

## DC 121-901 The Art of Production Design

Instructor	Kaitlin Creadon
Classroom	Student Center 330
Class Time	Wednesdays 6:00pm - 9:15pm
Course Web	<a href="https://d2l.depaul.edu">https://d2l.depaul.edu</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:kcreadon@depaul.edu">kcreadon@depaul.edu</a>
Office Hours	Student Center 330 - Wednesdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, 9:15pm-9:45pm

### Summary of Course

This course explores production design and art direction as a narrative art form in cinema. It examines the collaborative relationship between direction, production designer, and cinematographer. Using films, observational readings, screenplays, lectures, research, and discussion, students will study the fundamentals of a production designer's approach towards visualizing and conceptualizing story. Students will also gain a historical perspective of how the role of production design has evolved and how advances in technology have influenced the various crafts.

### Textbook

Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction  
Cathy Whitlock and the Art Directors Guild  
ISBN: 978-0-06-088122-1

### Required Materials

Paper and pen for writing during film screenings

### Course Objectives

This course is designed to help you learn about the history of production design and the evolution to what is seen today, as well as gain confidence in understanding the role of production design and visual composition.

### Course Breakdown

Attendance and Participation	15%
Required Reading and Homework	40%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%

All grading is final. During the course, late work loses 10% after the first week. After two weeks the maximum points possible drops to 50%. Final assignment will not be accepted late.

### Grading Scale

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

### Class Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory and there is a participation grade. Each class consists of lectures, discussions, and screenings. Students arriving 15 minutes or later after the indicated start time will be marked tardy; later than 25 minutes will be marked absent. Each unexcused absence will affect the attendance and participation grade. Absence does not excuse deadlines. If you have a foreseeable conflict please let me know before so we can discuss options via email or in person.

### Course Online - D2L

You must use D2L to submit all assignments. Access to the site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/> using your Campus Connect login and password. Emails sent to students will default to the email address associated with Campus Connect so set it to an email you check often.

## Email

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

- Be clear and concise in your subject line; ex: "DC121 – question about assignment X"
- Don't reply to class-wide email unless it pertains specifically to the subject of that email
- Begin a new email thread for any new question, notification, etc.
- If you don't get a response within 1 business day, please resend as there may be an email issue

## 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 in D2L and sent via email.

## Online Instructor Evaluation

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable. As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul. Don't miss this opportunity to provide feedback!

## Academic Integrity

This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the Academic Integrity Policy which can be viewed at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

## Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong 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 a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other 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.

## Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. There are two office locations:

Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

## **Weekly Schedule (Subject to Change)**

Prior to Class 1:

Reading: Pages 1-37

Class 1: Introductions, Syllabus, D2L Overview, Lecture, Film Screening

Reading: Pages 41-93

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Class 2: Lecture, Film Screening

Reading: Pages 95-150

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Homework: Read Script Scene

Class 3: Lecture, Film Screening

Reading: Pages 153-217

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Homework: Create Mood Board Based on Script Scene

Class 4: Lecture, Film Screening

Reading: Pages 219-239

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Class 5: Midterm

Class 6: Lecture, Presentation, Film Screening

Reading: Pages 241-281

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Due: Mood Board Presentations to D2L by 5 PM (Everyone)

Mood Board Presentation Group 1

Class 7: Lecture, Presentation, Film Screening

Reading: Pages 283-333

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Mood Board Presentation Group 2

Class 8: Lecture, Film Screening

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Class 9: Lecture, Film Screening

Homework: 1-2 page summary of film due Saturday by 5 PM to D2L

Class 10: Lecture, Film Screening

Homework: 4-5 page paper about production designer of choice due Wednesday 6/6 by 6 PM to D2L

Class 11: Final

Due: Final paper prior to class