

# FILM110: PRODUCTION I

## Section 601 - Spring 2020

<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Online
<b>Day/Time:</b>	Each week begins Wednesdays
<b>Instructor:</b>	Josh Wolff
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:jwolff4@cdm.depaul.edu">jwolff4@cdm.depaul.edu</a>
<b>Office Location:</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursdays 1pm - 2:30pm (Preferred by Appt)
<b>GA:</b>	Yu Wei (Tim) Chang      Email: <a href="mailto:final10forever@gmail.com">final10forever@gmail.com</a>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a beginning workshop in narrative film production. This course will explore the fundamentals of production, including: organization and preparation, camera and lens technology, composition, lighting, cinematography, sound recording and directing. Utilizing digital technology, students will produce several films with an emphasis on visual storytelling and personal expression.

**Prerequisites:** POST110 (Editing I) – *Given the online nature of this class, your ability to do your own editing work is paramount, as these will rarely be group assignments.*

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

*By the end of the course, students will be able to:*

- Identify filmmaking roles from concept through completion (producing, cinematography, lighting, sound recording, directing).
- Create short fiction projects.
- Illustrate basic principles of collaboration.
- Apply visualization and organizational skills in developing film projects.
- Utilize cameras, lights, and field recording equipment.
- Critique peer work constructively.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

**DESIRE2LEARN** (D2L): Additional readings and weblinks will be posted on D2L, and lectures will be posted on **Panopto**. **A note:** I use D2L like a Hub for the course, where you will be able to access and link to all the course material with lectures, slides, and

clips readily available from lectures; please consult it regularly, as all your assignments will also be submitted through here!

*Filmmaking in Action: Your Guide to the Skills and Craft*, Leipzig & Weiss. MacMillan - Higher Ed. ISBN 13: 9780312616991 (this is also available for online use rather than as a hard copy textbook)

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS:**

*On Directing Film*, David Mamet. Penguin Group USA - ISBN 13: 9780140127225

## **SUPPLIES**

*This online course is designed to be entirely remote, meaning that CDM resources such as computer labs and equipment will not be necessary to complete the assignments. However, you should have the following:*

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

Smartphone

Smartphone-friendly tripod (example: <https://www.amazon.com/Flexible-Tripod-Smartphone-iPhone-Holder/dp/B07YQ1356W/>)

Hard drive or USB flashdrive for backing up files (at least 64GB)

If you have your own camera and tripod, such as a DSLR, that will work fine, but it is not a prerequisite for completing the assignments.

#### **SOFTWARE:**

*Downloadable apps:*

Filmic Pro – tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzD1JMezNw0>

Shot Designer – tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maeTgha3RkA>

Storyboarder – tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPurQv4rC1E>

*Editing software:* Adobe Creative Cloud is available for free trials to DePaul students. If you do not have a computer capable of running this software, however, there are several free phone and tablet based applications that will suffice for the assignments:

<https://www.oberlo.com/blog/best-free-video-editing-software>

In addition, a basic scanning software such as Adobe Scan or ScannerPro - for exporting PDFs of filled-out sheets - may prove useful if you don't already have a scanner at home. Some options can be found here: <https://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-mobile-scanning-apps/>

## ADDITIONAL COSTS:

In normal times, producing digital content is rarely a cheap endeavor. Such costs will potentially include items for art direction (costumes, make-up, set decoration), production (gaff tape, black wrap, camera media), post-production (primary external hard drives and a back-up) and general necessities (transportation costs and craft services). *As a general guideline for all films that you make, your project budgets should always include a 10% contingency fee to help account for cost overruns.*

## SUGGESTED ONLINE RESOURCES:

[Short Of The Week](#): Every post is a new award-winning independent film, from all genres.

[CineFix](#): A useful, entertaining and inspiring YouTube channel for video essays, interviews.

[Every Frame a Painting](#): Tony Zhou's video essays on variety of aspects of art of filmmaking.

[Must See Films](#): A stimulating collection of video essays that helps you see films differently.

[Fandor](#): An informing source for video essays.

[The Directors Series](#): In-depth video essays on master directors.

[Lynda](#): A useful collection of video tutorials for learning various software programs. All DePaul students have free access to Lynda via LinkedIn Learning. It is available by (free) subscription, and highly recommended that you watch the essential training on Adobe Premiere CC.

## GRADING

**LABS AND QUIZZES** (25%) – Individually, students will complete 2 labs/exercises focused on elements of Production, as well as 5 quizzes based on the readings.

**MATCH CUT ASSIGNMENT** (10%) - Individually, students will complete a Match Cut Assignment that demonstrates an understanding of the types of Match Cuts used in continuity editing. This assignment will be graded on composition and match cut representation. Students will take high resolution still photos and use the assignment template to complete the assignment. The completed template with photos and information (notes, arrows, etc.) must be turned as a **single pdf**.

**SOUND MAP ASSIGNMENT** (10%) - Using a given short monologue, students will individually “map” the change in sound quality throughout various instructed locations in their homes, in detail. Students must describe the type of sound, its qualities, as well as its location. Along with the descriptions, a hand drawn map must be included. The in-depth descriptions and map must be scanned into a **single pdf**.

**“THE ACTIVITY” ASSIGNMENT** (15%) - This film will portray ONE PERSON, in ONE SPACE, doing ONE THING (brushing teeth, eating an apple, juggling, etc), with the goal of creating a specific mood or genre around that activity. The activity should be portrayed in its entirety, from start to finish. Students will then edit the footage into an assembled scene. A working, non-private, downloadable Vimeo or Youtube link must be uploaded to D2L before class time with an .h264.

**PRE-VIZ ASSIGNMENT** (10%) – Individually, students will need to create a Pre-Visualization packet as a proposal for their “THE MEETING” film. Adapting an “Open Scene” into a script, this packet must include a logline, mood board, links to comparable examples, photographic storyboards, and a detailed shot list.

**“THE MEETING” ASSIGNMENT** (20%) – Students will remotely complete “THE MEETING” film— An exercise in scene construction. Knowing you might only be using yourself for every role, think creatively. ONE character, who is introduced to the audience visually through action, is met by a SECOND character. Through production design, lighting, and composition, it should not break continuity, wherein they have a conversation. An “Open Scene” for this meeting will be provided by the Instructor and will be the basis for the Pre-Viz Assignment. A rough cut will be turned in Week 10 and reshoots will need to be completed for the final film. Students will then edit the footage together into an assembled scene. A working, non-private, Vimeo or Youtube link must be uploaded to D2L before class time with an .h264. The class will screen all films.

**WEEKLY DISCUSSION POSTS / ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION** (10%) - Every week you will be expected to contribute to a **D2L Discussion Forum** for your attendance & participation credit. Every week there will be a new Topic with an open ended prompt for you to respond. However, by all means use this as only a starting point if you want to post about something else germane to the course. One thread and three responses to other students’ posts for full credit per week (i.e. 10% of your final grade). Watching the lectures and doing the readings each week will also be vital to the success of the course.

A = 100-93, A- = 92.9-90, B+ = 89.9-87, B = 86.9-83, B- = 82.9-80, C+ = 79.9-77, C = 76.9-73, C- = 72.9-70, D+ = 69.9-67, D = 66.9-63, D- = 62.9-60, F = 59.9+Below.

“A” indicates Excellence, “B” indicates Very Good, “C” indicates Satisfactory, “D” indicates Poor, “F” indicates the student has NOT accomplished the objectives of the course.

## FILM SCREENINGS

These screenings are not part of any graded assignment, but simply an opportunity to have free access to watch some great films while stuck inside! Certain weeks I assign specific movies to screen, and some of the discussion prompts might refer to the films, and provide an opportunity as a community to reflect and examine elements of a film’s production. All films that we screen will be posted on ColTube, DePaul’s video management system, located at [coltube.cdm.depaul.edu](http://coltube.cdm.depaul.edu) . You can also access it from the bottom righthand corner of the

homepage on the D@L course page. 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 CoTube may not work with certain browser extensions or certain browser settings. 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 CoTube's support at < coltubeadmin@cdm.depaul.edu > to ensure you stay current with the screenings.

## GRAD ASSISTANT RESOURCE

We are lucky enough to have the talented MFA student Tim Chang as a Graduate Assistant for the course. He is here as a resource for students, and will be available every Friday 11:30-12:30pm to students for online consultations about anything course related at a zoom link that will be provided.

## SCHEDULE

Each week will consist of a series of short topics, films/clips, and modules, all viewable on D2L. Readings and quizzes are due before the start of the next class from when they are listed on the syllabus. Specific assignments may have different due dates as specified by the instructor.

**This schedule is subject to change; advance notice on D2L, in the syllabus, and via email and lectures will be provided if such a change occurs.**

### **Week 1 (4/1)**

*Introductions, Software for Online Class, Production, Set Roles and Responsibilities, Hierarchy, Order of Operations for Filming*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 1-2  
WATCH: *American Movie*  
ASSIGNMENTS: Online Cinespace Training Modules (via SCA Central)  
Discussion Post: Introductions

### **Week 2 (4/8)**

*Smartphone Films: Filmic Pro – Waveform/Histogram, Curves, Iris, Shutter, Frame Rate*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 6-7  
ASSIGNMENTS: Camera Test Drive: Self Portrait Exercise  
Quiz #1 on FIA Readings  
Discussion Post

### **Week 3 (4/15)**

*Continuity Editing and Match Cuts; Scene Construction*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 3-4  
Match Cuts PDF  
WATCH: *Whiplash*  
ASSIGNMENTS: "Match Cut" Photography Assignment  
Discussion Post: The Scene

**Week 4 (4/22)**

*Pre-Viz and Storyboarding, Introducing a Character Through Action*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 11-12  
ASSIGNMENTS: “The Activity” Filmmaking Assignment  
Quiz #2 on FIA Readings  
Discussion Post: Pre-Visualization

**Week 5 (4/29)**

*Sound Theory and best practices*

READ: Filmmaking In Action: Ch. 10  
WATCH: *Living In Oblivion*  
ASSIGNMENTS: Sound Map Exercise  
Discussion Post: Sound and Music

**Week 6 (5/6)**

*Lighting and Grip Techniques – Demos and Scenes*

READ: Filmmaking in Action, Ch. 8  
WATCH: *Ida*  
ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz #3 on FIA Readings  
Discussion Post: Lights

**Week 7 (5/13)**

*Lighting Contd., at-home lighting exercises, Story Structure*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 9  
ASSIGNMENTS: Lighting Map Exercise  
Discussion Post: Story Structure

**Week 8 (5/20)**

*Pre-Production Components: Breaking down a script, scheduling, shot lists, set ups, location scouting, filming; “The Meeting”*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 5  
WATCH: *Short Term 12*  
ASSIGNMENTS: Pre-Viz Packet for “The Meeting”  
Quiz #4 on FIA Readings  
Discussion Post: Pre-Production

**Week 9 (5/27)**

*Directing and Casting Actors, Filming*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 14  
WATCH: *Tangerine*  
ASSIGNMENTS: Rough Cut of “The Meeting”  
Discussion Post: Directing, Casting

## **Week 10 (6/3)**

*Rough Cuts, Screenings, Film Fests, What to do with your short*

READ: Filmmaking In Action, Ch. 15  
*Rogue One*: The Verge article on reshoots

ASSIGNMENTS: Final edit of "The Meeting"  
Quiz #5 on FIA Readings  
Feedback  
Discussion Post: Film School

**FINAL PROJECT:** "The Meeting" due Week 11 (6/10) by 11:59pm

## **OTHER SYLLABUS ITEMS:**

### **Note On Requirements (and the Syllabus in General)**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, and posted on D2L. AS A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ON THE TOTALITY OF THIS SYLLABUS. These guidelines are established to ensure all students know what is expected of them, and so all students are treated equally by being held to the same standards.

### **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.

### **Preferred Name and Gender Pronouns:**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

### **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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

### **Incomplete Grades:**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

### **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.

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