

Digital Cinema Production 1
DC 210-402 Fall Quarter 2014
Tue/Thur : 11:50am – 1:20pm
LL106/107, 14 EAS, Loop
D2L

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Office hours: Mon 11:00-11:30am / Wed 2:00 – 4:30pm

Welcome to DC 210 a.k.a. Production I. This class is an opportunity to learn the basics of the art, craft, trade and community of Film (except we're all digital). It's a place to take the gallant, yet possibly awkward steps that will someday grace the extras on a BluRay (or whatever is in season at the time) of famous directors' first films. It's a chance to experiment on things just *because*. It's an intense storm of information and exercises to prepare you for further study in digital cinema.

What do you want this experience to be? It's you who ultimately define this for yourself. So take chances. Take it seriously, but don't forget that cinema is an insanely dicey and challenging field; if you don't enjoy it, harbor some passion for it somewhere inside you that tingles your spine at the thought of all you can possibly do with this thing called "Filmmaking", you're probably wasting your time. Unlike a murky pond, the best way to test these waters is to just dive in. You're not alone, but ultimately your success is up to you.

Good luck and remember to have fun!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a beginning workshop in **narrative film production**. The course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of cinema, including camera and lens technology, composition, lighting, directing and sound recording. Utilizing digital technology, students will produce several films with an emphasis on visual storytelling and personal expression.

Prerequisite: DC 220

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the language of film and video and to employ basic shooting and editing techniques to express a story visually.
- To be able to successfully operate video cameras and non-linear editing programs in order to create a total of three required projects.
- To be able to enter more advanced courses including Digital Cinema II with a solid foundation of technical proficiency as well as the development of an individual style and expression.

TEXTBOOK and Course Materials:

Handouts will be posted on D2L. It is your responsibility to download these for review.

Assignments and guidelines are available on D2L. Please email me asap if you have any problem accessing the D2L class site or the assignments.

Recommended :

The Filmmaker's Handbook Ascher and Pincus (latest edition)

On Directing Film David Mamet

Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 Book with DVD

COURSE MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE STUDENT:

A portable FIREWIRE drive (USB drives are not suitable) for editing. You will need this by the end of the first week. Carry your drive with you for class.

GRADING

Grades will be given for each assignment. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. This class requires a time commitment outside of class hours. Please make a note of production weeks and In-class exercises.

Late work will not be accepted.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:	
Exercises	15%
· Scavenger Hunt (Stills, group)	5
· Group lighting exercise (group, In class)	5
· Shoot to script exercise (In Class)	5
Films	60%
· Chase Sequence (group):	15
· Midterm - Character Study (group):	20
· Final - Theme Film (individual or group):	25
Quiz/Exams	15%
· Quizzes – 3 (Online, equal weight)	7.5
· Final Exam (In Class)	7.5
Other	10%
· Attendance & Participation:	10
TOTAL	100%

* All production work except for the In-Class Exercises will take place outside of class time.

GRADING SCALE

Excellent (exceeds expectations):	A = 100–94	A- = 93–90	
Above Average (meets expectations):	B+ = 89–88	B = 87–83	B- = 82–80
Satisfactory (acceptable level of growth):	C+ = 79–78	C = 77–73	C- = 72–70
Poor (does not meet basis requirements):	D+ = 69–68	D = 67–63	D- = 62–60
Failure (inadequate achievement):	F = 59–0		

GROUP EVALUATIONS:

Most of the assignments in this class will require you to work in a team. Group/Self evaluations are due at the time of the final screening of each project. These evaluations will be HEAVILY factored into your grade for attendance and participation. They will also affect your midterm and final film grades (worth 15% of your final grade).

COURSE POLICIES:

In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

CONTENT CHANGES

This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes via email. As the semester progresses, some items may change at the instructor's discretion, but the overall workload will not. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly and ensure that you check the email listed on D2L.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student is responsible for their time management and 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 details of the homework. If an assignment is listed on the syllabus, you are responsible for completing the assignment on time.

DEADLINES

Late assignments will not be accepted. You will not be eligible for an 'A' in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes a 'Late' notation. Two 'Late' notes constitute an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, absences may be excused and extensions may be granted. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion. Absolutely no consideration will be given for those who request special treatment without advanced notice.

INCOMPLETES – No incompletes will be given.

COMPUTER USE

Using the computer during class time for any reason other than taking notes will have a negative impact on your participation grade. Phones should be in your bag. If you are texting during class, you are not participating. No computer use during film screenings.

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](#).

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class and can lead to an Academic Integrity Violation. Students are expected to understand what constitutes original research and how to use proper citation methods. All papers are automatically run through anti-plagiarism software [turnitin.com](#).

FINAL FILMS & PRESENTATIONS

Students who are not prepared to present during the regularly scheduled time will receive a failing grade for the final unless they have contacted the instructor in advance to arrange to present early. Students contacting the instructor after the final presentation will not be allowed to make-up the points for any reason.

CLASS DISCUSSION

Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

ATTITUDE

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. I will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

CIVIL DISCOURSE

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. I will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) at: <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/handbook/code16.html>. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

The assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material that may not be available in the readings or that may be explored further in the readings. The readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class.

HANDOUT & ASSIGNMENT COPIES

Handout and assignment copies are available on d2l.depaul.edu

FILM VIEWING

Students are required to watch the films in class. Leaving early or sleeping through a film will result in an absence. In the event of illness, assignment or in the event that you are looking for entertainment, films are available on Netflix and at the DePaul Library.

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.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS

This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have any concerns about your ability to access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me 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).

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST:
(All assignments due the night before class)

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE	Complete?
SCAVENGER HUNT	5%	Week 1 – 9/16	
CHASE SEQUENCE:	15%		
Storyboards	20	Week 2 – 9/23	
Shoot Participation	30	Week 2/3	
Screen Fine Cut	50	Week 4 – 10/2	
MIDTERM - CHARACTER STUDY:	20%		
PITCH + Treatment	10	Week 3 – 9/30	
Pre-Production Package	15	Week 4 – 10/7	
Rough Cut	15	Week 6 – 10/16	
Fine Cut	50	Week 6 – 10/21	
Group Evaluation	10	Week 6 – 10/21	
LIGHTING EXERCISE (In Class)	5%	Week 5 – 10/14	
FINAL – THEME FILM	30%		
2 Ideas	Pass/fail	Week 5 – 10/14	
PITCH + Treatment	10	Week 7 – 10/23	
Preproduction Package & Meeting	15	Week 8/9 – 11/4 & 11/6	
Rough Cut	15	Week 10 – 11/18	
Fine Cut	50	Week 11 – 11/24	
Self/Group Evaluation	10	Week 11 – 11/25	
Set Etiquette Shoot (In Class)**	5%	Week 8 – 10/30	
EXAM & Quiz	15%		
Quiz Online	50	Various / online. Check D2L	
Final	100	Week 10 – 11/13	
ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION	10%		
TOTAL	100%		

WEEK 1

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
9/11	<p>Course Introduction Syllabus, Assignments Survey Quiz</p> <p>REVIEW Visualizing the film - Shot selection (shot sizes, angles, continuity) Storyboards</p>	<p>Read Image Design Handouts on D2L</p> <p>Assign Groups Shoot Scavenger Hunt. 8-10 still images from list provided. (Teams)</p>	
9/16	<p>Screen: Scavenger Hunt images.</p>	<p>Read Handouts on D2L</p>	<p>Scavenger Hunt images. Upload Zipped file to D2L</p>

WEEK 2

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
9/18	<p>Principles of Cinematography – 180 Axis Lenses / Depth of Field Camera Movement</p>	<p>Storyboards for Chase Sequence (One per production team).</p>	
9/23	<p>Cinematography - Camera functions (Set-up, White Balance, Focus, Iris, Depth of Field)</p>	<p>Shoot Chase Sequence – Due Week 4, 10/2</p> <p>Read Camera - Handouts on D2L</p>	<p>Storyboards for Chase Sequence (One per production team).</p>

WEEK 3

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
9/25	<p>Visualizing on paper – Treatment writing Visual characters Story, Plot – Review</p> <p>Recording sound on location Post-production Audio</p>	<p>Treatment for Character Study</p>	
9/30	<p>Pitch Character Study (Group)</p>		<p>Treatment for Character Study (1 page)</p>

WEEK 4

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
10/2	SCREEN Chase Sequences.	2 Final Film ideas – One paragraph each.	Chase Sequence final edits.
10/7	Production Meetings for Character Study Shoot (In production teams).	Shoot Character Study. Rough cuts due 10/16	Pre-production package for Character Study

WEEK 5

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
10/9	Lighting aesthetics (Character, environment and mood) and Three point lighting setup	Choose 2 images posted on D2L under <i>lighting setups</i> , bring prop to next class. Buy Gloves for lighting setup. Read: Handouts on D2L	
10/14	Lighting setups.		- 2 Final Film ideas – One paragraph each. - Props for lighting setup. (Groups)

WEEK 6

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
10/16	SCREEN: Character Study Rough Cuts	1 Final film treatment Group Evaluations (D2L)	Rough Cuts – Link to Vimeo/D2L upload
10/21	MIDTERM SCREENING– Character Study Fine		Group Evaluations (D2L)

WEEK 7

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
10/23	Pitch Final Film	Preproduction Packages – Final Film.	1 Final Film treatment
10/28	Prep for In Class Shoot. Set etiquette. Core production roles.	Bring Props on Wednesday	

WEEK 8

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
10/30	In Class Shoot – Short script. Set etiquette.		Props for shoot.
11/4	Pre-production meetings with groups	Shoot Final Film.	Preproduction packages for Final Film

WEEK 9

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
11/6	Pre-production meetings with groups	Shoot Final Film.	Preproduction packages for Final Film
11/11	Exam Review		

WEEK 10

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE (All assignments due the night before class)
11/13	Exam Screen: Early Rough CUTS	Pickups, if needed.	Early Rough cuts.
11/18	Screen: Rough CUTS	Self evaluation & peer review	Rough cuts

WEEK 11 - FINALS WEEK

11/25 11:45am – 2:00pm.

FINAL FILM SCREENING

Due : Self Evaluations

Screen fine cuts of final films. Attendance is mandatory.

Missing this class will result in a grade of 'F' for the final film.

Equipment checklist for DC 210:

Camera & Basic Equipment:

_____ Canon XF 100 * Ask for the camera by model number, not brand.

_____ Tripod

_____ Headphones

- Battery, 2 CF card,s AC adapter and charger included. Check battery charge before shooting.

Sound Equipment (ask for each separately or make sure your kit has all)

_____ Unidirectional Microphone(s)

_____ Boom Pole

_____ Shock mount

_____ XLR cable

Lighting kit (choice of the following):

_____ Lowell mix: 2x 250 watt & 1x 500 watt

_____ Mini omni: 2x 500 watt & 1x 800 watt

_____ Omni 2: 2x 500 & 2x 800 watt

_____ VIP: 1x 500 & 2 (250)

Check kit contents against list on side.

Check operation of stands, plug in all fixtures to check operation.

Lighting extras:

_____ Stingers

_____ C-stands and flags

_____ Reflectors or bounce cards