewer mode, and arranging these clips on the timeline
 - Fine-tuning the precise location of the audio using zoom in slider
 - Extracting the audio from a video clip so that it can be trimmed, cropped, deleted, moved.
 - Muting a whole track. Note that muted tracks are NOT exported.
 - Changing the volume of a single clip.
 - Adding Volume Level Handles to change the volume at a particular section of a clip. Also, how to delete those handles.
 - Adding Sound Effects.
 - Adding a voice-over.
 - Locking an Audio Clip to a Video Clip.

(15-minute break)

14) Adding Scanned Images, Making Stills from Video

- * Instructor shows students how to add (provided) pre-scanned images to their project, increase their duration on the timeline, and use the "Ken Burns" pan and scan tools for lending movement to these images.
- * Instructor also shows students how to grab a Still Frame from their video, and use that as a background for the next section, Titles.

15) Adding Titles

- * Instructor shows how to use iMovie's limited, but cute, Titling program to put titles over both Black and the Still Frame grabbed in the previous section.

16) Exporting (Printing to Tape)

- * Instructor then introduces the last phase of the editing process.... Exporting a copy back out to tape or other distribution.
- * Instructor briefly describes the two major choices (printing to tape vs. making a movie file), and points out that this topic is covered in a lot more detail in CCTV's Compression 101 course. In this course, the instructor briefly demonstrates the process of Printing to Tape and, if time permits, making full size DV movie for burning onto CD or DVD. Instructor may want to mention what iDVD does and how it integrates with iMovie.
- * The instructor again emphasizes the importance of saving your work before any processor-intensive task such as importing videotape footage, adding effects or transitions that will begin rendering, or exporting the final program.

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17) Wrap-Up

- * Instructor administers and then reviews with students the proficiency tests. Students complete the evaluations of the course.
- * Instructor engages the students into a conversation about what they have learned and where they will go from here. Distributes Production Contracts.
- * Instructor explains the process for getting assigned a Hard Drive from CCTV, and the advantages of doing this as opposed to leaving their footage on the computer itself. Instructor stresses the risks and limited mobility of leaving files on the Hard Drive. That said, if the students must save on the computer, instructor stresses that they should create a new folder with their name on it and save it inside the Member User's Documents folder.
- * Finally, instructor urges students to drop in to the lab from 6-9 p.m. any Monday nights for free help editing their CCTV video projects.