

# DC 370 Advanced Topics in Cinema

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**When:** Tuesdays & Thursdays · 6pm-9pm  
**Where:** The Lot in Hollywood · 1041 N. Formosa Ave West Hollywood, CA 90046

**Instructor:** Erin Rodman · [erodman@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:erodman@cdm.depaul.edu) · (310) 927-2525

**Office hours:** I'm around and available. Email me to set a time.

## Course Description

This class will be an in-depth examination of a filmmaker, film genre, or film movement that has had a significant influence on the development of cinematic storytelling and expression. Through lectures, screenings, readings, discussions, and critical writing assignments, students will analyze the distinctive traits of the selected topic within the broader context of cinema history and culture. Specific topics will be selected by the instructor and will vary with each quarter.

## Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to provide reflection of the students' digital cinema coursework and practical experience in their chosen field of study in preparation for their intended profession through the following key objectives:

- Students will observe real-world applications of their studies and skills, seek to establish mentors and explore ways of "getting their foot in the door."
- Students will process on their experiences with an eye to future employment and to clarify the connection between course studies, critical and creative thinking, and life applications.
- Students will research and interview an individual working in their chosen field, discuss the significance of the resulting advice and information, and share methods to put it to use.

## Grading

Research project: 40%

Mentor interview: 15%

Screening / Q&A: 15%

Class attendance and participation: 30%

*A= 100-93, A-=92-90, 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. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.*

## Assignment Details

### Research Project (40% of final grade)

Students will submit a comprehensive report comprised of 4 parts:

- A description of the current state of your chosen profession
- A collection of first-hand observations of and experiences with that profession in practice (via mentors, internships, lectures, etc)
- A list of research resources (books, films, articles, web content, etc) that have had an influence on your awareness and knowledge of the profession
- A job search proposal that outlines potential post-graduation action steps

### Mentor Interview (15% of final grade)

Students will conduct and transcribe an interview with an industry professional in their proposed field. Students should provide a minimum of 5 questions and maximum of 10 questions.

### Screening Q&A (15% of final grade)

Students must find and attend a panel discussion, lecture or Q&A related to the entertainment industry, and write a 1 page summary and review. Did the speaker give you helpful insights about the industry or a particular profession? Did you see or hear anything that you had not previously been aware of? Did the point of view of the speaker surprise or puzzle you? What did you learn?

Suggested venues: American Cinematheque (Egyptian Theater and Aero Theater), Cinefamily, Arclight Hollywood, Sundance Cinema, Nerdist panels at Meltdown Comics, The Landmark Theater (on Pico), LACMA, Director's Guild (DGA), Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)

### Class Participation (30% of final grade)

Each week students will research the scheduled guest speaker and prepare at least two questions to ask during the Q&A. Additionally, students will be asked to engage in discussions of entertainment history and industry news and share their opinions with the class.

## Required Texts and Suggested Resources

Websites: Deadline · The Wrap · Hollywood Reporter

Films: [AFI Top 100 Movies](#)