

DC100 Intro to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Fall Quarter 2015

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:40-4:10pm

Levan 305

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office: STDC332

Office hours: Mondays 5:00-6:30pm and 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 plan to major or minor in Digital Cinema. No prerequisites.

Course Objectives — After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss film as an artistic medium
- Analyze and discuss the craft and technique of specific roles in the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze and discuss visual communication as used by filmmakers

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 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 courses 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.

Textbook — There is no required textbook for this class. Reading assignments will be made available through D2L.

Online Course Management System — We will use D2L as our online course management system. You can log in at <<https://d2l.depaul.edu>>. Course documents,

updates to the course, lecture slides, and important information and news will be posted there.

Homework — All homework and papers must be submitted via D2L, which can be accessed at <<https://d2l.depaul.edu>>. The portals to submit your assignments close automatically so *no late work will be accepted*. Because you all have access to 100% reliable internet and computers on campus, technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses for not turning in your assignments on time.

Writing Assignments — Because there are two significant writing assignments this quarter (your midterm and final), I *strongly* encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-based Learning (aka The Writing Center). It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your papers are of the highest quality. To learn more about what they offer, visit their website:

<http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/what/Writing%20Center/wc.html>

Grading:

Attendance and participation: 10%

Homework quizzes: 40%

Midterm: 20%

Final paper: 30%

Note: your lowest homework grade will be dropped.

Extra credit: If *everyone* completes their Course Instructor Survey at the end of the quarter, all students will receive 10 points of extra credit toward their homework grade. More on this at the end of the quarter.

Weekly schedule

Week 1

09/09 — Introductions, syllabus, what is Cinema?

Homework 1: What have you seen, favorite film, *American Movie* response (DUE 09/16)

Week 2

09/14 — *American Movie* (Chris Smith, 1999, 107 minutes)

09/16 — Filmmaking as an art form

Week 3

09/21 — Screenwriting

09/22 — *Last day to drop without penalty*

09/23 — *Adaptation* (Spike Jonze, 2002, 114 minutes)

Homework 2: Screenwriting response (DUE 09/30)

Week 4

09/28 — Cinematography

09/30 — *Vertigo* (Hitchcock, 1960, 128 minutes)

Homework 3: Cinematography response (DUE 10/07)

Week 5

10/05 — Mise-en-scène/Production design

10/07 — *The Fall* (Tarsem Singh, 2006, 117 minutes)

Homework 4: Mise-en-scène response (DUE 10/14)

Midterm: Analysis of any of the films we've screened, 3-5 pages (DUE 10/21)

Week 6

10/12 — Editing/Sound design

10/14 — *The Limey* (Steven Soderbergh, 89 minutes)

Midterm: Analysis of any of the films we've screened, 3-5 pages (DUE 10/21)

Week 7

10/19 — Directing, producing, Hollywood

10/21 — *Unforgiven* (Clint Eastwood, 1992, 131 minutes)

Homework 5: Directing response (DUE 10/28)

Week 8

10/26 — Documentary

10/27 — *Last day to withdraw from classes (with penalty)*

10/28 — *The Act of Killing* (Joshua Oppenheimer, 2012, 115 minutes)

Homework 6: Documentary response (DUE 11/04)

Final paper: In depth analysis of any film you want, 5-7 pages (DUE 11/18)

Week 9

11/02 — Experimental and nontraditional cinema

11/04 — *Chungking Express* (Wong Kar-Wai, 1994, 102 minutes)

Final paper: In depth analysis of any film you want, 5-7 pages (DUE 11/18)

Week 10

11/09 — New Waves, Indies, the rest

11/11 — *Breathless* (Jean-Luc Godard, 1960, 90 minutes)

Final paper: In depth analysis of any film you want, 5-7 pages (DUE 11/18)

Week 11

11/16 — OK so now what is cinema?

****Note****: Course content, assignments, screenings, and due dates are subject to change at any time. Any changes will be communicated clearly in class and by email. As such, it is important for you to read emails and come to class to stay apprised of any changes to the syllabus.

My policies

Attendance — Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. You may miss ONE screening during the quarter with no affect on your grade. Subsequent unexcused absences will reduce your final grade by one whole letter.

If you are more than 15 minutes late or if you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will be considered absent. I understand that the CTA can be aggravating, but transit delays will not count as excused absences.

Sleeping — Do not sleep in class. Just don't do it. If you sleep for more than 15 minutes you will be considered absent.

Participation — Do participate in class. Just do it. We'll all have more fun if everyone contributes to the conversations.

Respect — Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs. We do not all have to agree on everything but we should be able to discuss anything civilly. This is not the comments section on YouTube.

Please respect the films we'll watch, some of which have mature themes and situations.

Email — The best way to contact me is through email. Unless otherwise noted, I will respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. Emails received Saturdays and Sundays may not be seen until Monday.

Computer and cell phone use — Computers, cell phones, and tablets may not be used during class. If you have a documented learning need or disability that requires you to use a laptop, exceptions will be made. Otherwise, no screens in class. Computer or cell phone use will affect your participation grade.

All phones must be kept *silent*. Please do not have a phone that is constantly buzzing.

I understand that emergencies happen and you may need to be available by phone. If that's the case, please tell me at the start of class if you know you may need to take a call. In any

event, if you do need to use your phone during class please step outside quietly and answer your phone in the hallway. There is no such thing as a text message emergency.

Grades — Unless otherwise noted, I will have assignments graded and returned to you by the following class period. I can tell you in advance that your Midterm will *likely* not be returned the following week. I apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

Grade disputes — Any disputes or challenges to an assignment's grade must be made in writing (email is fine) within 36 hours of receiving your grade. You must state why you are challenging the grade and provide evidence to support your claim. Challenges to your final grade should follow the University's policy on grade challenges, which can be found in the student handbook: <http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/Pages/challenges-to-grades.aspx>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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.

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 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

Incompletes — Students can read about requesting or receiving an incomplete grade at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

Excused absences — Students can read about the procedures for getting an excused absence at <http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>