

## Syllabus - Spring 2014

**Date and time:** Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

**Instructor:** Jeff Carrion

**Classroom:** Student Center, Room 331

**Phone:** (312) 362-6296

**Office:** 55 East Jackson Building, 20th floor (Ext. 2-6296)

**Office Hours:** Mondays - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and immediately after class, or by appointment

**Email:** jcarrio1@depaul.edu

### Course Description

Students analyze and assemble dramatic scenes under a variety of conditions and narrative strategies. Editing theories, techniques and procedures, issues of continuity, effects, movement and sound are examined as they relate to the fundamentals of cinematic montage and visual storytelling. This class presents a variety of topics and experiences that are designed to broaden the student's understanding of the art of cinematic storytelling and montage. Work on more advanced projects is integrated into the class as a means to an understanding of advanced editing tools and techniques.

### Learning Domain Description

DC-120 Video Editing is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts by developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning and through critical and/or creative activity to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, though the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take course in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater. No more than two courses can be chosen from one department or program.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced.
- Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
- Students will be able to assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Students will be able to contextualize a work of art. They will be able to do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. They will also be able to contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

### **How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met**

- Through the quarter there will be screenings of films and TV shows followed by class discussion.
- Students will learn to analyze and critique the editing techniques and styles of various film and TV genres.
- Through question and answer sessions and other class discussion students will learn to contextualize the editing styles of films and TV shows in relationship to how the editing contributes to the flow of the story.

### **Writing Expectations**

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for this course.

### **How Writing Expectations Will Be Met**

- Students will be assigned several written assignments where they will need to view scenes from films and/or TV shows, analyze the editing techniques used in them and explain how that contributes to the flow of the story.

### **Suggested Text (NOT Required)**

Apple Pro Training Series: Final Cut Pro X (2nd Edition) by Diana Weynand;  
ISBN-10: 0321918673

## **Required Equipment**

100GB or larger external hard drive for media and project storage that is Firewire 800 or USB2.0 bus powered.

It is very important that you have your own external hard drive that you can store your personal projects and media on. It cannot be guaranteed that if you save work on the classroom iMacs that it will be there the next time you come in. Exceptions for missed work due to data loss from the classroom iMacs will not be granted.

## **Recommended Equipment**

Second external hard drive for backups

## **Software**

We will be using Apple's Final Cut Pro X video editing software in this course, however, you will not need to provide your own copy. There are labs located at the Lincoln Park Campus as well as the Loop Campus that have this available to you. If you wish to purchase your own license of Final Cut Pro X you may do so at a significant discount through the DePaul Demon discount program. Search DePaul.edu for more information.

You will be using an online file sharing service to turn in editing assignments. The particular website and procedure will be demonstrated in class the first week. This website may be changed depending on availability of the web service throughout the class.

This is a Mac OSX based class. You will be expected to have a familiarity with the Mac OS operating system and understand its core functions such as: navigating it's file structure, opening and saving files, and launching and understanding the common core system functions of its applications.

## **Course Management System**

This course will primarily use D2L for course management. All course related materials will be made available in D2L including: presentation slides, homework assignment descriptions, quizzes and various exercise files. This course will also use the COLWeb course management system for class session replays, see below.

## Viewing Class Session Replays

This class is a COLWeb recorded class, there will be a video recording made of each class session that you can watch if you need to review material or if you are absent. Class replays can be viewed within an hour or two after the conclusion of each week's session. All classes for the entire quarter will be available in this class's section of COLWeb, an online class management system similar to D2L. You can access this class's section of COLWeb by logging in with your Campus Connect to:

<https://col.cdm.depaul.edu/login/SSO.aspx>

When logged into COLWeb select this class then navigate to the "Lectures" tab, there you will be able to view and download class sessions. There are also a number of other ways to view classes through COLWeb both online and offline and with free mobile apps for Android and iOS.

## Course Policies

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. **Three absences will result in a loss of credit for the course.** Although circumstances and illness can and do happen, there is no such thing as an excused absence. Furthermore, there is no substitute for being in class and participating in the discussion, lecture and exercises. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late to any class will be considered tardy. Two tardies are equivalent to one absence. Arriving more than 45 minutes late will count as an absence. Leaving part-way through a class will count as an absence.

### Classroom Decorum

On most evenings, we will take a 15-minute break midway through the class. Please remain in the classroom except during the break. Phones should be set to vibrate only. Texting should be reserved for the break or after class. The computers in class are for specific class work only, using them for personal use or anything other than the specific class material and exercises is not allowed.

### Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L or COLWeb and sent via email.

## **Course Requirements**

### Editing assignments, 800 points (x5, point value varies)

You will be assigned 5 editing projects to complete outside of class. The projects will vary in their scope and specificity depending on the technical or aesthetic goal of the assignment.

Editing projects will expand in their complexity and build upon each other as the class progresses. The first project will consist of simple montage editing of still images with accompanying music. From there we will delve into motion picture editing in corporate video and narrative cinema style. You will include along with your editing projects a written description about your project that details why and how you did what you did.

Editing projects must be made with Final Cut Pro X and your project must be organized within the Project Template Folder (PTF) structure that will be presented in class. You will be graded on the technical and aesthetic quality of your projects along with your adherence to the parameters of organization within the Project Template Folder structure.

You will be expected to verbally discuss your editing projects and describe to the class why and how you made your edits.

The projects you submit must be made specifically for this class, during the particular assignment period. Turning in projects previously created will result in a significant deduction of credit on the assignment.

### Writing assignments, 50 points (2 x 25 points each)

The writing assignments will be to view a particular scene from a movie or TV show of your choice and write a 2-3 page analysis of the editing style of the scene, how it contributes to the story of the overall piece, how it relates to the effectiveness of the scene and how it contributes to the emotion and mood of the scene.

### Quizzes, 100 points (2 x 50 points each)

There will be 2 quizzes for the course, the first on week 4 and the second on week 8 (subject to change). These quizzes will test you on your knowledge of the history and theory of editing and the technical aspects of editing.

### Class participation, 50 points

Class participation is expected and required for this class. Constructive comments on others projects, active listening and asking relevant questions will be reflected in your class participation grade. Not paying attention, talking with classmates, texting, sleeping and using the computers for non-class related activity will result in a deduction of credit for class participation.

## **Flexibility of assignments and quizzes**

The particulars of each assignment and quiz will be discussed in class before they are assigned. While they will follow the general guidelines as summarized above each assignment will be different as well as the requirements for turning them in and providing additional supporting documentation with them. There will also be flexibility in the frequency of assignments and quizzes depending on the progress of the class as a whole.

## **Late Assignments**

Turning in late assignments will result in a drop of 1 letter grade for up to 24 hours after it is due, after that you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

## **Grading criteria for assignments**

Video editing is, by nature, a subjective medium. While some may say that there is no such thing as a "bad" or "wrong" video, that will not be the case in this class. Specific aesthetics and techniques will be taught and will be expected to show in your work.

While you will be learning many so-called "rules" of editing in this class, the one rule you will be expected to follow above all others is - you must first know the rules before you can break them. In other words, if your work shows a break of any of the rules you must be prepared to explain exactly why you chose to do so, it must be pre-meditated.

Further description of grading criteria will be discussed as projects are assigned.

## **Grade Scale**

900 - 1,000 points = A

800 - 899 points = B

700 - 799 points = C

600 - 699 points = D

599 or lower = F

Depending on the flexibility of assignments and quizzes as stated above, this grading scale may be modified to reflect a change in total available points.

## **Course Summary**

The class will follow a schedule that begins with a discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, grading criteria and qualities. Then it will move into lecture and discussion of the history of video editing and editing technology, the aesthetic qualities of good editing and good editors.

The class will introduce Apple Final Cut Pro X as a post-production tool for video editing.

Digital media management and organization, commonly referred to as 'workflow' - the process of organizing all of the various pieces of media that contribute to your editing projects - will be discussed at length and the Project Template Folder (PTF) workflow structure will be introduced as a means of media management and organization.

The technicalities of video editing will be covered including specific practice with Final Cut Pro X editing software and other accompanying applications.

Screenings, discussions and practice will also include the aesthetic elements of good editing, pacing, creating mood, time extension or compression, parallel story lines and non-linear story lines.

Video compression and preparation for delivery through various media such as the web will be discussed.

Throughout the class all of these lessons will build on each other to give you a solid foundation for understanding the technical and aesthetic elements that make for good video editing. By the end of class you will be able to efficiently organize digital media assets associated with an editing project, effectively and creatively edit several different types of video projects and finally, prepare completed projects for delivery and distribution through various media such as the web.

## **College Policies**

### **Online Course Evaluations**

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 three weeks. Students do not receive

reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

### **Academic Policies**

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment).

### **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 the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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