



# DC 368



## Welcome to Camera Department!

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*"Don't let the difficulty of actually achieving a shot make you think that the shot is good."*

-Sidney Lumet

Movies can serve multiple purposes; whether to inform, entertain, or make an artistic statement. Whatever the intent, you need a camera to capture the image. This class examines the people that keep the camera rolling. From the person pulling focus, to the person downloading footage, a movie can not be made without some form of camera department.



This course will deal with complex cameras and technology; a basic understanding of key cinematography is necessary to excel in this course. Most of the work and handouts for this course will occur in D2L. The syllabus, assignments, and course requirements are posted there. Your readings will be introduced at the end of class each week. If you have any questions, please reach out to me as soon as possible. My contact information is below.

## Course Information

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Course no.: DC 368, Section 901  
Meetings: Tuesday, 5:45pm-7:15pm

Instructor: Eric Liberacki  
Office: (312) 362-6357  
Email: eliberac at cdm.depaul.edu

Office hours: by appointment  
Office: Lower Level Daley, LL103C

14 E. Jackson

Institution: DePaul University  
243 S. Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604

## About the course

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### Course Description

This course focuses on advanced cinema technology. During the quarter students will become proficient in the use of Arri, Red, Canon, and Sony cinema cameras and other equipment related to the many roles of the camera department. This class will overview each role of the department, the role responsibilities, and how to function in that role on a film set.

**In accordance with DePaul University, students must earn a final grade of C or better in order for this class to count towards the Digital Cinema major.**



### Course Objectives

- Students obtaining an A will be certified on DePaul University's Advanced Camera Cage equipment.
- Students obtaining a B will be certified on the cameras tested in the class, additional certifications can be achieved via the standard testing policy at the Stage Office.
- A complete understanding of the camera department, their role in the filmmaking process, and how to be successful.
- The ability to troubleshoot the problems that occur when using multiple complex filmmaking technologies.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to competently operate digital cameras equipment.
- Display the on-set skills and set protocols utilized by camera crew.
- Analyze, evaluate and choose appropriate camera equipment packages.

### A Warning (or Challenge)

This course will be a rigorous experience. We will meet for 1.5 hours each Tuesday and have a litany of information to cover. You will have weekly reading and assignments and there will also be practical exams outside of class. At the end of these 10 weeks you will know and understand these cameras if you put the effort into the class. While the whole course will certainly be enjoyable, it will also be very demanding.

### Texts and Reading

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This course will have multiple readings and texts, the majority of which are covered in "*The Camera Assistant's Manual*." The book covers every aspect of camera department, including working in the film industry. I also recommend "The ASC Manual" for any students with an active interest in cinematography. Additional readings will be available in class and on D2L.

#### Texts:

THE CAMERA ASSISTANT'S MANUAL, 6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION  
David E. Elkins SOC ISBN: 978-0240818689

AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER MANUAL, 10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION  
Michael Goi ISBN: 978-1467568302

# Assignments

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The following is an overview of the assignments that will be given during the quarter. A complete description of the assignment, as well as requirements, will be discussed in class and posted to D2L.

## Weekly Reading Quiz

Each week's assigned reading will be followed up by a short quiz at the start of each class. Readings include chapters from the text book, class handouts, and camera manuals. (10 points each)

## Screening Response

Following our in-class screening on week 4, you will write a response to the video. (50 points)

## Camera Build Proposal

Using knowledge gained during lectures, you will need to build a camera quote including all the accessories needed for the purpose of filmmaking. (100 points)

## NAB Research

Choose something that is announced at this years NAB Conference relating to filmmaking. It could be a new camera, lens, monitor, etc. (50 points)

## Focus Pull Assignment

In small groups, each student will take turns as the Camera Operator, 1<sup>st</sup> AC, and 2<sup>ND</sup> AC. (200 points)

## Midterm, written and practical

The midterm is divided into two parts, a written exam and a practical exam. The practical exam will need to be scheduled on your own time and will cover one of the cameras that was learned in class. (225 points)

## Final, written and practical

The final is divided into two parts, a written exam and a practical exam. The practical exam will need to be scheduled on your own time and will cover one of the cameras that was learned in class. (225 points)

# Grading

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## Class Participation

The remaining 50 points from the grading scale count toward your class participation, which is not only expected, but required. Along with paying attention in class, you're expected to contribute to discussions and ask questions when needed.

## Scale

Grade	Points required
A	900 - 1000
B	800 - 899
C	700 - 799
D	600 - 699
F	599 or lower

\*Depending on the flexibility of assignments, quizzes and the final as stated above, the scale may be modified to reflect a change in total available points.

## Schedule

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WK	Date	Topic
1	3/29	Basics: Camera Department, Tools of the Trade
2	4/5	Oconnor 2065 & 2575, Sachtler FSB8, DV10, 25+, Balancing the Tripod <i>Camera Review: C300 EF Package</i>
3	4/12	Overview: slates, slating techniques, reports. Lens Mounts <i>Camera Review: C300 PL Package</i> <b>Midterm Practical Exam Assigned, due 5/10</b>
4	4/19	Film Screening <b>“Screening Response” Paper Assigned, due 4/26</b>
5	4/26	Follow Focus, Matte Box, Camera Monitors, Resolution <i>Camera Review: Sony FS7</i> <b>Midterm Written Exam Assigned, due 5/3</b>
6	5/3	Camera Prep, Raw Recording <i>Camera Review: RED One</i> <b>“NAB Research” Paper Assigned, due 5/10</b>
7	5/10	Depth of Field, Pulling Focus, Marking Actors <i>Practical: Focus Pulling Exercise</i> <b>“Focus Pull” Project Assigned, due 5/24</b>
8	5/17	Camera Tests, Dynamic Range, Aspect Ratios <i>Camera Review: RED Epic</i> <b>“Camera Build” Proposal Assigned, due 5/24</b>
9	5/24	Digital Imaging Technician, Digital Loader, Monitors, LUTs Workflows <i>Camera Review: Arri Alexa XT</i> <b>Final Practical Exam Assigned, due 6/7</b>
10	5/31	Final Exam Review <i>Software Review: REDCINE-X PRO &amp; Codex VFS &amp; Software</i>
11	6/7	Final Exam

# Policies & Procedures

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## 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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

## Students with Disabilities (continued)

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

## 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 participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

## Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

## Retroactive Withdrawal

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval. College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MYCDM. The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows: Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

## Excused Absence

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

## Incomplete

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for the incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MYCDM.

All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptional cases will receive such approval. If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirements independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form. By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor. An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

## 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

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.

## Finally...

To be successful in this class you must get familiar with the advanced camera inventory. Doing so requires effort outside of class to practice in the Advanced Camera Prep area located behind the LL105 Theater. Without practice, there is little chance you can pass the practical examinations during the quarter.