

EST.  1893

# WALNUT HILL

SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



## Dear WFMA Students,

We are excited to return to classes, to teach you, and to support your work as artists! We know you have questions about how things will work now that you'll be engaging in this work online and not in person. We have some, but not all, of the answers, and inevitably we will have to adjust and flex, week by week, in order to land in a place that works for everyone. We are lucky, because we know that so much of what we do together will transition well to these new modes of learning, and that no matter where you are, you will have stories to tell. We've always believed that the creative process benefits from constraint, and we feel confident that each of you will continue to bring your unique voice, vision, and unstoppable creativity to the work ahead.

## Schedule

WFMA will continue to run all of its Spring Semester classes on the same days of the week as before break. Teachers will hold live, interactive class sessions over Zoom between 2:30pm-4pm EST. This time will be used by teachers for large and small group work, discussions, interactive assignments and prompts, Q & A's that benefit the whole group, and logistics and planning. You may not be "in class" or online every day for the whole 90 minutes, but you should prepare to show up at 2:30pm and protect that time, as best you can.

Because we have students that will be in different time zones and/or have other scheduling difficulties, we know classes might not have a critical mass of students on some or all days. If your schedule prohibits you from joining the interactive Zoom sessions, the teachers will support you through other touchpoints: smaller group sessions with other students in your time

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zone and one-on-one meetings with us. Additionally, all interactive class sessions over Zoom will be recorded and made available to those who were not able to attend.

Between 10am-11am and 4pm-7pm, we have allocated time similar to Open Studio, to be used for individual or smaller group work, as well as one-on-one sessions with faculty. Some classes may decide that these periods will work better for the live, interactive work, and will want to shift. As mentioned before, it may take us a week or two to figure out what will work best. As teachers, we are thinking very hard about what kinds of work are best suited for live class sessions and what kinds of work will be best for you to do or schedule with others on your own.

In addition to keeping up with the class live or through the recordings, the expectation is that you will have at least one individual check-in, via email or video conference, with each of your teachers every week.

### Department Meeting

Department Meeting will take place on Mondays at 10am EST. We hope this will be an opportunity for all of us to gather in the same virtual space at the same time.

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10am-11am EST	WFMA DEPARTMENT MEETING	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work
11am-2:30pm EST	Academics, Advisory, Community Time				
2:30pm - 4pm EST  ALL SESSIONS WILL BE RECORDED AND MADE AVAILABLE.  ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER REQUIRED CONTENT WILL BE POSTED OR LINKED TO ON FINALSITE	WFMA Classes over Zoom  Documentary  Screenwriting	WFMA Classes over Zoom  Portfolio  Film Production  Senior Studio	WFMA Classes over Zoom  Playwriting  ColLaboratory	WFMA Classes over Zoom  Photography  Poetry  Modern Media	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work
4pm - 7pm EST	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Open Studio  Individual or Small Group Work	Audio Production (restart date TBD)

**FinalSite/Assignments**

FinalSite will be the primary landing page where all essential information, assignments, due dates, links to reading and viewing materials, access to recorded Zoom sessions, and other required content will be found. We will continue to use Google Drive and other applications for sharing, when appropriate, and will work out equivalent systems for those who don't have access. Classes will be graded pass/fail based on student engagement, effort, and completion of tasks and assignments.

**Collaboration**

Collaboration is central to the mission of our department. Even though we will be working together remotely, we remain committed to incorporating group work and group projects into our classes. While this will look and feel very different from what it would in person, we will find structures and practices that will continue to enable collaborative processes and creative exchange between you and your WFMA classmates.

**Black on White/Senior Shows**

We do not know what the future will bring in terms of events and performances. This spring, we will continue to guide and support you in the preparation of individual work for presentation as we would for Black on White or Senior Shows. We're confident that we will find opportunities and platforms to present and showcase this work.

**How to Prepare**

Please start checking your email at least once a day and be on the lookout for specific class emails with information and invitations to join our Zoom sessions. We ask that you come back to your classes with energy, commitment, patience, focus. And, as always, a willingness to live with some uncertainty will definitely help. This is all very new for most of us, and we look forward to learning and growing right there with you.

**Lastly**

We are here and available for you to reach out to with questions, ideas, concerns. We would love to hear from you. And please be sure to take time in the coming days to do some deep breathing, decompress, stay connected with family and friends, and get outside, if possible.

All our very best,  
Margaret, Matt, Ronan, and Katherine