

## DC100-111 INTRODUCTION TO CINEMA: THE ART OF MAKING MOVIES

Autumn Quarter 2014

Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:40PM - 4:10PM (online)

Instructor: Eric Marsh

Office Hours: CDM Center, Rm. 408, Thursdays, 9:30AM - 1:00PM or by appointment

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**Course Description** - This lecture-based course will introduce students to the art of cinema, from the point of view of the filmmaker. Through screenings of contemporary and classic films, students will gain an appreciation of the various crafts involved in the making of movies, such as: acting, directing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, production design, editing, sound, or visual effects. This course is not intended for students who intend to major or minor in Digital Cinema.

**Learning Domain Description** - DC 100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies 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.

**Text** - There is no required textbook for this course, but there will be required readings. The materials will be provided and shared with you on D2L.

### Basis for Evaluation

Weekly Assignments .....	60%
Final Paper .....	30%
Attendance & Participation .....	10%
TOTAL .....	100%

A = 100 – 94, A- = 93 – 90, B+ = 89 – 88, B = 87 – 83, B- = 82 – 80, C+ = 79 – 78, C = 77 – 73, C- = 72 – 70, D+ = 69 – 68, D = 67 – 63, D- = 62 – 60, F = 59 – 0.

### CLASS SCHEDULE & COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1	W 9/10	Intro, Syllabus, & Discussion: What is Cinema?
WEEK 2	M 9/15 W 9/17	Screening: <i>American Movie</i> (Chris Smith, 1999) Introduction to Film & The Filmmaking Process
WEEK 3	M 9/22 W 9/24	Screenwriting & Narrative Structure Screening: <i>Adaptation</i> (Spike Jonze, 2002)
WEEK 4	M 9/29 W 10/1	Mise-en-scene Screening: <i>Repo Man</i> (Alex Cox, 1983)
WEEK 5	M 10/6 W 10/8	Cinematography Screening: <i>Visions of Light</i> (Todd McCarthy, 1992)
WEEK 6	M 10/13 W 10/15	Editing Sound
WEEK 7	M 10/20 W 10/22	Directing, Producing, & The Golden Age of Hollywood Screening: <i>Citizen Kane</i> (Orson Welles, 1941)
WEEK 8	M 10/27 W 10/29	Other Ways of Understanding: Genre, Ideology, Auteurism, etc Screening: <i>Halloween</i> (John Carpenter, 1979)
WEEK 9	M 11/3 W 11/5	Alternative Modes of Narrative Cinema Screening: <i>Chungking Express</i> (Wong Kar Wai, 1994)
WEEK 10	M 11/10 W 11/12	Documentary & Experimental Filmmaking Screening: <i>The Thin Blue Line</i> (Errol Morris, 1988)
	M 11/17	What is Cinema? Redux
FINAL	M 11/24	Final Paper Due

**Content & Schedule Changes** – The syllabus is subject to change depending on class progress, time constraints, or material availability. This goes for the screenings as well. The overall workload, however, will not change. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly. You will be notified of any changes in the syllabus in a timely fashion.

### **Assignment Breakdown & Due Dates**

Specific parameters for the assignments will be given in class and posted to D2L.

Week 1 - Introduction, Favorite Film Assignment (5 pts). **Due 9/15.**  
Week 3 - Narrative Structure Analysis (5 pts). **Due 9/29.**  
Week 4 - Mise-en-scene Response: *Repo Man* (5 pts). **Due 10/6.**  
Week 5 - Cinematography Analysis (5 pts). **Due 10/13.**  
Week 6 - Editing & Sound Response: *Point Blank* (7 pts). **Due 10/20.**  
Week 7 - Comprehensive Scene Analysis: *Citizen Kane* (15 pts). **Due 10/27.**  
Week 8 - Criticism Assignment (8 pts). **Due 11/3.**  
Week 9 - International Cinema Response (5 pts). **Due 11/10.**  
Week 10 - Contemporary Documentary Response (5 pts). **Due 11/17.**  
Week 11 - Film Analysis Paper (30 pts). **Due 11/24.**

**Grading** - Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time (all deadlines are on the syllabus and on D2L). Late work will receive zero points for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

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

**Attendance & Participation** - Each class consists of some variation of lecture, screenings, and discussion. All of these things are essential to the course and understanding cinema. Since you are taking this class online, it is not only and very obviously *mandatory* that you watch the lectures, but also that you engage with each other on D2L in the posted weekly responses- just because you are taking this online does not mean you get to skip participating and engaging with other students. Lack of participation will result in a reduction of your grade.

If you are sick, please contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. 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, even with a doctor's note.

**In-Class Screenings** - The screened films are required "texts" for the course, and as such, are not to be missed. I will be making the assigned films available for streaming on COLTUBE (<http://coltube.cdm.depaul.edu/>) but I do highly recommend that you seek out other ways of watching (i.e. DVD, Blu-Ray, theater) as to get a better cinematic experience- films are shot and created to be projected in a theater, not look like pixelated garbage.

**Reading Assignments** - Reading assignments are *mandatory* and will be shared with you ahead of time on D2L. The readings supplement and inform the lectures and discussions and

will be crucial in understanding cinema as well as writing your weekly responses. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class.

**D2L & COLTUBE** - The course materials for this course, such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Please make sure you have access to D2L. Films screened in class will be made available to stream afterwards on <http://coltube.cdm.depaul.edu/>.

**Academic Integrity** - Plagiarism is dishonest behavior and therefore violates collegiality as well as University policy. You should familiarize yourself with behavior that constitutes plagiarism by reviewing the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty at: <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/Resources/Students/index.html>. Any cases of plagiarism will automatically receive a zero and be reported to departmental and University officials for disciplinary action.

**Special Needs** - Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, instructors must make reasonable accommodations for students with physical, mental, or learning disabilities. Let me know at the beginning of the term if you require some modification of seating, testing, or other class adjustments so that appropriate arrangements may be made.