

2010/1 TU 110 Group Projects

BBA YouTube Links

Group 1 - Thai Buddhist Beliefs about Hell

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0FHGIG1Mtc>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMV2_uPYlvY

Group 2 - Chinese Influence in Thailand

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IsiZRyEkwz>

Group 3 - European Influence on Thai Architecture

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpTRYRYI3T0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYZh0IbyUvQ>

Group 4 - Thai Amulets

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfsGO14tOIw>

BE YouTube Links

Group 1 - What is Beauty of Women?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNQMUqMJcbM>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pqwx-1c_M4

Group 2 - Shadow Puppets

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nZ58eIiZSc>

Group 3 - Thai Architecture

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OFtmBa3bxQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsKb5B6D6Rs>

Group 4 - Art of the Emerald Buddha Temple

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wou7mst1gdY>

BBA Group 1 - Thai Buddhist Beliefs about Hell

The Good

This group chose a concise, interesting topic for their project.

The *vox populi* introduction was well done and attention grabbing.

The various punishments that people might face in hell were well illustrated.

The Bad

There was only the briefest of introductions to the specific topic of this movie, Thai beliefs about hell. I think most non-Thai viewers would not have understood what they were watching.

The narration was sometimes difficult to understand and not subtitled. It was also sometimes only in the left speaker. There were a number of horror-movie sound effects during the movie that were silly and added no value to the movie.

While the information in the movie was footnoted in the transcript, there was no attempt made to give context for any of the information in the movie. The presentation was interesting enough to make the viewer watch and ask questions, but none of the viewer's obvious questions were answered. This movie really needed to be run by some test audiences before final cut.

While the visuals were gripping, there was no context for any of them. Where did all of the images of hell come from?

Most of all, the movie needed structure. If there had been one or two students on screen presenting the information in context, many of the above problems might have been avoided.

The Ugly

The substance of the movie was too short. The substance of the movie was only ten minutes before the confused, ending-montage began. There was no transition between the Thai beliefs section and the end montage. It was not at all clear where the montage-information came from or how it was relevant. Some of it was clearly not relevant. And what was the google spreadsheets link for? Were viewers supposed to copy it down and follow it? Why would they?

There were a number of video clips from external sources used. The assignment specifically forbid the use of such video clips without my written permission.

No member of this group asked a question on Movie Day.

Score: 80

In Their Own Words

BBA Group 1: What advice would you give to future students?

- Start early do not do them in the last minute, try to make the video in high quality with clear subtitle and voice
- Important thing is work as a team, It's more effective to do that way.
- Start the project early, don't wait until the last minute
- Learn how to use those editing programs first and choose the most user-friendly program, to spare your time
- prepare for it and get a good camera for the video
- Good plan is very important.
- Nothing you can not do if you really try your best on it!!
- Get a good camera :)
- You should specific topic because it will become too much to squeeze in 15 minutes and hard to explain.
- Choose the topic that is possible in film shooting. (because my group is difficult, how and where we can shoot the film!)
- start early
- You should plan first before you go to the place and take movie. Like when you are going to film the tall building and you want to cover all its height so, before you take the movie, you should try adjust which angle that covers all.
- come up with the thorough storyboard before start filming
- Screenplay really is important. Do a well-structured screenplay and you will waste less time editing the movie.
- Group work is the most important, they need to work all the abilities that their group have to get the best performance

BBA Group 2 - Chinese Influence in Thailand

The Good

This group selected a good, interesting topic. Examples of Chinese culture found in Thailand were explained in a basic manner.

A variety of different means were used to maintain visual interest in the movie, including performing in front of the camera at a variety of sites in Bangkok and photo montages.

The parts where students explained things on camera were good, with the exception of the problems listed below.

The Bad

The movie needed more structure to guide the viewer. Non-Thai's do not know anything about Chinese influence in Thailand, let alone anything about Yaowarat Road or the various places where filming took place. That information needs to be introduced and explained in an easy to understand manner.

Some of the topics were not demonstrated to occur in Thailand, particularly the sections on 'red' and 'feng shui'. Also, there were often no transitions between topics, just abrupt cuts from one to the next.

Dubbing was used to remedy poor sound quality for all of the on-site scenes. Dubbing solves one problem, but creates others, mostly making the movie seem silly and more difficult to follow.

Subtitles were sometimes not synched with dialog. Subtitles sometimes included too much text and took up too much space on screen. The subtitles themselves were distracting because of the format used.

The transcript was pretty good, with sources footnoted and cited, but it was incomplete in the Thai architecture section. Also, some of the sources were not well chosen. For example, the Holy Mountain Trading Company is a curious choice as a source of information about Quan Yin.

The Ugly

A number of passages were copied verbatim from cited sources, particularly in the 'feng shui' and 'Thai architecture' elements of the movie. Copying is the best way to lower your grade in TU 110.

A number of interviews were used, but none of them added great value to the movie. The interview with the noodle vendor in particular seemed to have nothing to do with the topic and perhaps was only included to add length to the movie. The interviews would have been much improved with editing; there is no need to include every word that both the interviewer and interviewee say from beginning to end. Also, you might ask the interviewee if they would be willing to conduct the interview in a place that is more suitable (i.e. quiet or visually appropriate for the topic).

The movie was occasionally too silly. The food section with chewing noises was the most egregious example of this, but pretty much every appearance of 'Hector' and 'Achilles' was too silly. Also, students were not supposed to pretend to be anybody other than themselves.

Only one member of this group asked a question on Movie Day.

The overall impression created by all of the above is a project that was hurriedly assembled with no time for review or revision.

Score: 80

In Their Own Words

BBA Group 2: What advice would you give to future students?

- Start to work on the project as early as you can.
- Choose the topic that can film near university so that the member of the group are able to come to help the work.
- I would suggest about choosing a camera, the movie will be a lot more better if you use a professional camera, like DSLR camera which make your movie to be High Definition. People who watched it will feel more interesting in your film. Also, a voice issue is very important, it turns out that sometimes we have problem in sound because we use a sound recorder from a camera, in this process using separate sound equipment is strongly recommended.
- If for the movie making part I don't know but i would suggest them to use a appropriate camera for filming because it can reduce the time to fix and re-film the bad part of the movie as I have heard from my group members.
- Everyone should talk to each other and pay more attention on the delegating work part. In this way, the group can assign the work that fits each member's ability. Apart from that, everyone should try to do their best as if it is their own work and put the best effort.
- I want to tell them to make a good plan and manage the time.
- I would probably suggest them to manage their time wisely, and divide the workload.
- Good communication is really needed for such a big group like this.
- do it ahead of time and organize the project in advanced
- They should separate works for each member clearly and watch the previous video of senior
- They should record sound by recorder not directly from the camera because it won't clear enough to hear.
- I would recommend they to brainstorm within a group as fast as they can and to distribute the tasks properly. The most important thing is that do not wait till the last minute!
- Team work is very important. We should listen to each other.

BBA Group 3 - European Influence on Thai Architecture

The Good

Good, interesting topic. The reality TV format was a nice way to avoid a straight, documentary style movie.

The movie appeared to be well researched and the transcript was appropriately footnoted with proper citations.

The video quality was very good. The audio quality usually good. Good, attractive subtitles were used when necessary.

Overall, the movie and transcript gave the impression of a strong group effort.

Members of the group paid attention and asked questions on Movie Day.

The Bad

Reading one's lines on camera is not a good idea. You should know the material well enough so that reading isn't necessary. You can always do multiple takes if you don't get it right the first time (or the second, or the third...).

The movie's introduction could have been better organized. The premise for the movie should have been made more expressly and the introductory comments about Thai architecture could have been given as part of the tour. (Side note: the shots from the boat were really good. It would have been nice if they shots had been incorporated into the storyline.) This may just be part of a larger issue, the somewhat awkward coexistence of the narrated material and the tour-guide material.

Sound quality was not always that good, but subtitles were well placed to make up for it. Also, at least when the audio wasn't comprehensible, it wasn't so loud as to make the audience cringe.

The cinematography would have been improved with the use of a tripod.

The Ugly

The reality TV format was attention getting, but it required the students to act. When students act, they often act silly, and this movie was no exception; the silliness was excessive and distracting.

Even if the 2 minute introduction is not counted, the movie was longer than requested. There was plenty of room for trimming within the movie (especially the silliness) and the same amount of information could have been communicated in a more concise manner with better writing/planning.

Score: 90

In Their Own Words

BBA Group 3: What advice would you give to future students?

- i would suggest they get started right away and come up with a clear plan. they should also test all their technical equipment so they know the quality of image and sound.
- plan the separated responsibility clear and beforehand. so the load of work doesn't end up with only couples of people
- Deadline is closer than it seems
- Think about the equipment before the screenplay because if your are not well equipped for what you plan, it is a mess.
- Plan your work better
- you should practice using movie-maker program to get used to this program
- make sure your speak loud and clear while filming because the noise in some area are very distracting and you may couldn't hear your own voice in the actual movie
- suppose to use sound equipment in order to cut the external sound
- manage the time perfectly and separate the work clearly
- Delegate your work well and stick to your assigned work

BBA Group 4 - Thai Amulets

The Good

Great topic choice, concise and interesting. Thai amulets is a controversial subject of interest to almost anybody that hears about them and this movie did a great job of communicating the basics.

This movie demonstrated that the straight, documentary style doesn't have to be boring. It used a variety of techniques to convey information in a logically structured manner, indicating excellent planning.

The video quality and cinematography were excellent. The audio quality was very good. Good, attractive subtitles were used throughout. Graphics were attractive.

The interviews were selected with care, well executed, and well edited. For the longer interview with the monk, the use of a variety of visuals helped maintain viewer interest. For other interviews, the technique of dubbing the interviewee while still playing the original dialog quietly in the background was very effective.

The movie appeared to be well researched and the transcript was appropriately footnoted with proper citations.

Members of the group paid attention and asked questions on Movie Day.

The Bad (relatively)

This movie danced around the controversies surrounding Thai amulets and flirted with a bias against popular beliefs in the amulets. I think the movie would have been more interesting and captivating if it had directly faced the issue by providing examples of the amulet controversies that we read about in the news, and then providing samples of the variety of opinions that people have.

Not including colorful *vox pop* interviews with true believers was what this movie was most missing. Many people love to show and talk about their amulets and the instances of protection that they have received from them.

The movie was a little shorter than requested.

The project was not turned in with a proper cover page.

The Ugly

It appears that this group had some leadership and communication issues. While I'm sure there are two sides to the story, it seems clear from the survey comments that one group decided to overcome these difficulties and make the best movie they could, and the other group made excuses. I've seen enough group projects that I have a fair

idea what kind of movie would have been made if the group hadn't focused on amulets, and it probably would not have received the score that this movie did.

As a note for future TU 110 students, if you find yourself in the lucky position of being in a group with obviously capable individuals that want to make a great movie and are willing to do more than their share of work to get the job done, just do what you can to help them and enjoy the ride.

Score: 95

In Their Own Words

BBA Group 4: What advice would you give to future students?

- Communicate with each other regularly
- Communicate clearly and assign work to all members in the group
- start early
- they should contribute work efficiently
- Pay extra care to selecting group members
- Don't stress out too much! It's actually fun if you know how to get it done creatively
- Keep to the plan and good communication is very essential.
- Find good group members who are responsible and willing to work.
- Editing is taking most of the time to be done. I think it's the most difficult part.
- Get the screenplay ready as soon as possible because our editing process took longer than we expected and we still think that we can do a much better job if we managed out time right.
- They should plan well and delegate works to all members in their group and set deadline so they can get their job done in time.
- Start early, Plan Carefully, Work together, improvise if ever need (but try not to)

BE Group 1 - What is Beauty of Women?

The Good

The first ten minutes of the movie had a logical structure and demonstrated good group effort.

A number of members made the effort to speak on camera even though students are normally averse to this.

The poem and the use of period-appropriate dress were nice touches.

The Bad

The video and sound quality were not good. Dubbing over bad audio fixes one problem, but creates another, making it very difficult to follow what people are saying or what the movie is trying to communicate.

The substance of the movie was longer than the assignment requested.

The Ugly

The transcript contained no footnotes or citations, which indicates a lack of research and a failure to follow many of the assignment instructions. (The transcript was also turned in with half of the pages stapled upside-down, which seems indicative of overall group-effort level.)

This project didn't seem to know if it was about women's physical beauty or women's fashion and went back and forth between the two ideas. Fashion is one of the topics that were specifically forbidden in the essay and group project assignments. While there was clearly some effort in making this movie, not enough effort went into research and planning.

The movie contained two interviews which added little value. Who were those people? Why were their opinions worthy of our time? The second interview was silly and pointless; cutting it out would have made the movie shorter and better.

Score: 80

In Their Own Words

BE Group 1: What advice would you give to future students?

- use good functioning camera, better if you have sound recorder attach with the interviewers or speakers.
- Using camera that can record your voice clearly might be better choice for you don't have to use any separate sound equipment that is hard to attach to the movie.
- Use DSLR is a lot better in quality
- Find some sound equipment and do not choose to film the movie in a place with many people.
- Do your best
- they should manage their time better than we do
- Make sure you check your video before you start editing
- should to managing time carefully and show your own idea much as possible even you think it's not useful
- They should manage the time quite well. Brainstorming and teamwork will make the project run smoothly as we did.
- I would suggest them to make a good transcript and think for a project that most of you interested in will provide your group a motivation to this project.

BE Group 2 - Shadow Puppets

The Good

Excellent video and audio quality.

Good cinematography -- a lot of different shots were used.

The movie had a nice, straightforward topic and a good structure that covered the major subtopics for a complete overview of the subject.

The interview with the abbot was excellent, both in terms of content and presentation. Instead of a long shot of him talking with subtitles, short clips of him were used to let the audience know that we were listening to his translated words. The variety of images used during the interview helped maintain viewer interest.

There were a lot of shots used to establish new settings, create atmosphere, and let the viewer 'rest' between scenes. (A few of them did go on too long though.) The monkey shot was a great addition.

The transcript was accurate, complete, and reflected a reasonable amount of research. The group also showed good effort by improving their screenplay with several drafts before filming.

The Bad

Bad is a relative term. Here are a few things that could have been better.

The introduction should have introduced the topic in a way that primed the audience for the rest of the movie, instead of just taking us to a "special place".

There were some transition shots (like walking to the museum) that went on for too long, presumably to make the movie long enough. There is plenty of info out there on this topic, so this shouldn't have been necessary.

A shot of a map of Thailand would have been nice to let the audience know where the different temples were.

The music video would have been a nice outro, if the group had really done it.

The Ugly

One of the best things about this project is that there is nothing to write here.

Score: 95

In Their Own Words

BE Group 2: What advice would you give to future students?

- be prepared.
- well-prepared with the information, well-planned e.g. time schedule, allocate tasks
- Start earlier because if you have any problems you will have time to fix them.
- You should start fast. Though they seem like everything will go smoothly, the emergency can happen all the time. And that screenplay is really truly important.
- find new intering place outside Bangkok
- prepare screenplay very well before starting filming and give a much time on it to do and to fix, just incase if there are some problems
- Make a very detailed plan before the shooting. This detailed plan included a corrected screenplay which pass the acceptance from Ajarn Russell.
- It is much harder task than you think it is. Film early so you have plenty of time left to edit the film.
- You have to plan very detailed and accurately especially if you go to film in far place. That would help you a lot and save your time. And you should start the project as soon as possible because it takes a lot of time than you think.
- Use external microphone so you will be able to remove the noise from your video. Background music can help making the video more interesting but be sure that it's won't disturb your host/mc sound. Choosing the topic and group member is very important!! Too much subtitle is annoying, if you want to use any of them make sure that it's able to see/read easily but for the best only use when it's necessary, making subtitle is annoying and take time. Good screenplay is very helpful.

BE Group 3 - Thai Architecture

The Good

The movie has a good, straightforward topic .A nice gimmick (and special effect) was used to catch the audience's attention and create logical structure for the topic. Basic information about the topic is presented. .

The video and audio were of good quality.

The Bad

More effort could have been put into finding a way to distinguish between the different types of Thai architecture. The information is in the dialog, but the movie does little to emphasize points of interest. One suspects that if the students had better researched the topic, they would have had some ideas how to do this.

Some of the students were very apathetic in their on screen performances. Apathy is contagious. If you don't care, the audience isn't going to.

The substance of the movie was longer than the assignment requested.

FYI: students sitting around a table, talking about a the assignment they need to complete (usually at the last minute), is the least original introduction possible.

The Ugly

The transcript contains only one citation, a single web page that seems to contain all of the research this group did. This is not enough research for a project of this type, especially considering that this project is worth 30% of your class grade.

The single source was in Thai and no translation was provided, which seems to indicate that the assignment instructions were either not read, or ignored.

A student in the movie pretended to be somebody he wasn't. This practice is specifically forbidden by the assignment.

A third of the group failed to complete the group project survey, which I find indicative of the group's effort level.

Score: 80

In Their Own Words

BE Group 3: What advice would you give to future students?

- you must plan and contact the place that you want to go there because when the day you want to go and the place not ready you can't go and the project not finish
- You have to make 2nd plan, preparing for problems
- you should use a good camcorder to shoot movie
- you should plan to make the project well before you shoot the movie
- Choose the topic that you have all the supported environment,ex. the places that can take the movie, that would be more quick for you to the project.
- Use any video editing program that they get used to it
- You don't need to go anywhere far from Bkk. Male sure the location you choose to film allows you to film what you need.
- Prepare your project ahead of time if you are filming your project at a public location because there might be conflicts.

BE Group 4 - Art of the Emerald Buddha Temple

The Good

This was a good topic with a variety of different subjects nicely united under the umbrella topic of art found at an important temple. Not too much info, not too little -- just right.

The transcript appears well researched with many footnotes and citations.

The Bad

The video and sound quality were not good. The audio relied on dubbing which makes it very difficult for the audience to follow along.

A better job could have been done to tie the various works of art into a single narrative.

The Ugly

The cinematography was not adequate – more thought needs to go into this aspect of filmmaking and practice is necessary.

Although the transcript appears well researched with many footnotes and citations, it also contains material copied from the internet.

Score: 80

In Their Own Words

BE Group 4: What advice would you give to future students?

- have a team work, very important
- should plan carefully before go to the place where you make a film
- Be sure that the topic will be interesting when making video.
- If an editor and a cameraman are not the one who plan the scenes along with scripts, the storyboard should be written (explaining orally is not enough) for clearer perceptions. Another point is an allowance of locations should be checked first. Some places do not allow camera. Some places even close allowing visitor to look only outside, however, the arts are inside. Lastly, each members should know what each can do and cannot do. This is very important to ensure that every steps were done well and efficiently, besides on time.
- You should learn how to use the camera and how to record it, so that the movie will be very beautiful and not shaking.
- They should use the program that they similar to.
- It would be more efficient to use microphone to record the sound when filming because to record the sound afterward it is quite difficult to match the sound to the mouth's movement.
- Practicing the script before the filming day so that will not waste others' time
- do your best
- You should talk to all of the group members to find which topic that you are all interested in. So you will happy and feel comfortable to work in this project.
- They have to do some researches before choosing the topic and the script is the most important things. They have to write it well. If they have a good script, everything gonna be Ok.