

DePaul University
School of Cinema and Interactive Media

DC 380/480 - 501: Project Bluelight

Summer II, 2015

August 14-24 at Cinespace Stage 15 and Various Locations. Report times TBD.

Professor Brad Riddell: briddell@cim.depaul.edu, 312-362-5212

Office Hours: by appointment.

Course Description:

Enrolled students will serve as crewmembers in various roles supporting the production of a short motion picture entitled *Ten More*. The instructor, who is also directing the film, will supervise students with the assistance of other DePaul faculty members and professional department heads. This course satisfies the university's JYEL requirement.

Required Reading

Making Movies by Sidney Lumet (Amazon and other retailers).

Screenplay for *Ten More* (under "Content" on D2L).

Objectives:

- observe and participate in the workflow of a professional film set.
- develop basic skills in one or more on-set production departments.
- become familiar with on-set protocols, procedures, and chain of command.
- contribute meaningfully and creatively to the making of the film.
- thoughtfully prepare for and reflect upon the production process.

Outcomes:

Six to eight days of on-set production experience plus two short essays.

Schedule:

Essay 1: Due in DropBox on D2L by 11:59 PM on August 10th.

Prep Day: August 14th

Principal Photography: August 15th - August 23rd

Wrap Day: August 24th

Essay 2: Due in DropBox D2L by 11:59 PM on August 27th.

Assignments

Essay 1: Script Analysis /Production Expectations Paper

Read the script for *Ten More* from the point of view of someone trying to produce it (as opposed to a screenwriter trying to develop story, character, etc.).

Write a 3-5 page double-spaced paper answering these questions:

1. What are my long-term plans and aspirations as a filmmaker, and how do I hope to use this production to help forward those plans?
2. What aspects of the script do I expect will be most challenging to produce?
3. What aspects of the script do I most look forward to seeing produced?
4. What do I expect the production of this film to be like as a whole?
5. What do I expect my role on the film to be like?
6. What aspects of my role in the production do I expect to find most challenging?

Essay 2: Reflective Essay

Read Lumet's Making Movies. **Do this before production begins.**

Write a 3-5 page double-spaced paper answering these questions:

1. How did the production compare to Lumet's description of a professional production?
2. What about Lumet's book did you find most enlightening?
3. What aspects of the production as a whole were most rewarding?
4. What aspects of the production as a whole were most difficult or challenging?
5. What aspects of my role on the production were most rewarding?
6. What aspects of my role on the production were most difficult or challenging?
7. What did I learn about filmmaking as a whole from working on this production?
8. What did I learn about my role on the production?
9. How have my long-term plans as a filmmaker been affected by working on this production?

Grading:

Attendance: 40%

Most class sessions will be substituted by the shoot dates on the schedule. These shoot dates will constitute your coursework, in addition to the reading and two essays. Exact hours for each of the shoot days are not yet determined (and may not be known until the day before shooting). We will be shooting two nights and six days, and expect all shoots to last approximately twelve hours. You cannot be late, and you cannot miss a shoot day unless cleared by the producer and director. Tardiness costs you 10% of your grade each time. Skipping a day costs you 40%.

Effort and Participation: 40%

More important than simply showing up to the shoot is giving maximum effort and participating as much as possible. For most students this will be a non-issue as your crew position will afford you more than enough work to do. In the rare instance that you find yourself with nothing to do on the set, stand by and be available to participate when directed by another crewmember. Directing your efforts toward things other than the shoot will negatively impact our movie and your grade.

Essays 1 and 2: 10% each.

Late work will not be accepted. 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.

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. But know this: plagiarism will earn you an immediate F in this course. It has happened before, so please don't let it happen again.

Alterations:

The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus at any time. Students will be apprised of any and all changes with clear instructions should they occur.

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.

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

TTY: (773)325.7296

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.