

**DC 475 Cinematography
Spring 2016
Thursdays 5:45-9:00**

Instructor: Dana Hodgdon
Office: CTI 407
Advising Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00
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Course Description

This course will be an intensive exploration of the craft, technologies and aesthetic principles of cinematography and lighting techniques for digital filmmaking. Lectures and in-class demonstrations will cover a variety of high end digital cameras and accessories, exposure, lenses and optics, lighting units, lighting placement, lighting control, camera support, and camera movement. All class sessions will consist of lectures, demonstrations, “hands on” with cameras and lighting units, exercises, and screenings of selected film and clips which demonstrate specific cinematography and lighting techniques.

Course Outline

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| WEEK 1 | 3/31 | Introduction, organization, assignments. DC 475 survey.
Lecture: A brief history of film/video technology, current digital formats |
| WEEK 2 | 4/7 | Lecture: Digital Cameras, digital technology,
The DSLR phenomena.
Lab: Hands on Canon C 100 cameras, tripods, accessories
Reading: Brown “Video and High Def” pp. 193-212 |
| WEEK 3 | 4/14 | Lab: Shoot Production Assignment # 1 with Canon C100 Cameras. To be shot in teams of 3-4. You will ingest your footage into Premiere and assemble all shots in your timeline in order (Dailies), export as Pro Res 422 .mov and present to class from hard drive.
Reading: Brown “Optics” pp. 177-192, “Exposure” pp. 103-126 |
| WEEK 4 | 4/21 | Screen and critique Production Assignment # 1
Lecture: Lenses - Depth of Field, Composition. |

Lecture: Lenses – Focal length, f-stop, Focusing
Creative Projects: Groups meet for creative conferences for Production Assignment # 2.

WEEK 5	4/28	Lecture: Electrics, basic lighting units, lighting control, Lighting set-ups. Camera Lab: Canon C300 Reading: Brown “The Tools of Lighting” pp. 141-156
WEEK 6	5/5	Screen and Critique Production Assignment # 2 Lecture: Color Temp and Lighting Creative Projects: Groups meet for creative conferences for Production Assignment # 3 (Final Project). Reading: Brown “Color Theory” pp. 127-140, “Controlling Color” pp. 167-176
WEEK 7	5/12	Lecture: Advanced lighting, lighting set-ups, green screen, camera movement, Dollys and dolly shots, Cinematography Tips and Tricks. Camera Lab: Sony FS7. Reading: Brown 1 st 5 Chapters, pp. 1-10
WEEK 8	5/19	Lecture: Review basic field audio recording techniques, mic and boom placement, audio levels. On set – the DP, AC, operator, gaffer, grip, PA, etc. Camera Lab: Red Epic Reading: Brown “Set Operations” pp. 241-256, “Technical Issues” pp. 257-275.
WEEK 9	5/26	Screen and critique rough cuts of Production Assignment #3. Camera Lab: Arri Alexa.
WEEK 10	6/2	Final Exam
WEEK 11	6/9	5:45-9:00 Screen and critique fine cuts for Production Assignment # 3. Attendance is mandatory. Note: This is the scheduled time for the Final Exam for this course. Attendance is mandatory.

Summary of Assignments

Production Assignment # 1. This will be a cinematography exercise to be shot in class week 3. **(This assignment will be shot with the Canon C100 camera.** You will work in groups of 3-4. Parameters for this assignment will be handed out in class week 2.

Production Assignment # 2. You will work in groups of 3-4 and rotate crew positions (Director, DP, Gaffer). **This assignment will be shot with the Canon C100 camera.** You will shoot and edit a short MOS narrative using all 8 elements listed below:

1. Woman at computer
2. Man cleaning something
3. needle drop on vinyl (or CD)
4. Someone gets something out of refrigerator
5. Light being turned on
6. Socks being put on
7. Pencil gets sharpened
8. Someone takes off ring

You may add **one** additional shot to the sequence. And you may drop one shot. You can assemble the shots in any order. You will edit your sequence in Premiere and you must add music and SFX. Besides telling an interesting story, your emphasis should be on lighting technique, exposure, composition, and camera movement. This assignment will be turned in as an Apple Pro res 422 .mov from hard drive and uploaded to Vimeo.

Production Assignment # 3. Again you will work in groups of 3-4. This can be any mode or genre (except documentary) and must have one or more edited scenes that are sync sound. It should have music and titles. Target length is 3-5 minutes. **This assignment must be shot with either the C100 or C300 cameras** and will be turned in as an Apple Pro res 422 .mov from hard drive and uploaded to Vimeo.

Required Texts

Cinematography Theory and Practice, Blain Brown

Grading

Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Production Assignment # 1	10%
Production Assignment # 2	20%
Production Assignment # 3	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Course Policies – in addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course.

Attendance – Classes will consist of lecture, screenings, discussion, and creative exercises. Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or showing up 15 minutes or more late. Any absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade.

Assignments and Exercises – Assignments and exercises must be completed by the due date as indicated in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

Examinations – Students who do not take exams during the regularly scheduled time will receive a failing grade for the exam unless they have contacted the instructor in advance to arrange for a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be administered by the College according to its make-up exam schedule.

Plagiarism – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) at: <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/handbook/code16.html>.

Course Lectures/Reading Assignments – The assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class. The exam will cover both lecture and reading materials as specified by the instructor.

Content Changes – Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

Working in Groups – For Production Assignments in this course you will be working in groups of 3. A major component of producing films and videos is teamwork. In this course many of you will be working as a creative team for the first time. Most student teams work very well together. But sometimes personality conflicts or creative conflicts can arise. It is your job as a team to work through these conflicts, because if you don't, your project will suffer. If things get really difficult you can come to me as a team and I will help mediate/resolve the situation.

Office Hours/My Availability – I enjoy working with my students and am always available for advising, answering questions, etc. For those of you who want to learn more about technologies beyond the scope of DC 275 feel free to make an appointment and pick my brain. **To meet with me your best bet is to schedule an appointment thru MyCDM, or stop by during my office hours.** If you stop by during my office hours I may be in the building, but not in my office. If that is the case, call me on my cell phone and we'll connect up.