

FILM 170-901

The Art of Production Design

Instructor	Kaitlin Creadon
Classroom	Remote
Class Time	Th 6:00-9:15 PM
Email	kcreadon@depaul.edu
Office Hours	Online – Thursdays 12:00-6:00 PM – Email to Make Appointment

Summary of Course

This introductory course explores production design and art direction as a narrative art form in cinema. It examines the collaborative relationship between the director, production designer, and cinematographer. Using films, 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.

Course and Learning Objectives

By the end of the class, students will be able to:

- Explain in well-written prose the role of production design and how it helps convey story in cinema.
- Articulate and explain the various trades, craftspeople, and positions that work within the production design to achieve that end.
- Identify historical and technological landmark achievements in the field.
- Develop interpretations for the aesthetics concerning production design and the affiliated crafts.
- Contextualize and evaluate various films and visual media.
 - Contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporary aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

Learning Domain Description

FILM 170 The Art of Production Design is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. 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.

Writing Expectations

A minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for courses in the Arts and Literature domain (including studio courses) is required.

Textbook and Required Materials

Recommended Textbook:

The Filmmaker's Guide to Production Design by Vincent LoBrutto
ISBN: 978-158115224

Other reading assignments will be made available through D2L

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Course Breakdown

Attendance (Quizzes)	10%
Class Participation (Discussions)	20%
Response Papers (2)	20%
Color in Media Project	10%
Midterm Quiz	10%
Script Breakdown	10%
Mood Board Presentation	20%
Total	100%

All grading is final. During the course, late work loses 10% after the assigned due date. If not turned in by the start of class the following week, the maximum points possible drops to 50%.

The final assignment will not be accepted late (script breakdown and mood board).

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

This class has switched from an in-person class to online section due to health and safety. Therefore, our attendance is going to be a bit different.

Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Anyone who misses two classes will automatically drop a whole letter grade. Anyone who misses three or more classes will automatically fail.

A weekly attendance quiz will be posted on D2L. Each will consist of five questions pertaining to the lecture (live and recorded).

Each class consists of lectures, discussions, and screenings. The class is participatory, and the instructor's material and concepts are presented during class meetings. Students are expected to "attend" each class and to remain for the duration. Absence does not excuse deadlines. If you have a foreseeable conflict, or you end up sick the day of, **you need to contact me via email on the day of class (Thursdays)** so we can discuss options. Make necessary arrangements to have the absence documented by the Dean of Students Office.

Class Discussion Policy

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. Second, students will be expected to demonstrate comprehension of the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

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.

Please respect the films we'll watch, several of which may have mature themes and situations.

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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: "FILM 170– Topic".
- 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.
- 24-hour response time during the week, 48 on weekends.

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. Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, important information, and other news will be posted there. Be sure to check D2L regularly.

The Writing Center

I strongly encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-Based Learning. It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your assignments are of the highest quality. To learn more about the services they offer, visit their website: <https://condor.dpu.depaul.edu/writing/index.html>

I also highly recommend downloading *Grammarly Free Assistant* onto your computer. Points **will** be taken off of writing assignments for 3 or more grammar and spelling issues.

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 and updated on D2L.

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 three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

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

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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.

Use of Technology

Cell phones and other similar devices will not be tolerated. In my mind, they are a clear indication of a bad attitude. I recommend students to turn off or switch to silence mode such devices. If your other commitments are so pressing that they cannot wait until the end of the session, it may be in your best interest to reconsider the priority you place on being here. In any case, students whose phones and/or computers make noise during class will be asked to leave immediately. You wouldn't use either in a movie theater, so don't do it here.

Ethics

Although your grade does not contain an ethics component like some other courses, I require complete honesty in producing your work. Plagiarism is useless to you anyway. By having someone else do the work for you, you are missing an opportunity to immerse yourself in the television industry. You are also waiving your right to learn. If you are willing to do that, then you have to evaluate if it's worth the aggravation and the time you invest in this course.

By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that you understand the seriousness of academic dishonesty and realize I will impose the harshest sanctions possible if I can prove you have engaged in such behavior. You are also indicating that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty; I will not tolerate an excuse that claims the student did not know he/she was engaging in academic dishonesty.

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.