



# DSLR cameras for dummies

Nathan Sturgess/Clackamas Print

Local filmmaker Justin Alpern shows off the Zeiss Prime Lens to the DMC-199 DSLR Filmmaking class on Feb. 4. The class teaches the use of digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras for digital filmmaking.

**By Nathan Sturgess**  
Associate Photo Editor

Along with the many regular courses Clackamas Community College offers, there are quite a few one credit specialty classes open to students who would like to get familiar with subjects that are new to them. One such course that was offered recently was a digital multimedia communications course that explained the

ins and outs of digital filmmaking specifically with digital single lens reflex cameras, or DSLRs.

In the schedule of classes it was listed that Andy Mingo, one of the DMC program's regular instructors was teaching the course. But in reality the instructor was Justin Alpern, a locally based filmmaker who has extensive experience with these relatively new cameras. Alpern has also worked quite a bit with Mingo, most recently as

Mingo's director of photography for his latest film. The course was so informative that Mingo also sat in on the class, hoping to increase his knowledge of this up-and-coming digital medium.

The course was held Feb. 4-5, and students got lots of hands-on experience with these very capable cameras. Students even got to make use of some of Alpern's own professional equipment. They learned about camera

settings and techniques, the correct use of lighting with the cameras and how to manage the digital files they created during the class.

Alpern explained how digital acquisition of video has been a huge leap forward in the film industry.

"DSLRs are here to stay. They have made huge inroads and, as far as technology goes, I think I can comfortably say that it's the

fastest new technology to integrate its way into television and film production. The whole digital revolution is paramount (the introduction of) sound to the industry," said Alpern. What intrigues Alpern about this technology is how it has leveled the playing field for filmmakers so that high-quality films can be made by people who may never have been able to afford it.

"With digital of any variety, be it a DSLR or an iPhone, filmmakers of all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds can learn how to shoot film," said Alpern.

Alpern himself has a bachelor's degree in fine arts and only recently considered getting a master's in film.

Jason Jould, a student attending the class, is looking to double major in film theory and production.

"I'm very creative but I'm very technical; becoming more technical will make me self-aware," he said.

Jould wants to make his feature film and he thinks these new cameras is his best shot to get it down on a budget.

Another student, Chris Reid, is studying water and environmental technologies, but has friends that work with water. For Reid, water and environmental technology is his fallback.

"What I really want to get into stuff like this (class) and filmmaking," Reid said.

For Alpern, a danger of new ability is that filmmakers won't spend the time to learn about the history of film and traditional methods of filmmaking. Being able to just go out and try new things is a positive for Alpern, but he still recommends that aspiring filmmakers familiarize themselves with traditional techniques.

## Letter to the editor: Student elections show disrespect

To the college community:

We the undersigned are compelled to express our very serious concerns for how the Associated Student Government controls the electoral process in a way that prevents the very democratic principles and processes that all of us veterans sacrificed for globally. When CCC bills itself as the "veteran-friendly" campus, it should make sure that when veterans return from fighting for democracy overseas, we come back to a college that actually practices real democracy here at home, so that it doesn't make a mockery of our service. In short, we need to practice what we preach.

The ASG Constitution has a clause that requires a student to be selected by the ASG, not the student body, to serve for two terms before that student is even allowed to run for Student Body President or Vice-President. Does it even make sense to require two terms in ASG before one is "qualified" to run in a two-year college? More importantly, this is exactly how the Soviet Union, North Korea and Saddam's Iraq rigged the political process to give their unlawful regimes the veneer of "consent." Each of us served in wars against these very undemocratic regimes, so it adds insult to injury (all of us will be forever changed because of our military experiences) to be told that this despotic practice occurs on the campus we attend all under the guise of a "representative" body.

As political science students (and professor), we are also concerned with what we're teaching students about the American political system. The American Revolution was all about preventing the rise of a "noble class" of persons who would maintain exclusive control of the governing process while enjoying privileges and perks not available to all (see Article I, Sections 9 and 10 and the 14th Amendment). Is it no wonder that the political class, both locally and nationally, are so disconnected from what's going on in America when schools like CCC create this very mind-set in their so-called "student governments."

It is insulting to every adult who attends this college to be told you are old enough and experienced enough to die for your country, lead a company of troops in combat, be

a mother or father, business owner, President of the United States, a member Congress a governor or state legislator, but somehow we aren't "mature" or "experienced" enough to run a student government. It is also a slap in the face to the entire student-body to let the ASG to determine who we can elect to these important positions.

That is not what America stands for, and we won't stand for it either; after all we know what it means to fight for democracy, and we will continue to do so here at CCC. We call on the student-body to join us as we rewrite the ASG Constitution so it allows for the democracy that so many of our countrymen and women have given their lives to defend - and are still doing so today.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Brown, USMC, 1st Marine Division, 3/5, Korea (Chosin Reservoir); Certified Master Tutor, CCC; B.S. Cal-Poly University

Justin Lay, President, CCC Veteran's Club, USMC, Sergeant, Bravo Co., 4th Tank Battalion (Reserve Road Transportation Chief) two tours - Iraq; political science major, CCC

Jakob P. Belles, Specialists, US Army; (Formerly) Delta 35 Eng Battalion, Leonard Wood, Mo.; (Formerly) 3rd Infantry Division, 671 Eng Co. MRBC, 70th Support Group, Portland, OR. (Jan. 1 - June 3); wounded in action - Iraq; CCC political science major and adviser to the Military History Program

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