

Course: DC 310

Instructor: John Psathas

Office: CDM 462

Office hours: T TH 10:00 am - 11:30 pm

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Summary

DC 310 - Digital Cinema Production II

This course expands on topics covered in DC 210 Production I. Students will refine their skills in the areas of line-producing, pre-production, cinematography, lighting, sound recording, and post production work flow.

The goal of this course is to prepare and enable students to collaborate on and produce short (15 - 30 minute) films in a manner that mimics industry expectations. Students will engage in an accelerated pre-production, including but not limited to: script workshopping, script breakdowns, budgeting, casting, storyboarding, assembling a crew, location scouting, etc. Every student will be required to serve in a capacity integral to the creation of a film (if not directing, then producing, casting, shooting or some other significant position). In a workshop environment, students will also be expected to constructively critique the projects of their classmates and the work of their fellow team members. This course will also consist of several visits to local resources and industry facilities off-campus in order to become acquainted with their locations and purposes.

PREREQUISITES: DC 210, DC 220, DC 275

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Ability to successfully operate industry standard budgeting and scheduling software to effectively and accurately budget a short film, from pre-pro through post
- Develop essential pre-production materials to support a project
- Ability to produce and complete a short film that demonstrates technical proficiency, creative ambition and an increasing understanding of camera, editing, lighting and sound aesthetics
- Knowledge of resources and industry infrastructure within Chicago needed to create a professional film

Texts

Handouts provided by Instructor

SUGGESTED

The Filmmakers Handbook, 3rd Edition, Ascher & Pincus

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

1 external Hard Drive (500 GB minimum)

1 USB flashdrive for project backups (8 GB)

Blank DVD-Rs WITH CASES for screening class projects

Grading

Pitch	5%
Production Bible	20%
Midterm	20%
Rough Cut	5%
Final Project (with Group Eval factored in)	30%
Class attendance and participation	20%

LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Grading Scale

93-100: A 90-92: A- 87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80- 82: B- 77-79: C + 73-76: C 70-72: C - 67-69: D + 60-66: D

“A” work is technically superior (virtually flawless) with a fully thought out, well-executed and highly effective conceptual framework. Virtually professional in most aspects.

“B” work is high quality work that has limited technical or conceptual flaws. The concept or execution shows some room for improvement.

“C” work may be technically competent, but fail in regards to its conceptual framework or vice versa. It satisfies the minimum requirements for the assignment.

“D” work satisfies the minimum requirements for the assignment but is very low quality in either its technical or conceptual aspects.

Course Policies

Student responsibilities:

Each student is responsible for their time management and for meeting the expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines in class. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for an assignment sheet detailing any homework. If an assignment is listed on the syllabus you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

Deadlines:

Video production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

Attendance:

This course demands class participation- attendance is mandatory. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence. For each subsequent absence, a full one letter grade deduction will be taken from your final course grade. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized.

Reading Assignments:

Any assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class. Following the readings will greatly impact your final film and aid you as filmmakers.

Group Evaluations:

All of the assignments in this class will require you to work in a team. At the end of the quarter, each group member is required to turn in a written evaluation of their team members. If all evaluations are uniformly positive, all group members will share the grades; if evaluations are negative, the grades of the group member's in question will be docked. These evaluations will be **HEAVILY** factored into your grade for your midterm (worth 20% of your final grade) and final film (worth 30% of your final grade).

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on tests are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you are in doubt about the definitions of plagiarism, consult your student handbook.

Content Changes:

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require alteration or rescheduling. You will be notified of all changes. As the semester progresses, some items may change at the instructors discretion, but the overall workload will not. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly.

Sexual Harassment:

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

Schedule:

Week 1

Introduction, Pitches, Groups Assigned

DUE: Pitches

Week 2

EP Budget and Scheduling software, budgeting resources

Week 3

Production Insurance and what/who you need to know about filming in Chicago

Week 4

Unions, unions, unions... production companies and getting a job

Week 5 - **FEBRUARY 5TH**

72 HR. MIDTERM - **DUE ON FEB 8TH** - PLAN YOUR SCHEDULES ACCORDINGLY!!!

Week 6

Watch and critique Midterms

Visit/Speaker TBD

Week 7

Visit/Speaker TBD

Week 8

DUE: Rough Cuts

Week 9

Visit/Speaker TBD

Week 10

DUE: Rough Cuts screened in class (Uploaded to Vimeo/Youtube or on DVD)

Week 11 / **FINALS WEEK**

Exam date and time: **TUESDAY, MARCH 19th 2:45 pm - 5:00 p.m.**

DUE: Final Films

Attendance at the scheduled final is mandatory- no exceptions.

School policies:

Online Instructor Evaluation

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at [CampusConnect](#) is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted either the PLS Program (for LD, AD/HD) or The Office for Students with Disabilities (for all other disabilities) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773)325.1677

Fax: (773)325.3720

TTY: (773)325.7296