

DC206 History of Cinema Production

Spring Quarter 2018

Lecture: Thursdays 1:30-4:45 and online

Lab: Friday 10:00-12:30

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office: STDC332, LPC

Office hours: 5:00-6:30 pm, Tuesdays

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Course Description — This course explores the origins, evolutions, and revolutions of cinema production from the perspective of a filmmaker. We will examine a diverse range of critical historical events and theories that have impacted the industry and the craft of filmmaking: the emergence of the studio system, the coming of sound, the auteur theory, genre, ideology, audience shifts, as well as the emergence of other media and the rise of digital technology. Students will acquire a broad understanding of the aesthetic, economic, social, and technological forces that have shaped and continue to influence the development of cinema. In addition to weekly MANDATORY lab screenings of relevant films, students will be assigned readings on various historical, critical, and theoretical topics.

Learning Outcomes — Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify major historical shifts in the production of motion pictures
- Analyze the historical and creative context of films and their relationship to – and role in – society
- Recognize the importance of global perspectives throughout the history of cinema production
- Evaluate the continuing evolution of the cinematic process through qualitative movements in culture, technology, economics, and audience appreciation
- Synthesize their understanding of the course materials through written analyses of feature films, readings, and class lectures

Required Textbooks

A Short History of the Movies, 11th Abridged Edition by Gerald Mast & Bruce Kavin, Pearson, 2011. Supplemental readings will be provided on D2L.

Grading

Attendance and participation 10%

Weekly response papers 40%

First paper 15%

Second paper 15%

Final paper 20%

A = 100-93 A- = 92-90

B+ = 89-87 B = 86-83

B- = 82-80 C+ = 79-77

C = 76-73 C- = 72-70

D+ = 69-67 D = 66-60

F = 59-0

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1

3/29 Introduction, what is cinema, early cinema

Week 2

3/30 **Absentia screening:** *The Gold Rush* (Charlie Chaplin, 1925, 95 minutes)

4/5 Silent era cinema

Week 3

4/6 *Stagecoach* (John Ford, 1939, 96 minutes)

4/12 Early sound film, Hollywood studio system

Week 4

4/13 *Bigger than Life* (Nicholas Ray, 1956, 95 minutes)

4/19 Postwar American cinema, Blacklist, declining Hollywood

Week 5

4/20 *Stray Dog* (Akira Kurosawa, 1949, 122 minutes)

4/26 Postwar international cinema

Week 6

4/27 *Cleo from 5 to 7* (Agnes Varda, 1962, 90 minutes)

5/3 French (and other) New Waves, Auteurism, film culture

Week 7

5/4 *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (Robert Altman, 1971, 120 minutes)

5/10 New Hollywood

Week 8

5/11 *RoboCop* (Paul Verhoeven, 1987, 102 minutes)

5/17 High concept film and the entertainment economy

Week 9

5/18 *The Ascent* (Larisa Shepitko, 1977, 109 minutes)

5/24 International and Independent Cinema

Week 10

5/25 *TBD screening*

5/31 21st Century Cinema

Readings will be assigned throughout the quarter. Supplemental screenings will be assigned on a weekly basis. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the D2L Survey of films you've seen.

Last day to withdraw (without penalty): 4/6
Last day to withdraw (with penalty): 5/11

Course schedule, materials, screenings, and assignments are subject to change due to a variety of factors. You will be notified via email and/or D2L of any changes to the syllabus.

Assignments

Week 1 response due 4/5
Week 2 response due 4/12
Week 3 response due 4/19
First Paper due 4/19
Week 4 response due 4/26
Week 5 response due 5/3
Week 6 response due 5/10
Second paper due 5/10
Week 7 response due 5/17
Week 8 response due 5/24
Week 9 response due 5/31
Final paper due 6/7

All assignments are due at 1:15pm, i.e. 15 minutes before class starts. This is to ensure that no one is late to class in order to finish an assignment. I do **not** accept late work.

Weekly responses

You have a weekly response due every week throughout the quarter. These responses are your opportunity to engage with the lecture content, the readings, and the screenings. You may explore the cultural, historical, and artistic contexts of the films we screen, as well as contribute your own reactions, observations, and analysis. A general prompt will be available via D2L to guide your reflections should you need it. Responses should be a minimum of 500 words. You must address at least 250 of those words to that week's supplemental screening.

At the end of the quarter your lowest response grade will be dropped.

D2L and ColTube

We will use D2L <d2l.depaul.edu> for every aspect of this class. All assignments must be turned in via D2L to receive credit. ***I will NOT accept any assignment for any reason over email. ***

All mandatory and supplemental film screenings will be available via ColTube <coltube.cdm.depaul.edu>. You may watch the films in their entirety there after logging in with your CampusConnect credentials. You are free to find the films at the library or elsewhere online if desired.

Please note that ColTube may not work with certain browser extensions or certain browser settings since it uses Flash. I recommend you use Google Chrome as your browser with no extensions turned on. If you cannot get the films to play, it is your responsibility to contact me or ColTube's support at <coltubeadmin@cdm.depaul.edu> to ensure you stay current with the screenings.

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.

Attendance — Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Anyone who misses 2 classes will automatically drop a half letter grade. Anyone who misses 3 classes will drop one and a half letter grades. Anyone who misses 4 classes will automatically fail.

If you are more than 15 minutes late or if you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will be considered absent. I take attendance at the beginning of every class, **so if you come in late**, please let me know after class otherwise you will be accidentally marked absent.

Lab screenings are considered class periods and thus attendance is required. Missing labs will count as absences.

Attendance FAQ examples

- I got scheduled at work unexpectedly, can I leave early?
- I got offered a gig to AC on this shoot and it's a big opportunity, can I miss class?
- My mom is in town, can I hang out with her instead of coming to class?
- I didn't sleep last night, can I watch the lab screening at home?
- I need to go look at an apartment so I'm leaving early.

The answer to all of these questions is "yes, of course you can do that" because you're adults and I will treat you as such. You know the penalty for unexcused absences and can make whatever decisions you want.

If you are legitimately sick however, I mean really sick, please stay home. Spreading disease is irresponsible. Please email me at kendres@depaul.edu if you are going to miss class and make arrangements to have the absence documented by the Dean of Students Office.

****Attendance for Online Students****

As an online student you are required to view EVERY class lecture & discussion unless I instruct otherwise. In order to receive attendance & participation credit, you must turn

in notes from your viewing/listening to the lectures, discussions, and screenings. Your notes are due on D2L dropbox every Thursday (this gives you a full week) and may be typed or handwritten (and scanned/uploaded). If this is your first online class please email me saying that so I can make sure you understand the requirements.

There is no strict criteria for your notes -- as long as you prove to me you are watching the lectures and engaging with the material you will receive credit. Failure to submit notes will hurt your grade tremendously.

Sleeping — Do not sleep in class. Just don't do it. If you sleep for more than 15 minutes you will be considered absent.

Participation — Do participate in class. Just do it. We'll all have more fun if everyone contributes to the conversations.

Respect — Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs. We do not have to agree on everything but we should be able to discuss anything civilly. This is not the comments section of YouTube.

Please respect the films we'll watch, many of which have mature themes and situations. During screenings, please do not talk and keep all comments/observations to yourself.

Email — The best way to contact me is through email. I usually respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. Emails received Saturdays and Sundays may not be returned until Monday.

Computer and cell phone use — Computers, cell phones, and tablets may NOT be used during class. If you have a documented learning need or disability that requires you to use a laptop, exceptions will be made. Otherwise, no screens in class. Computer or cell phone use will affect your participation grade.

All phones must be kept *silent*. Please do not have a phone that is constantly buzzing in your backpack.

I understand that emergencies happen and you may need to be available by phone. If that's the case, please tell me at the start of class if you know you may need to take a call. In any event, if you do need to use your phone during class please step outside quietly and answer your phone in the hallway. *There is no such thing as a text message emergency.*

Grade disputes — Any disputes or challenges to an assignment's grade must be made in writing (email is fine) within 48 hours of receiving your grade. You must state why you are challenging the grade and provide evidence to support your claim. Challenges to your final grade should follow the University's policy on grade challenges, which can be found in the student handbook:

<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/Pages/challenges-to-grades.aspx>

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 me.

You will get caught. Don't do it.

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 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.

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

Incompletes — Students can read about requesting or receiving an incomplete grade at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

Excused absences — Students can read about the procedures for getting an excused absence at <http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>