

## **DC 460 FUNDAMENTALS OF SHORT FILM**

**Fall 2017**  
**M 5:45-9:00pm**  
**Office Hours: T 10:00am-1:00pm**

**Instructor: Daniel Klein**  
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### **Course Description**

Students will study well-crafted and/or celebrated short films, the roles these short films have served their respective filmmakers and how “calling card” shorts can be used to represent a filmmaker’s voice. Short film genres and styles that to be screened will include: narrative, experimental, documentary, and animation, ranging from early silent films to contemporary shorts being screened at festivals today.

### **Course Goals**

- Expose MFA students to numerous notable short films, in which the vast breadth of the filmic language will be digested, analyzed and discussed.
- Illustrate how a quality short film has benefitted some of the most noteworthy and successful filmmakers from the past 80 years.
- Enable students to grasp the evolution of the short proof-of-concept to a fully-formed feature film.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Students will further develop their understanding of film vernacular or the “filmic language”.
- Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
- Students will develop an understanding of how a completed short film can serve a filmmaker professionally.
- 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 discuss a “work of art” in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political context, discussing how these might shape the work’s reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

## Textbooks and Printed Resources

"Discovering Short Films: The History and Style of Live-Action Fiction Shorts" (**Optional**)

Cynthia Felando

Publisher: Springer

ISBN: 9781137484369

## Additional Assigned Readings

### Additional Website Content

ColTube

Netflix

Short of the Week

Hulu

Vimeo

## COURSE POLICIES:

### Attendance

Each week's class consists of lectures and screenings; attendance is **critical**. For the purposes of this class an absence is defined as not showing up for class or showing up 15 minutes, or more, late for a class without the approval of the professor. All unexcused absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade.

### Assignments

Reading assignments must be completed by the date to which they are assigned in the syllabus.

Reasonable deadlines are given for completion for each assignment. Consequently late assignments 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 exams 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.

### Course Lectures/Reading Assignments:

Lecture presentations will occur weekly. The textbooks offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lecture presentations. The instructor will use both the classroom and the textbooks.

Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class. BOTH SOURCES ARE NEEDED.

### Content Changes:

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

### Food Policy:

No food or beverages are allowed in the lecture room.

### Sexual Harassment:

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

### Grading

Paper 1 — 20%

Paper 2 — 50%

Class attendance and participation 30%

LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

## **Grading Scale**

A indicates excellence

B indicates good work

C indicates satisfactory work

D work is unsatisfactory in some respect F is substantially unsatisfactory work

93-100: A 90-92: A- 87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80- 82: B- 77-79: C+ 73-76: C 70-72: C- 60-66: D 67-69: D+ 65-0: F

## **ONLINE INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION**

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 two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>.

## **EMAIL**

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

## **PLAGIARISM**

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

## **INCOMPLETE**

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

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