DePAUL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CINEMA AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA
AUTUMN QUARTER - 2015-2016
DC 110 – FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

INSTRUCTOR:	Brian Zahm	**SECTION:**	403
OFFICE HOURS:	M 11:30-2:30/T 5-6:30	**CLASS #:**	11575
OFFICE LOCATION:	CDM 455	**CLASS TIMES:** TUE 01:30-04:45 PM	
E-MAIL:	bzahm@cdm.depaul.edu	**CLASS LOCATION:** CDM 708	

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. Drawing heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on storytelling and visual design. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects putting theory into practice. **Please Note:** This course teaches concepts rather than technology. Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in DC 110 to better communicate their ideas in Digital Cinema Production I (DC 210) and beyond.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
> » ANALYZE how cinematic techniques function to tell a story or convey a theme
> » SYNTHESIZE cinematic techniques in the production of their own creative work
> » IDENTIFY how techniques function in multiple genres and forms
> » CREATE a project from concept to exhibition
> » UTILIZE basic film production language

PREREQUISITES
There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXT
> » FILM ART: AN INTRODUCTION by David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson (ISBN 13: 978-0--07-353510-4) A must read for all filmmakers to help understand the importance and historical significance of the cinematic form.

> » DESIRE2LEARN (D2L): Some additional readings and weblinks will be posted on D2L.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES
> » EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE: You will need some form of external drive to store your project files on. You will need at least 200gb of free space. The classroom computers have USB & Thunderbolt ports, so your drive should be compliant. I would recommend a Thunderbolt connection, and/or USB 3.0. A USB 2.0 connection will likely not be fast enough to edit the files in this class. If it is an HDD drive, I would recommend it being 7200 rpms. You will use this drive for this class and beyond. *Also, please note, you are responsible for backing up all of your work!*

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING

» **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**: 15% (INDIVIDUAL)
You are required to attend class and participate in the day's activities. This active engagement will ensure you get the most from the course. Each class is vital to your early artistic development.

» **READING + LECTURE EXAM**: 25% (INDIVIDUAL)
This test will help reinforce the key elements presented in the lecturers and readings.

» **"THE ACTIVITY" SILENT FILM**: 10% (GROUP)
This silent film will portray one person doing an activity from start to finish. (Ex. brushing teeth, juggling, playing pinball, eating an apple etc). This project will help you better understand the use of cinematic language and composition.

» **"THE OBSESSION" PHOTO ROMAN**: 15% (GROUP)
This is a still photo montage film that should portray someone with an obsession i.e. they are infatuated with one single thing. This film will also introduce the power of sound design to help bring your images to "life". This project will help you understand and experience visual and audio design and their contribution to cinematic storytelling.

» **"THE STORY" PREVISUALIZATION PACKET**: 15% (INDIVIDUAL)
This is the previsualization packet for your "The Story" film. This packet will include a logline, a treatment broken down into the three-act structure, a storyboard and shotlist. The storyboard should be constructed with still photographs, be numbered and feature important sound and sfx. The shotlist should directly correlate to the storyboard. *The best previz packets will be chosen to be made into films.*

» **"THE STORY" FILM**: 20% (GROUP)
This short film should tell a complete story without dialogue, driven purely by visual-story telling and intelligent sound design. This film will help you understand and practice with the power of cinematic storytelling and help prepare you for Production 1.

A = 100-93, A- = 92.9-90, B+ = 89.9-87, B = 86.9-83, B- = 82.9-80, C+ = 79.9-77, C = 76.9-73,
C- = 72.9-70, D+ = 69.9-67, D = 66.9-63, D- = 62.9-60, F = 59.9+Below.
"A" indicates Excellence, "B" indicates Very Good, "C" indicates Satisfactory,
"D" indicates Poor, "F" indicates the student has NOT accomplished the objectives of the course.

GRADING POLICY
Professional editors must adhere to strict deadlines. Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the established deadlines. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. I will not accept the excuse of technological failure or absent-mindedness (you all have phones…set alarms for due dates!). *Back up your work and do not leave your work until the last second!* This is your warning. All grades will be kept current on D2L.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
You are expected to be on time, and if you plan on missing or being late to a class are expected to notify the instructor BEFORE that particular class. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether an absence or tardy is "excused." ***Unexecused absences or tardiness will negatively affect your grade.*** *Please see* **Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office** *at the end of the syllabus to see how your grade will be affected.* Attendance will be kept current on D2L. If you want to question a recorded absence or tardiness, it must be done within a week of the recorded occurrence.   DO NOT COMPLAIN about your final grade if you have skipped/been tardy to class and your final grade was reduced. This is your warning!

COMPUTER/CELLPHONE/I-PAD ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY
If you are using any personal or school electronic equipment during class for anything other than class-related work, *you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that class.*

E-MAIL POLICY
You are expected to <u>read all e-mails</u> from the class instructor because <u>you are responsible</u> to know the information they contain. *So, you should check your e-mail at least once very 24 hours!*

Type **DC 110 FOUNDATIONS** in the subject of all e-mails to the instructor about this class. Please <u>DO NOT</u> JUST REPLY to my all-class e-mails because your response might get lost in the shuffle—*Send me an individual e-mail. I will do my best to get back to you in short order, but please allow up to 24hrs for the instructor to respond.*

PROJECT FILE LABELING + FORMAT POLICY
<u>Label all Files</u> as Such (ex. Student is STEVEN SPIELBERG and he is submitting the "ACTIVITY" PROJECT): **SPIELBERG_ACTIVITY**

All Projects should be submitted in H.264.mov format! **Projects NOT labeled properly or submitted in the proper format WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. <u>This is your warning!!!</u>**

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY
All work submitted for this class should be original work made specifically for this class. If you are found to be submitting work you have made for another class you will receive zero credit for that particular assignment.

I will grade the first project file that is submitted. Check and double-check the work you are submitting. Do not submit the wrong file, an incomplete file, a corrupted file, etc. Submit the correct project file by each deadline. Most work will be submitted through D2L Dropbox. Do not leave this until the last second—upload several hours before the deadline to be safe! *Again, no late work is accepted!*

EXCUSES (i.e. LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM)
My classes are designed to teach professional conduct and particular skill-sets. Time management skills are essential for all endeavors.   The wonders of modern technology make it easy and simple to stay organized, on time and on task. Please remember, an excuse is just that—*an excuse.* Here are just a few examples of excuses for not meeting class obligations that I won't accept (and do not add to this list):

      a.   I have a life…
      b.   I forgot…
      c.   I didn't realize…
      d.   I mixed up the dates…
      e.   I don't "do" books…
      f.   My alarm didn't go off…
      g.   I was busy working on other projects…
      h.   My job called me in so I had to work and couldn't do my assignment…
      i.   I would have made the deadline if the deadline wasn't when it was…
      j.   It's just easier to do it my way, so I did it my way…
      k.   Other classes don't have me do it this way, so I did it their way…
      l.   I was not aware of class policy…
      m.   I didn't read the e-mail you sent out, so I didn't know…
      n.   The cage checked me out bad equipment, so I couldn't…
      o.   My hard-drive crashed and I didn't back up my work…
      p.   The internet was slow when I tried to turn in my project…
      q.   I accidentally submitted the wrong project file, but it was on time…
      r.   I didn't do the assignment as you asked, but don't worry, I got it all worked on in my head…
      s.   I have to pick my friend up at the airport…
      t.   I have to go on vacation…
      u.   I was at a bar and…
      v.   I didn't look on the syllabus…

DC 110: COURSE SCHEDULE

All assigned readings/tutorial lessons are to be <u>completed by the following</u> class. All assignments have strict **DUE** deadlines noted in the schedule. *Late work is NOT accepted!*

CLASS 01_September 15th
       IN CLASS: Syllabus Review
             LECTURE: What is Cinema + Basic Film Terminology.
             SCREENING: Film Odyssey
       BEFORE NEXT CLASS: READ: <u>FILM ART</u>: Chapters 1 + 2 + 12

CLASS 02_September 22nd
       IN CLASS: Cage Presentation + Story
             PRESENTATION: "The Cage" Camera Presentation starring Nick Schmidt
             LECTURE: Narrative Form
             SCREENING: Short Films
             ASSIGN: Groups + "The Activity" Film
       BEFORE NEXT CLASS: READ: <u>FILM ART</u>: Chapters 3 + 9
                              PLAN: "The Activity" Film

CLASS 03_September 29th
       IN CLASS: Cinematography / D2L Demo
             LECTURE: Cinematography + Mise-en-Scene
              SCREENING: Side-by-Side
              DEMO: Uploading a Film to D2L
       BEFORE NEXT CLASS: READ: <u>FILM ART</u>: Chapters 4 + 5
                              FINISH/SUBMIT: "The Activity" Film

DUE: OCTOBER 5th BY 11am via D2l > YOUR "THE ACTIVITY" FILM

CLASS 04_October 6th
       IN CLASS: "The Activity" Film Critique + Sound
             CRITIQUE: "THE ACTIVITY" Film
             LECTURE: Sound + Cinema
             SCREENING: La Jetee + Short Films
             DEMO: Acquiring Sound + Sound Sources
             ASSIGN: "THE OBSESSION" Photo Roman
       BEFORE NEXT CLASS: READ: <u>FILM ART</u>: Chapter 7
                            PLAN: "The Obsession" Photo Roman

CLASS 05_October 13th
       IN CLASS: Editing
             LECTURE: Editing: The Invisible Art
             SCREENING: The Cutting Edge
       BEFORE NEXT CLASS: READ: <u>FILM ART</u>: Chapters 6 + 8
                        READ: <u>D2L>MATCH CUTS</u>
                        FINISH/SUBMIT" "The Obsession" Photo Roman

DUE: OCTOBER 19th BY 11am via D2l > YOUR "THE OBSESSION" Photo Roman

CLASS 06_October 20th
       IN CLASS: "The Obsession" Critique + Previsualization
             CRITIQUE: "The Obsession" Photo Roman
             LECTURE: Previsualization
             SCREENING: Short Film/Feature Scenes
             ASSIGN: Previsualization Packet + New Groups (if needed)
       BEFORE NEXT CLASS: PLAN: Previz Packet
                              STUDY FOR: Reading + Lecture Exam

CLASS 07_October 27th
        IN CLASS: **READINGS + LECTURE EXAM**
        SCREENING: Instructor's Choice (if time permits)

DUE: NOVEMBER 1st BY 11am via D2I > YOUR "THE STORY" Previz Packets

CLASS 08_November 3rd
        IN CLASS: Critique + Directing Your Film
                CRITIQUE: "The Story" Previz Packets
                LECTURE: Directing Your Film
                SCREENING: Short Films
                ASSIGN: Final Selected "The Story" Short Films
        BEFORE NEXT CLASS: PLAN: "The Story" Short Films

CLASS 09_November 10th
        IN CLASS: Critique
                CRITIQUE: "The Story" Rough Cuts

DUE: NOVEMBER 16th BY 11am via D2I > YOUR "THE STORY" Films

CLASS 10_November 17th
        IN CLASS: Critique + Your Career
                Critique: "The Story" Films
                Lecture: Thinking About Your Career in Cinema + Time at DePaul

FINALS_ NOV 24th 2:30-4:45PM***
        ***Flex Date

Note On Requirements (and the Syllabus in General)
This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, and posted on D2L. AS A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ON THE TOTALITY OF THIS SYLLABUS. These guidelines are established to ensure all students know what is expected of them, and so all students are treated equally by being held to the same standards.

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.
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296

<p style="text-align:center">Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office</p>

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration.
Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student.
The overall grade for Attendance & Participation drops one-third after any absence (50pts). Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

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.

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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 undisruptive 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.