DSLR VIDEO & HIGH QUALITY AUDIO – ESSENTIAL SETTINGS

(CANON 600D/TASCAM DR-100-MKII)

Recommended Setup:

To get the best picture and sound, record DSLR video with 'reference sound' (low quality audio, auto-levels) and, at the same time, record high-quality audio with a separate audio recorder and a balanced mic (manual levels). Then sync them up in Adobe Premiere Pro.

Suggested Kit you can book on SiSo:

Canon 600D

Audio-Technica AT803 Lapel mic

Tascam DR-100mkII Audio Recorder

Sony MDR Headphones

5m XLR lead

SD-card USB reader

Camera Settings (Canon 600D)

Select Movie on the Dial, then turn the camera on. Now check/change these settings (essentials in bold/underlined):

Menu->[spanner-2]->Video system->PAL

Menu->[spanner-2]->Feature Guide->Disable

To wipe the SD card:

Menu->[spanner-1]->Format->[tick low-level-format]->ok

Menu->[spanner-1]->Auto power off->OFF / 8min+

Menu->[1]-> Movie Exposure -> Manual

Menu->Highlight Tone Priority->Disable

Menu->[2]->Movie rec. size->1920x25 (digital zoom->off)

Menu->[2]->Sound Recording->Auto

Menu->[2]->Grid display->Grid 1

Menu->[2]->Video snapshot->Disable

Menu->[3]->Auto Lighting Optimizer->OFF

Questions/errors – please email k.reynolds3@brighton.ac.uk

Menu->[3]->Picture Style->Neutral

Info->Sharpness->0

Contrast-> 0

Saturation-> 0

Colour tone-> 0

Menu->[4]->Quality-> L

Menu->[4]->Beep-> Disable

Set Exposure

Shutter -> 50 [by moving the front horizontal dial] In very dark situations, switch down to 25 or 30 frames per second. Otherwise, keep it at 50 (exception: green screen, eg 100)

Aperture/Iris -> as open as possible (f3.5 on standard kit) [by holding Av & turning same dial]

ISO->adjust whilst checking histogram so that you don't over/under expose

White balance

Do not use Auto White Balance (AWB) [otherwise editing/colour correction will be seriously compromised) Use either Manual or the most acceptable preset…

Preset White Balance

Select a mode by hitting 'Q' in live view -> Tungsten/Daylight/or another that suits

Manual White Balance

If you have time, do a manual white balance

Staying in movie mode, take a picture of white (A4 piece of paper is good)

Menu->[3]->Custom White Balance

Compose your picture

Frame the shot

Focus:

Find the focus switch on the lens and set to **Manual** – not Auto

Hit the Magnify+ button (twice if things are set to x5 & x10)

Turn the focus ring until the image is a sharply in focus as can be

Hit Magnify+ to jump back to recording view.

You are ready to Hit Record!

Audio-recorder Settings (Tascam DR-100mkii)

Turn the **headphone output volume** down to 3 or lower (setting up is when you need to careful).

Menu -> setup->backlight 30sec

Menu -> setup -> format->yes

Menu->record settings -> Format -> Wav 24bit

Sample – 48k (this is the same sample rate as the 'scratch audio' of the cannon dslr)

Size -> 2G

If you are only recording a single (mono) channel, you will want to tell the Tascam that you wish to monitor it in both ears. You need to tell it that you wish to record a single (mono) signal (use the left channel) but monitor it in both headphone cans:

Menu -> Input Settings -> Type -> Mono

Low cut -> 40Hz

Level Control -> LMT

It is probably best to record in **Dual Mono** mode so that you have a quieter recording if you set levels too high. Set the secondary level to somewhere between -6dB and -9dB.

Now set the recording input level(s) so that your signal reaches just over the little triangle on the input-level monitor. The idea is to set the level reasonably high without 'peaking' to the max level. Once you set a reasonable level, turn your headphone output up a bit so that you can hear things clearly without going too loud (don't deafen yourself with a level that is too high). You should, at this stage, only need to refine the recording input level slightly.

RECORDING

- Hit record on the Audio recorder first. Make sure you see the timecode rolling.
- Then hit record on the camera. Make sure you see the red dot notifying you that the camera is in record.

Keep audio running throughout an interview. With a Canon 600D, record each answer as a separate clip on the camera if you think the whole interview will last more than 11 minutes long (max single clip duration on 600D is under 12 mins; on 700D it is just under 30mins). Keep the audio recording thoughout (don't stop and start the audio recording as you may do with the camera).

When done:

- Hit stop on the camera first.
- Then hit stop on the audio.

So your audio should be longer than all your video (you start recording it first; you stop recording it last). To summarise: Audio Record; Video Record; Video Stop; Audio Stop.

Now you are ready to sync up the video and audio in Premiere Pro (separate workshop/worksheet).