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REPORTS OF SMPE COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MOTION PICTURE INSTRUCTION*

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The Committee on Motion Picture Instruction was formed in October 1945, with the aim and purpose of providing the Society with a list of the various institutions, colleges, and universities that teach courses on motion pictures. The Society would then list these sources for education in motion pictures, enumerating courses that are taught at each institution, thereby permitting the Society to furnish concrete information in answer to inquiries from individuals seeking information on where such courses and instruction might be obtained.

After some preliminary correspondence between the members, a questionnaire was drawn up and approved for submission to educational institutions of technical school or college grade. A copy of the questionnaire is attached as an appendix to this report. It will be noted that it requested information from each institution on the subjects listed below:

- (1) Cinematography (including color)
- (2) Photography (including color)
- (3) Sound Recording
- (4) Motion Picture Film Editing
- (5) Motion Picture Projection
- (6) Motion Picture Distribution
- (7) Economic Problems in Motion Picture Production and Exhibition
- (8) Film Processing—still
- (9) Film Processing—motion picture
- (10) Miscellaneous

The questionnaire was sent to 155 institutions of higher learning scattered throughout the United States. To date, replies have been

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** Chairman.

received from 102, or approximately 66 per cent of those sent out. Of this number, 60 were universities, 32 were colleges, 8 were technical schools, one was a military academy, and one was an Armed Forces institute. The information has been broken down into courses which are listed below in the order of their appearance on the questionnaire:

CINEMATOGRAPHY (INCLUDING COLOR)

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York 3, N. Y.	Motion Pictures 1-2	3 per wk	6
Oregon State College Corvallis, Ore.	Educational Cinematography (Summer Session only)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
University of Denver Denver, Colo.	Motion Picture Making	2 quarter hr	2
Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio	Cinematography	2	2
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Av. Los Angeles, Calif.	Cinema 115ab, Cinema 165ab, and others (see bulletin)	1st yr, 8 hr per wk 2nd yr, 8 hr per wk	8 units 8 units

PHOTOGRAPHY (INCLUDING COLOR)

Iowa State College Ames, Iowa	1. Physics 316 2. Physics 650	1. 4½ 2. 3 or more	These 2 courses are to develop photography in scientific fields
University of Oregon Eugene, Ore.	Rudiments of Photographic Journalism	1½	2 term hr
Oberlin College Oberlin, Ohio	In Dept. of Chemistry (Photography)	Lab.—1 or 2 3-hr periods per wk	2 or 3 hr
Baylor University Waco, Tex.	Photography	3½	
University of Detroit Detroit, Mich.	P41b	3 hr or more per wk for 1 sem.	2
University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minn.	News Photography Photography	3 quarter hr per wk 5 quarter hr per wk	3 3
Gustavus Adolphus College St. Peter, Minn.	211 Photography 212 Advanced Photography	2 2	2 2

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
Drake University Des Moines, Iowa	News Photography	2	2
College of Emporia Emporia, Kan.	Photography in Physics Dept.	Sem. I—2 hr	2 hr
University of Colorado Boulder, Colo.	Photography	2	2
Brigham Young University Provo, Utah	Photography Elementary	5	5
	Advanced	3	3
State College of Washington Pullman, Wash.	Photography—in planning stage at present		
Northwestern University	Elements of Photography	4 quarter hr	4
Medill School of Journalism Evanston, Ill.	Press Photography	4 quarter hr	4
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York 3, N. Y.	Motion Pict. 3-4	2 per wk	4
Colgate University Hamilton, N. Y.	Photography	3	3
Miami University Oxford, Ohio	Elementary Photography (Still)	2	2
	Advanced Photography (Still)	4	3
Oregon State College Corvallis, Ore.	<i>Ph 161</i> —Rudiments of Photography	2 term hr (1.33 sem. hr)	2 (1.33)
	<i>Ph 361</i> (Hand Camera)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
	<i>Ph 362</i> (Commercial)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
	<i>Ph 363</i> (Composition Enlarging)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
	<i>Ph 461, 462, 463</i> —Advanced Photography (Color, Photomicrography, Microscopic Motion Pictures)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
University of Idaho Moscow, Idaho	"Photographic Technique" (Zool. 151-152). Does not include motion picture but includes color-correct photography and some color photography	Sem. I — 3 hr	3
		Sem. II — 2 hr	2
St. Olaf College Northfield, Minn.	Photography & Art	4 hr	2 sem.

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio	3 courses	3 (each course)	3 (each course)
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	Cinema 90, 91, 92; Cinema 121ab Cinema 50ab will re- place 90, 91 (Color— begins 1946)	Each course 4 hr per wk 7 hr per wk	2 units per course 3 units

It will be noted that 21 schools report courses in photography. These appear to range all the way from elementary photography through news photography to the more scientific aspects of the subject, such as photomicrography. It will be noted, however, that in none of the replies is there any indication that photography is considered as a major subject leading to a degree. On the other hand, it appears to be a minor subject associated with a wide variety of major courses.

SOUND RECORDING

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
Georgia School of Technology Atlanta, Ga.	Sound Recording	Part of course in public speaking	
State College of Wash- ington Pullman, Wash.	None, except in courses offered in radio tech- niques		
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York 3, N. Y.	Motion Pictures 9-10	2 per wk	4
Oregon State College Corvallis, Ore.	Ed. 533 -Correlation of radio recordings with visual aids (Occasionally given in summer session. Occasionally a few students are trained on an apprenticeship basis in connection with radiostation KOAC—very fragmentary.)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr.)	3 (2)
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	Cinema 140	3 hr per wk	2 units

Only five schools list any courses in sound recording, and two of these can only be considered as dealing with operation of equipment rather than study of the fundamental engineering problems involved in sound recording. In fact, it is very doubtful that any strictly technical courses in this most important field are offered in any of the higher institutions of learning in the United States.

MOTION PICTURE FILM EDITING

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York, 3 N. Y.	Motion Pictures 31	2 per wk	2
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	Cinema 135	3 hr per wk	2
Antioch College Yellow Springs, Ohio	Motion Picture Film Editing	20 wk	5

MOTION PICTURE PROJECTION

University of Kansas Lawrence, Kan.	Study of the history, technique, art, and the social and edu- cational significance of the motion picture	2	2
Pennsylvania State College State College, Pa.	Teach projection but not for credit. 16- mm only.		None
University of Ken- tucky Lexington, Ky.	Given both informally upon request of individuals and included in educational audio-visual instructional aids courses.		
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York, 3, N. Y.	Included in Motion Pictures 3-4		
Antioch College Yellow Springs, Ohio	Classes conducted by students under extra-curricular committee.		

It will be noted that five institutions indicate some kind of courses in motion picture projection. However, the courses offered either give no university credit or are considered a part of other courses in motion pictures or audio-visual instruction.

MOTION PICTURE DISTRIBUTION

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
Pennsylvania State College State College, Pa.	Motion Picture Dist.		
University of Ken- tucky Lexington, Ky.	Included in graduate courses on audio-visual aids in instruction. Commercial distribution for entertainment is not included.		
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York, 3, N. Y.	Motion Pictures 19-20	2 per wk	4
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	Cinema 150	2 hr per wk	2 units

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION AND EXHIBITION

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York 3, N. Y.	Motion Pictures 19-20	2 per wk	4
University of Denver Denver, Colo.	Courses planned for 1946-1947 in School of Commerce		
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	Cinema 250ab	2 hr per wk for 2 sem.	2 units per sem.

FILM PROCESSING—STILL

University of Detroit Detroit, Mich.	Film Processing—Still	As a part of the Lab. work, <i>etc.</i> , of General Photography	
State College of Wash- ington Pullman, Wash.	In Planning Stage		
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	Covered in Cinema 90, 91, and 92		

FILM PROCESSING—MOTION PICTURE

Oregon State College Corvallis, Ore.	Included (16 mm) in courses in Photogra- phy		
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MISCELLANEOUS

Baylor University Waco, Tex.	Course in Visual Ed.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Pennsylvania State College State College, Pa.	Visual Education—Ed. 423 Lab. in visual and other aids	2	1
	Ed. 424 Visual & other sensory aids in edu- cation	1 or 2	1 or 2
University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Mich.	B-133 Visual-Sensory aids in education		2 hr
	B-300 Research Semi- nar		Credit ar- ranged
Kansas State College of Agriculture & Applied Science Manhattan, Kan.	"We make a few films for public relations and instructional purposes but offer no instruction in any technical phase of the motion picture industry, although we do offer a course in visual instruction and we have three courses in still photography. We would be glad to have syllabi and other information which might be useful in formulating plans for technical course work."		

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
Louisiana Polytech. Institute Ruston, La.	"I am teaching a class in 'Audio-Visual Aids to Instruction.' It has to do with making effective utilization of films in the classroom. Although motion picture production, distribution, <i>etc.</i> , should concern itself with the 16-mm documentary and educational film as well as the entertainment film. I find a tendency to center all courses around the 35-mm 'Hollywood' entertainment industry. This was my observation during the past three years spent with the Army's film center in New York and observation of courses in the colleges of that city."—Robt. H. Mount, Dir. of Visual Instruction.		
Oregon State College Corvallis, Ore.	Ed. 431—Construction and use of Visual Aids	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
	Ed. 531—Organization and supervision of visual aids (summer only)	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
	I Ed. 474—Written and visual teaching aids.	3 term hr (2 sem. hr)	3 (2)
	Wild Life Photography (a new course to be given by Dept. of Zoology)		
University of Oklahoma Norman, Okla.	Audio-visual Education: a course designed principally for teachers	2	2
University of Kansas Lawrence, Kan.	Methods and Administration of Visual Instr.	2	2
A. & M. College of Texas College Station, Tex.	"Some interest is being developed toward use of films in connection with teaching. Committee actively working on these details—I am Chairman of that Committee."—G. B. Wilcox, Head, Dept. of Educ. & Psychology		
University of Colorado Boulder, Colo.	Photochemical Physics	1	1
Otis Art Institute 2401 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, Calif.	Theater & Set Design Course	Course requires 3 yr	First year basic earns 31 term pt. Total term pt. for course, 114
Pasadena Junior College East Colorado St. Pasadena, Calif.	Stage Technology	2-yr course	
	"Students completing this course are qualified to accept positions in radio, motion pictures, television, recording, and legitimate stage. In the past we have found it most helpful to use as teaching aids advertising materials such as graphs, illustrations, charts, data sheets, <i>etc.</i> , put out by the various companies supplying these fields. This enables the students to become acquainted with available equipment, its care, use, and applications, and also to receive up-to-the-minute in-		

Name of College	Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
	formation on new developments. We should appreciate being included on your mailing list to receive such materials as you may have. If possible, we should like to have this material in lots of 200 so that each student may have a copy for reference."		
Georgia School of Technology Atlanta, Ga.	Parts of courses in Physics and Elec. Eng.		
University of South Dakota Extension Division Vermillion, S. D.	Visual Instruction (During summer session)		
Harvard University Cambridge, Mass.	Audio-Visual aids to teaching	2	2
University of Wisconsin Univ. Extension Div. Madison 6, Wis.	Visual Instruction: "Designed to meet the needs of administrators, classroom teachers, supervisors, and directors of visual education. The history of visual education, relevant principles of learning, scientific studies in the field, and methods of evaluation are investigated. Individual assistance is given in co-ordinating audio-visual materials to course of study or general curriculum needs, and demonstration of tested methods of classroom use of audio-visual materials at elementary and secondary school levels in requested subject areas."		2
	Local Production of Audio-Visual Materials:		
	"An opportunity for teachers, supervisors, and administrators actually to produce those audio-visual teaching materials which adapt themselves for production in the local school situation. Following a brief treatment of audio-visual teaching psychology and philosophy, the persons enrolled will be taken through experiences in developing poster files, bulletin-board displays, the construction of terrain models and filmstrip, slide and motion picture production. Laboratory facilities will be available to a maximum enrollment of 15. People coming into the course should have their own cameras, to be approved by the instructors. Other arrangements may be made for a limited number of interested people who own no equipment but who intend to do so."		
Cornell University Dept. of Extension Teaching and Info. Ithaca, N. Y.	"At present we give only one course in photography which is more an introduction to all phases of photographic work than anything else. It is intended to give prospective teachers an idea of the scope and methods applicable to their teaching."		
New York University Dept. of Motion Pict. Washington Square New York 3, N. Y.	Motion Pictures 91	2 per wk	3
Boston University 84 Exeter St.	Visual Education— Mgt.	2 1/4 per wk	3

Name of College	Course	Semester Hours	Credits
Boston, Mass.	Problems in Visual Ed.—Mgt. "None of our courses limit themselves to the use of the educational motion picture although a considerable portion of the courses discuss the possibility of the motion picture in education."	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ per wk	3
Antioch College Yellow Springs, Ohio	Aspects of the Film	12 wk	3
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Mass.	"MIT offers no courses that exactly fit into these categories. For example, we offer a course on color, of which color reproduction is one important aspect. In normal times we offer courses on photography and cinematography but they were temporarily discontinued because of the war."		
University of Southern California Dept. of Cinema 3551 University Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	A.B. Degree with major in Cinema M.A. Degree with major in Cinema See Bulletins. Related courses in physics and engineering—Electronics, Recording, <i>etc.</i>		
Indiana University Extension Division Bloomington, Ind.	"At the present time, we have only one course in audio-visual aids in production, but will break this course down into 3 to 5 courses as our production program gets under way at Indiana University."		

Of the courses listed above as offered by the various institutions, few, if any, can be construed as offering technical information on a level corresponding to that of other well-established curricula. On the other hand, they appear to come under the broad heading of "Visual Education." Some of these courses do include the actual making of films, which involves the artistic as well as the technological aspects of motion picture making. Undoubtedly, students taking these courses do obtain a certain familiarity with motion picture equipment, especially of the 16-mm variety, but it is doubtful that any basic training in cinematography or sound recording is included in these visual education courses.

The results of the survey of the higher institutions of learning in the United States by the Committee indicate very clearly that the technology of motion picture making has not been given serious consideration in institutions of this caliber. While it must be admitted that courses in physics, chemistry, electrical engineering, electronics, *etc.*, offer the basic groundwork for proficiency in the various fields of picture making, it would appear that the industry has advanced to a point where training for it should be recognized as calling for special instruction in our schools and colleges. It would certainly appear

that it is high time for cinematography to be emerging from the strictly "craft" classification into that of a full-fledged profession. The modern cinematographer, it seems, should have a basic education in physics, chemistry, illumination, photography, camera design, and all the other elements that go into the work of a cinematographer. The results of the questionnaire, however, show that this condition does not exist in our American schools.

In the newer fields of motion picture activity, such as sound recording, it is hardly to be expected that formal courses in this subject should be listed at this time. It may be argued that sound recording calls for training in the basic physical and electronic sciences, and as such should be covered in the regular courses given in this field. To those of us who are familiar with the ramifications of modern sound recording for motion pictures, public address, and radio, it would seem that it is about time that specific courses leading to a degree in this most important field should be offered by some of our more progressive institutions.

It is of particular interest to the Committee that of the well-known institutions of learning in Southern California—the home of the motion picture—only the University of Southern California lists any courses in the field of motion picture making. However, these courses are pointed more toward training people for teaching similar courses in other institutions and for providing a background for those interested in the cinema rather than providing solid engineering training pointed toward the professional aspects of the industry. One would expect that here at least some attempt should be made to train young men and women for positions in what is probably the largest local industry. The failure of these institutions to do so reflects the general opinion that motion picture making is in the classification of a craft rather than a profession, and as such does not warrant the serious attention of institutions of higher learning. Another important factor is the reported difficulty of graduates from local schools finding employment in the studios, where a rigid closed shop bars employment of anybody except members of the various labor unions. It will be necessary, therefore, to secure the co-operation of the various labor unions with the local colleges in setting up high grade courses of technical instruction. Until some avenue of employment is opened to prospective graduates of these courses, there seems to be little hope of improvement in the present situation.

Appendix A

QUESTIONNAIRE
 COMMITTEE ON MOTION PICTURE INSTRUCTION
 SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS

The Society of Motion Picture Engineers has organized a Committee on Motion Picture Instruction. This Committee was formed in response to numerous requests received from members of the Society, individuals outside of the Society, and members of the Armed Forces asking for information as to where educational courses might be taken which would help them gain a better understanding of the motion picture film industry, in its three major phases: namely, production, distribution and exhibition.

The following questionnaire has been prepared in an effort to procure this information, and your cooperation in completing it will be appreciated:

Name of Institution _____

Address _____

Check Type of Institution: University _____ College _____ Technical School _____

Trade School _____ Other _____

Courses	Pre-Requisites	Semester Hours	Credits
Cinematography (including color)			
Photography (including color)			
Sound Recording			
Motion Picture Film Editing			

Courses	Pre-Requisites	Semester Hours	Credits
Motion Picture Projection			
Motion Picture Distribution			
Economic Problems in Motion Picture Production and Ex- hibition			
Film Processing—Still			
Film Processing— Motion Picture			
Add here any courses in topics not listed above which may have a bearing on the motion picture industry and which deal with the techni- cal rather than the artistic phases of motion picture pro- duction and exhibi- tion			

JOHN G. FRAYNE, *Chairman*
Committee on Motion Picture Instruction