
DC 388

Filmmakers Seminar

(Spring 2016)

The Lot in Hollywood

Santa Monica Bldg. East #113
Thursdays 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Assistant Professor:
E-Mail: tpeterne@cdm.depaul.edu
LA Phone: 310-569-6323

Course Description

This class will consist of a hybrid of lectures, guest speakers, and individual and group assignments. Each class will begin with a trades discussion by students of current industry news and events. The class will then have a short power point lecture covering the industry topic for the week followed up by a guest speaker. The guest speakers will discuss their particular area of expertise and it is expected for the students to ask questions and interact with each speaker. The guest speakers are TBD subject to their schedule and availability. The class will culminate with an industry mixer, where many of these guest speakers, along with DePaul graduates working in the industry, will join the students for a relaxed evening of networking.

Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to introduce the student to how the Hollywood film business operates through a series of lectures and guest speakers, focusing on the following key objectives for the quarter:

1. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of how the entertainment industry functions in Los Angeles.
2. Students will gain a solid understanding of each guest speakers' particular profession, and how they operate 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 (April 7th)

Introduction to LA Quarter courses and each other.

Review syllabus and class requirements.

Weeks 2 – 8 (April 14th - May 26th)

Students Trades Discussions.

Class Lectures.

Guest Speaker Discussions.

Weekly Filmmaker Student Questions.

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

Week 9 (June 2nd)

Industry Networking Party!!!!!!!!!!!!

Week 10 (June 9th)

Individual or Small Group Video Project Screening.

LA Quarter Reflection Paper Due at end of week on June 10th.

Evaluation

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|---|-----|
| Students Trades Discussions | 10% |
| Weekly Filmmaker Questions | 25% |
| Individual or Small Group Video Project | 20% |
| LA Quarter Reflection Paper | 25% |
| Class Participation | 20% |

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](#)

Class Assignment Details

LA Quarter Trades Discussions

Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 10% 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 25% 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 20% 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.

LA Quarter Reflection Paper

Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 25% 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 June 10th and must be posted on D2L.

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.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

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