

A&D 331 Digital Video – production and aesthetics
Prof. Fabian Winkler
Fall 2007

Assignment 02 (due: 09/10/07)

Experiments with the DV camera

In this assignment, I would like you to explore the language of the medium video – focusing only on the video camera. Take one of the many features of the digital video camera: shutter speed, zoom, focus/auto-focus, white balance, sound, exposure, etc. and use it to create a short narrative (either tradition or abstract). The function that you choose will be the main conceptual/structural element in your project, so choose it wisely (e.g. think about what it means to only use the zoom in your piece, or what ideas can be best visualized using only white balance settings, etc...). Make a plan or a storyboard before starting to record your material since all the edits are to be made while recording (in camera editing). The final piece should not be longer than two minutes. It will be presented on miniDV tape in class.

Goals:

- Learn to use the functions of a video camera.
- Explore some of the vocabulary of the language of video.
- Learn to layout a storyboard for your project.

From Lev Manovich, *The Language of New Media*, p. 15:

"Today, as more artists are turning to new media, few are willing to undertake systematic, laboratory-like research undertaken by the Russian and German avant-garde artists of the 1920s in places like Vkhutemas and Bauhaus, as they explored the new media of their time: photography, film, new print technologies, telephony. Today, those few who are able to resist the immediate temptation to create an "interactive CD-ROM", or make a feature length "digital film", and instead focus on determining the new media equivalent of a shot, sentence, word, or even letter, are rewarded with amazing findings."