

## DC100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Syllabus Autumn 2017

Rob Steel

Tuesday/Thursday, 2:40PM-4:10PM

DePaul Lincoln Park Levan Center 304

### **General Course Information**

#### **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 intend to major or minor in Digital Cinema.

Prerequisite: None

#### **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 to 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 course 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.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced.
2. Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
3. Students will be able to assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
4. Students will be able to contextualize a work of art. They will be able to do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. They will also be able to contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

**Writing Expectations:**

A minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for courses in the Arts and Literature domain (including studio courses) is required.

**Course Management System:**

D2L: Films can be found on D2L on COLTube

**Required Texts:**

Making Movies by Sydney Lumet, ISBN: 978-0679756606

**Drop dates:**

9.19.17 is the last day to drop this class with no penalty.  
10.24.17 is the last day to withdraw from this class.

## Grading:

### Discussion Boards

50-word minimum total for posting and replies

Discussion Board 1: 5 points\*

Discussion Board 2: 5 points\*

Discussion Board 3: 5 points\*

Discussion Board 4: 5 points\*

\*1 posting and 2 meaningful responses to other postings, 5 points

\*1 posting and 1 meaningful responses to other postings, 4 points

\*1 posting, 3 points

### Quizzes

Quiz 1: 10 points

Quiz 2: 10 points

### Response Papers

250-word minimum

Response Paper 1: 10 points

Response Paper 2: 10 points

### Film Review

1250-word minimum

Film Review: 40 points

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 work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Instructor Information

Email:

[rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu)

Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:20am-2:20am in DePaul Lincoln Park Student Center 332

## Class-by-Class

### Class 1, Thu, Sept 7

Review syllabus. Please note: this syllabus is subject to change.

D2L tour.

Student introductions

Lecture: The Filmmaking Process

Screening: The Shark is Still Working (1:43)

**Homework Due 9.12 by 2:40pm**

First Day Questionnaire

### Class 2, Tue, Sept 12

Screening: The Shark is Still Working (1:43)

Discussion

**Homework Due 9.14 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 1 (Pages 3-27), The Director

### Class 3, Thu, Sept 14

Lecture: Directing

Screening: Hearts of Darkness (1:37)

**Homework Due 9.19 by 2:40pm**

### Class 4, Tue, Sept 19

Screening: Hearts of Darkness (1:37)

Discussion

**Homework Due 9.21 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 2 (Pages 28-48), The Script

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 4 (Pages 59-74), Actors

Class 5, Thu, Sept 21

Lecture: Screenwriting

Lecture: Taxi Driver Script Analysis

**Homework Due 9.26 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Taxi Driver script

Discussion Board 1 (50-word minimum for posting and replies): What would you like to ask screenwriter Paul Schrader about his screenplay for Taxi Driver?

Class 6, Tue, Sept 26

Screening: Taxi Driver (1:54)

Class 7, Thu, Sept 28

Screening: Taxi Driver (1:54)

Discussion

Screening: Short Films (Inocente, In a Heartbeat and Next Floor)

**Homework Due 10.3 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 3 (Pages 49-58), Style

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 6 (Pages 94-104), Art Direction and Clothes

Quiz 1 (Take home, open book)

Response paper 1 (250-word minimum): What are some key differences between the screenplay and the film of Taxi Driver?

Class 8, Tue, Oct 3

Lecture: Art Direction/Production Design-Creating a World

Screening: Alien (1:57)

Class 9, Thu, Oct 5

Screening: Alien (1:57)

Discussion

**Homework Due 10.10 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 5 (Pages 75-93), The Camera

Discussion Board 2 (50-word minimum for posting and replies): How does the production design inform the narrative of Alien?

Class 10, Tue, Oct 10

Lecture: Cinematography

Screening: Do the Right Thing (2:05)

Class 11 Thu, Oct 12

Screening: Do the Right Thing (2:05)

Discussion

Lecture: Producing

**Homework Due 10.17 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 7 (Pages 105-136), Shooting the Movie

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 8 (Pages 137-147), Rushes

Discussion Board 3 (50-word minimum for posting and replies): How does the cinematography create tension in Do the Right Thing?

Class 12, Tue, Oct 17

Screening: Apocalypse Now (2:33)

**Homework Due 10.19 by 2:40pm**

Reading: BBC-Writing for Moving Images and Roger's Little Rule Book

Class 13, Thu, Oct 19

Screening: Apocalypse Now (2:33)

Discussion

**Homework Due 10.24 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 9 (Pages 105-136), The Cutting Room

Quiz 2 (Take home, open book)

Response paper 1 (250-word minimum): How does the production history inform the original theatrical version of Apocalypse Now?

Class 14, Tue, Oct 24

Lecture: Editing

Screening: Run Lola Run (1:22)

**Homework Due 10.26 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Reviews for Alien, Apocalypse Now, Citizenfour, Do the Right Thing, Psycho, Run Lola Run, Taxi Driver and Wall-E

Class 15, Thu, Oct 26

Screening: Run Lola Run (1:22)

Discussion

Lecture: Film Scoring

**Homework Due 10.31 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 10 (Pages 170-185), The Sound of Music

Discussion Board 4 (50-word minimum for posting and replies): How does the editing of the opening sequence of Run Lola Run inform the editing choices throughout the rest of the movie?

Class 16, Tue, Oct 31

Screening: Psycho (1:49)

**Homework Due 11.21 by 2:30pm**

Film Review (1250-word minimum): Screen a newly released film in a movie theater and write a review of the film. Use the articles, BBC-Writing for Moving Images and Roger's Little Rule Book as guides.

Class 17, Thu, Nov 2

Screening: Psycho (1:49)

Discussion

Lecture: Sound Design

**Homework Due 11.7 by 2:40pm**

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 11 (Pages 186-192), The Mix

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 12 (Pages 193-197), The Answer Print

Reading: Lumet, Chapter 13 (Pages 198-218), The Studio

Quiz 3

**Homework Due 11.21 by 2:30pm**

Film Review (1250-word minimum): Screen a newly released film in a movie theater and write a review of the film. Use the articles, BBC-Writing for Moving Images and Roger's Little Rule Book as guides.

Class 18, Tue, Nov 7

Screening: Wall-E (1:44)

**Homework Due 11.21 by 2:30pm**

Film Review (1250-word minimum): Screen a newly released film in a movie theater and write a review of the film. Use the articles, BBC-Writing for Moving Images and Roger's Little Rule Book as guides.

Class 19, Thu, Nov 9

Screening: Wall-E (1:44)

Wall-E Discussion

Lecture: The Documentary

Screening: Citizen Four (1:54)

**Homework Due 11.21 by 2:30pm**

Film Review (1250-word minimum): Screen a newly released film in a movie theater and write a review of the film. Use the articles, BBC-Writing for Moving Images and Roger's Little Rule Book as guides.

Class 20, Tue, Nov 14

Screening: Citizen Four

Discussion

**Homework Due 11.21 by 2:30pm**

Film Review (1250-word minimum): Screen a newly released film in a movie theater and write a review of the film. Use the articles, BBC-Writing for Moving Images and Roger's Little Rule Book as guides.

## Course Policies

### Late Papers/Projects

Late papers and projects are not accepted. If there is an emergency, proper documentation is required before the deadline of the assignment.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration.

### 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 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.

### 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 [Campus Connect](#).

## 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: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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