

DC 100 - 801, 810 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies  
Winter 2017-2018  
Wednesdays 5:45 - 9:00pm  
14 E Jackson LL105

**Instructor: Andy Hoffman**  
**ahoffma7@cdm.depaul.edu**

**Office: Classroom**

**Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:00 - 5:45pm, 9:00 - 9:45pm**

## **Summary of the Course**

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.

## **Learning Domain**

This course has Arts & Literature Liberal Studies Credit. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts while 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, come to better understand the original audience that witnessed a work of art and how its meaning and significance changes over time. These courses focus on works of art or literature, however the process of analysis may include social, cultural, and historical issues. Genres covered in this domain include literature, the visual arts, media arts, the performing arts, music, and theater.

## **Learning Outcomes**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize film as an artistic medium.
- Identify the craft and techniques of specific roles in the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze visual communication as used by filmmakers.
- Discuss the methods, forms, and styles in a wide array of feature film examples.

## **Textbooks and Readings**

Recommended: *Making Movies*, Sydney Lumet

Additional assigned readings provided by the instructor

## Grading

Late work will not be accepted for grading. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless noted otherwise.

### Grade Breakdown:

Attendance and Participation 10%

- In-person section this means participating in the class discussion
- Online section this means participating in D2L weekly chat question

Weekly Analyses 70%

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

## Week-by-Week Outline

WEEK 1	1/3	Introduction & Syllabus What is Cinema? Screening: <i>Pretty Woman</i> (Marshall, 1990) Read Ch. 1 Lumet
WEEK 2	1/10	Storytelling and Traditional Narrative Structure Screenplays and The Hollywood Formula Screening: <i>Back to the Future</i> (Zemekis, 1985) Read Ch. 2 Lumet Reading: Excerpt from <i>Save the Cat</i>
WEEK 3	1/17	Alternative Story Structure Screening: <i>Pulp Fiction</i> (Tarantino, 1994)
WEEK 4	1/24	Symbolism and Meaning Screening: <i>ET</i> (Spielberg, 1982)
WEEK 5	1/31	A Primer on Acting and Directing Film History Screening: <i>City Lights</i> (Chaplin, 1931) Read Ch. 4 Lumet
WEEK 6	2/7	Cinematography and Mise-en-Scene Screening: <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> (Anderson, 2014) Read Ch. 6 Lumet

WEEK 7	2/14	Editing and Sound Screening: <i>City of God</i> (Rezende, 2002) Read Ch. 9, 10 Lumet
WEEK 8	2/21	Film Genres - Horror Screening: <i>Get Out</i> (Peele, 2017)
WEEK 9	2/28	Film Genres – Science Fiction Screening: <i>Alien</i> (Scott, 1979)
WEEK 10	3/7	Documentary Film Screening: <i>Hoop Dreams</i> (James, 1994)
WEEK 11	3/14	Final Paper Due

**Weekly Analysis:** Every week you will be responsible for a written response to the film screened that week in class. A prompt will be posted on D2L outlining the focus of your response. This paper is always due by the start of class the following week. Post the assignment to the Dropbox on D2L as a .doc or .pdf

### **Course Policies:**

In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies also apply:

### **Attendance and Participation**

In-person: 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. Absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

Online: A discussion forum has been established on the course D2L page. Each week a topic/question will be posted to this board. Online students' participation grade will be judged on how often they post and if those posts

### **D2L**

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to:  
<https://login.depaul.edu/cas/login?service=https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/orgtools/CAS/Default.aspx> and enter using your campus connect logon and password. Once you are logged on, click on the course number link and you will find links to the syllabus and any course related material.

## **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: [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).  
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.  
Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544  
TTY: (773)325.7296

## **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. Lastly, an online discussion question will be posted weekly. Students in the online section are expected to respond to this question. Students in the classroom section are welcome to participate as well.

## **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 without disrupting class. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is **never** allowed in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course/class.