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# DC 488

## Filmmakers Seminar

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(Spring 2015)

The Lot in Hollywood  
Thursdays 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Assistant Professor: Tim Peternel  
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LA Phone: 310-569-6323

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### Course Description

Each week, students will be given the rare opportunity to speak directly with industry professionals from all walks. Hollywood directors, writers, cinematographers, editors, producers, agents, managers, entertainment lawyers, development executives and others will come to class, discuss their journeys, offer advice, and answer questions. The class will culminate with an industry mixer, where these professionals, along with dozens more, will join the students for a relaxed evening of networking. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to begin to form meaningful relationships that can help them as they transition from student to filmmaker.

### Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to introduce the student to working professionals in the Hollywood entertainment industry in a classroom environment, focusing on the following key objectives for the quarter:

1. Students will research the guest speakers' career for the purpose of asking meaningful questions on their profession during the classroom interviews.
2. Students will gain a solid understanding of each guest speakers' particular profession, and how they function in the entertainment industry.
3. Students will network and develop meaningful work relationships with industry professionals, both in the classroom and outside such as the industry mixer and class trips & events.

## Class Schedule

*NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. Please consult class calendar and Professor emails for the most up to date schedule for student postings, readings, assignments, and all-due dates.*

### **Week 1**

Introduction to LA Quarter courses and each other.

Review syllabus and class requirements.

### **Weeks 2 – 8**

Students Trades Discussions.

Professors & Students Classroom Discussion.

Industry Professionals Interviews.

Weekly Filmmaker Student Questions.

*Note: Reading handouts, screenings, & class events assigned by the instructor TBD per class.*

### **Week 9**

Students Trades Discussions.

Professors & Students Classroom Discussion.

Industry Professionals Interviews.

Weekly Filmmaker Student Questions.

Individual or Small Group Video Project Screening.

*Note: Reading handouts, screenings, & class events assigned by the instructor TBD per class.*

### **Week 10**

Industry Network Party!!!!!!!!!!!!

Final Reflection Paper Due at end of week.

## Evaluation

Students Trades Discussions	15%
Weekly Filmmaker Questions	20%
Individual or Small Group Video Project	10%
Final Reflection Paper	30%
Class Participation	25%

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 indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concepts.

## Recommended Websites

[Deadline Hollywood](#)

[Hollywood Reporter](#)

## Course Policies

**Attendance:** Classroom attendance is MANDATORY. More than one “excused” absence (doctor’s note, Dodgers game, etc) will result in a lowering of grade per each absence.

**Deadlines:** Strict Adherence to deadlines is expected. Materials presented or posted late will result in a negative grade for the particular assignment.

**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. The professor 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. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

#### **School policies:**

#### **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 and sent via email.

#### **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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

#### **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).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

# Class Assignment Details

## LA Quarter Trades Discussions

### Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade.

### Assignment Description

Each week the Professor will email 2-3 students to choose a news article from the trades (Deadline Hollywood, Hollywood Reporter, Box Office Mojo etc.) that interests them.

The students will then give a 5-minute presentation approximately at the beginning of class and open it up to discussion with the rest of the students and Professor.

Note: Please email the Professor the night before class a link to the story, and a short paragraph as well why you have chosen it for class discussion.

## Weekly Filmmaker Questions

### Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

### Assignment Description

Each week Industry Professionals will visit the LA Quarter class to discuss their experiences and thoughts on the entertainment industry.

The students are to research the guest speakers for the week (ie screen films, research job position, etc) and prepare three questions to ask.

Then during the class, the Professor will randomly call on various students to ask their questions to the guest speakers.

# Individual/Small Group Video Project

## Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

## Assignment Description

During their stay in Los Angeles for the LA Quarter, the student will make a short video (10 minutes or less) of their experiences and impressions of Los Angeles.

The video can be made individually, or with a small group (three students or less) and will be presented to the class on the final night of LA Quarter.

Cameras and equipment will be supplied to the students by DePaul University.

# Final Reflection Paper

## Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 30% of your final grade.

## Assignment Description

The student will write a 2-3 page double space paper on their experiences and thoughts on the LA Quarter. The paper should focus on the numerous filmmakers the students met in class and at events and what they learned from them.

This Paper is due on Week 10 of class and must be posted on COL.

