

BFR6032.FK Editing

Fall 2025

SYLLABUS

Description: The course covers the basics of non-linear editing. Besides the classroom lectures about theoretical approaches to editing students have to perform several practical assignments using the non-linear editing program Final Cut Pro. Other editing platforms (Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Media Composer and Davinci Resolve) are also briefly introduced. The goal of the course is to provide students the basic theoretical background and practical skills to be ready to edit their own projects starting from television projects, documentaries, music videos to short films. In the end of the course students edit group projects and present them in SuperNova Cinema.

Number of credit points: 6 ECP credits

Instructor:

Tarmo Rajaleid

E-mail: tarmo.rajaleid@tlu.ee

Phone: (+372) 58100035

Class times:*Theoretical Lectures* in Classroom

Mondays 12:15 – 14:00

Zoom link (just in case)<https://zoom.us/j/98281968622?pwd=NmQ1S2d2VklQYjZsaB4bzNVMHltUT09>

Practical editing workshops according to the schedule in **Computer Lab N-507:**

Mondays Group 1 12:15 – 14:00

Mondays Group 2 14:15 – 16:00

Course materials available:<http://www.tlu.ee/~rajaleid/Editing2025>

	Date	Topics and assignments
1.	Mon 1.09 12:15-14:00 N-307	<p>Introduction and orientation. What is Editing? Walter Murch. "In the blink of an eye" Documentary "The Cutting Edge: The Magic of Movie Editing" (dir. Wendy Apple) Examples and extracts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Homework:</i> <i>To read: Murch, Walter. In the Blink of an Eye</i></p>
2.	Mon 8.09 12:15-14:00 N-207	<p>Editing as dramaturgy. Question and Answer patterns. In class film analysis. Questions for analyzing film. Frank Daniel Script Analysis Methodology.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Homework:</i> <i>Start editing the Assignment 4. "Silent story from a film"</i> <i>To read: Frank Daniel Script Analysis Methodology.</i></p>
3.	Mon 15.09 12:15-14:00 N-207	<p>Basic editing techniques and rules. Spatial connections between shots, 180-degree rule, 30-degree rule Temporal, rhythmical, graphical connections between shots The anchor points, subliminal continuity, Classical Hollywood continuity Examples from DVD "Hollywood Camerawork".</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Homework:</i> <i>Start doing the Assignment 5. Written analysis of selected film</i> <i>To read: Thomson, Roy. Grammar of the Edit.</i> <i>Thomson, Roy. Grammar of the Shot.</i> <i>Katz, Steven D. Film Directing Shot by Shot.</i></p>

4.	Mon 22.09 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab V-304 <i>Basic editing.</i> Lesson 1: Getting Started Lesson 2: Importing Media
5.	29.09 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab N-507 Lesson 3: Organizing Clips Lesson 4: Making the First Edit <i>Trimming.</i> <i>Homework:</i> <i>Start editing Assignment 1. Editing the action „Escape“</i>
6.	Mon 6.10 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab N-507 3-point Edit. Editing shortcuts. Lesson 5: Revising the Edit <i>Sound Workflows</i> <i>Homework:</i> <i>Start editing Assignment 2. Editing the dialogue “Fairly Legal”</i> <i>Start editing Assignment 3. TV feature editing “Zero to Hero”</i>
7.	Mon 13.10 12:15-14:00 N-207	Editing as a technological process. History of editing technologies, video signal, standards, videotape formats etc. <i>Homework:</i> <i>Read suggested materials about editing technology</i>
		20 - 26 October – independent work
	Mon 27.10	DEADLINES: <i>Assignment 1. Editing the action “Escape”</i> <i>Assignment 2. Editing the dialogue “Fairly Legal”</i> <i>Assignment 3. TV feature editing “Zero to Hero”</i> <i>Assignment 5. Written analysis of selected film</i>
8.	Mon 27.10 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab N-507 Lesson 6: Enhancing the Edit Lesson 7: Finishing the Edit <i>Graphics. Motion Workflows</i>
	Mon 3.11	DEADLINE: <i>Assignment 4. “Silent story from Sügisball film”</i>
9.	Mon 3.11 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab N-507 <i>Color Grading Workflows.</i> <i>Davinci Resolve basic intro.</i>
		10-16 Nov – independent work
10.	Mon 17.11 12:15-14:00 N-207	Film analysis seminar: presentations and discussion (Assignment 6) (presentations - each max 20 min)
	Wed 19.11 16:15-18:45	Final projects editing – CONSULTATIONS N507 Computer Lab
11.	Mon 24.11 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab N-507 Lesson 8: Sharing a Project <i>Subtitles</i> <i>DCP creation. Synchronizing Dual System Recordings.</i> <i>Homework:</i> <i>Start Assignment 7. Effects Editing „Mobileviz Minutes“</i>
12.	Mon 1.12 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2	In Computer Lab N-507 Lesson 9: Managing Libraries Lesson 10: Advancing Your Workflow <i>Using Chroma Key, Working with Multicam</i>

	14:15-16:00	<i>IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT Assignment 8 – Multicamera music video</i>
	Tue 2.12 10:15-14:00	Final projects editing – CONSULTATIONS N507 Computer Lab
13.	Mon 8.12 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab Previsualisation Previsualization and storyboarding using Frameforge 3d Studio. Script writing and formating using WriterDuet. <i>Homework:</i> <i>Start Assignment 9. Frameforge 3d assignment</i> Introduction to Adobe Premiere Pro CC and Avid Media Composer Comparative overview. Basic workflow and editing tools.
14.	Mon 15.12 Group 1 12:15-14:00 Group 2 14:15-16:00	In Computer Lab Introduction to Adobe Premiere Pro CC and Avid Media Composer (continues) Comparative overview. Basic workflow and editing tools. Exam Review
	Mon 15.12	<i>DEADLINE:</i> <i>Assignment 7. Effects Editing „Mobileviz Minutes“ Assignment 8. Multicamera editing – Music Video One Night in Jordan</i>
	Mon 17.12 16:15-18:45	Final projects presentations Room N-307
	Mon 12.01.2026	<i>DEADLINE:</i> <i>Assignment 9. Frameforge 3d assignment</i>
	EXAMS	
	Mon 12.01.2026 10:15-11:30	Final Exam (first time) Room N-207
	Mon 19.01.2026 10:15-11:30	Final Exam (second time) Room N-207

Assignments and grading:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Editing the action – „Escape“
(building the scene tension, anchor points, rhythms, tempo) | 5 |
| | <i>Deadline: Mon 27.10</i> |
| 2. Editing the dialogue “Fairly Legal”
(dialogue rhythms, J an L cuts, trimming, trimming, Roll and Ripple, Slip and Slide tools) | 5 |
| | <i>Deadline: Mon 27.10</i> |
| 3. TV feature editing “Zero to Hero”
(Drag and Drop editing, 3 Point Editing, Mixed Audio Tracks) | 5 |
| | <i>Deadline: Mon 27.10</i> |
| 4. 3-4 minute Edited Silent Story from a film “Sügisball” (dir. Veiko Õunpuu) | 15 |
| | <i>Deadline: Mon 3.11</i> |
| 5. Written analysis of the selected film (3 pages) | 10 |
| | <i>Deadline: Mon 28.10</i> |
| 6. Group work (4 students) - Film analysis seminar:
in class presentation with film examples (15-20 minutes presentation) | 10 |

	Mon 17.11	
7. Effects editing „Mobileviz Minutes“ (Effects, Picture in Picture, Multiframe, Color Correction)		5
	Deadline: Mon 15.12	
8. Multicamera editing – Music Video One Night in Jordan (Editing to the music, multicamera editing)		5
	Deadline: Mon 15.12	
9. Frameforge 3d assignment – recreation of a scene from selected film		5
	Deadline: Mon 12.01.2026	
10. Final Examination (terms, theory, Final Cut Pro X)		20
	Mon 12.01.2026 or Mon 19.01.2026	
11. Edited final project – presentation in N-307		15
	Wed 17.12.2025	
TOTAL max points		100

Scale:

91 -100 points	"A", outstanding
81 - 90 points	"B", very good
71 - 80 points	"C", good
61 - 70 points	"D", satisfactory
51 - 60 points	"E", weak
under 50	"F", failed

Missing of deadlines: Missing of the announced day of submission of your assignments will automatically lead to decrease of your grade for this assignment by 20%.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. Students, who will not be present more than three seminars will automatically lose 5 points from the final grade. Students who are unable to attend a class (for reasons of illness or for any other valid reason) are expected to inform the instructor by e-mail or phone before the class.

Plagiarism: Academic honesty is absolutely required. If you use the ideas of the others, either as a quote or a paraphrase, you must include the source of that information. Any student, who plagiarizes or cheats, will receive a "F" for the assignment in question. The second incident can result in a "F" for the course.

Commitment: As many of the assignments will be performed as group works the students are expected actively participate in the group efforts and commit to the common achievement in the best possible way.

Required reading for the course:

Boykin, Brendan. Apple Pro Training Series: Final Cut Pro X 10.4: Professional Post-Production. Peachpit Press, 2018.

(part of the Course Reader – available as pdf files)

Murch, Walter. In the Blink of An Eye. 1992.

Katz, Steven D. Film Directing Shot by Shot. Michael Wise Production, 1991.

Thomson, Roy. Grammar of the Edit. Focal Press, 2003.

Thomson, Roy. Grammar of the Shot. Focal Press, 1998.

Frank Daniel Script Analysis Methodology.

Suggested additional readings:*About Film editing theory*

Dancyger, Ken. The Technique of Film and Video Editing. History, Theory and Practice. Elsevier, 2007.

Reisz, Karel and Gavin Millar. The Technique of Film Editing. 2nd ed. Focal Press, 1999.

Fairservice, Don. Film Editing. History, Theory and Practice. Manchester University Press 2001.

Basic editing theories and principles. <<http://bctv.butte.edu/telcom/tel40text/3editing.html#anchor80230>>.

About film script writing and structuring

Velikovskiy, J. T. A Guide to Feature Film Writing: A Screenwriter's Workbook. Retrieved 25th March 2004
<www.joeteevee.com/other.html>.

About editing technology, formats etc.

Rubin, Michael. Nonlinear. A Guide to Digital Film and Video Editing. Triad Publishing, 3rd ed., 1995.

Browne, Steven E. Nonlinear Editing Basics. Electronic Film and Video Editing. Focal Press, 1998.

Ward, Peter. Digital Video Camerawork. Media Manual. Focal Press 2000

Anderson, Gary H. Video Editing and Post-Production. A Professional Guide. 4th ed. Focal Press, 1999.

Browne, Steven E. Video Editing. A Post-Production Primer. 3rd ed. Focal Press, 1997.

Pank, Bob. The Digital Fact Book. 11th Ed.

<[http://www.quantel.com/resource.nsf/Files/Quantel_Digital_Factbook/\\$FILE/Quantel_Digital_Factbook.pdf](http://www.quantel.com/resource.nsf/Files/Quantel_Digital_Factbook/$FILE/Quantel_Digital_Factbook.pdf)>

Pank, Bob. Digital Film Supplement.

<[http://www.quantel.com//resource.nsf/Files/Digital_Film/\\$FILE/Digital_Film.pdf](http://www.quantel.com//resource.nsf/Files/Digital_Film/$FILE/Digital_Film.pdf)>.

Puhovski, Nenad. High Definition. Report from Cilect Standing Committee for New Technologies. Madrid, 2006 <<http://161.58.124.223/documents/Hidefreport.pdf>>.