

FILM 100-101: Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Fall 2020

TuTh 2:40PM (CST) - 4:10PM (CST)

Modality: Online Sync [via Zoom]

Instructor Information

Jef Burnham

Pronouns: he/him/his

Email: jburnha1@depaul.edu*

Remote Office Hours: Thursdays 8:30 am-11:30 am (CST) via Zoom

*If you do not receive a response from me within 24 hours, assume I did not get your email.

Course Description

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.

Prerequisites: None

Learning Objectives:

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

- Express an understanding of film as an artistic medium
- Analyze and discuss the craft and techniques of those involved in the filmmaking process (i.e. screenwriters, directors, cinematographers, editors, etc.)
- Analyze and discuss visual communication of themes and storytelling as used by filmmakers

These objectives will be met through students' participation in in-class discussions, the successful completion of quizzes/exams over course concepts, and the drafting of essays analyzing films screened through the lens of concepts derived from lectures and readings.

Previous Course Number: DC 100

Learning Domain Description

This course 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.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced
 - Articulate and explain the “content” of that work and/or its methodology of production.
- Comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
 - How does the 14-line sonnet both enable and inhibit its practitioner, for example?
 - What are the generic expectations of a particular form?
 - How does an artist complicate, enrich, or subvert such expectations?
- Assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Contextualize a work of art.
 - Do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre.
 - Contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work’s reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

Writing Expectations: A minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for courses in the Arts and Literature domain is required.

Required Textbooks:

There is no textbook assigned for this course. All required readings will be provided to you via D2L in PDF format.

Grading Scale

A	93-100 %
A-	90-92 %
B+	87-89 %
B	84-86 %
B-	80-83 %
C+	77-79%
C	74-76 %
C-	70-73 %
D+	67-69 %
D	60-66 %

NOTE: Students in all undergraduate classes, with the exception of those in CEO cohort programs, may opt to change the grading basis for any or all of their courses to Pass/D/Fail. A grade of Pass (P) will indicate that the student's work met expectations for a grade of at least C-. Work that would merit a grade of D+ or D in the traditional grading basis would still earn a D+ or D. Work that does not merit a passing grade will earn a Fail (F). The Pass/D/Fail grading option may apply to any graduation requirement, including courses in the major, minor, Liberal Studies Program or open electives. See the following FAQs for more information:

<https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/faqs/Pages/classes-academics-students.aspx>

Assignments

Essays (15 points each)	45 points
Quizzes (3 points each)	15 points
Final Exam	20 points
<u>Attendance/Participation</u>	<u>20 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

Essays

Throughout the quarter, students will submit three, 2 to 3-page analytical essays covering films screened in-class and outside of class as well as course readings, as assigned. In these papers, students must evidence that they viewed and thought about the required films and have read/considered the connection between the assigned readings and films.

Quizzes

On five weeks when essays aren't due, students will complete quizzes over assigned readings and screenings. Quizzes are administered through D2L. The material covered by each quiz will be detailed in the instructions/introduction for each quiz on D2L. Quizzes can be found under Content>Quizzes or More>Quizzes. You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz from the time you begin and **must be completed and submitted by the due date/time stated on D2L** in order to receive credit. You will not be able to access/submit a quiz once the deadline passes.

Final Exam

A Respondus Monitor-proctored, comprehensive final exam over all course material will be available for students to take during the following period of time: 12:01AM (CST) Sunday, 11/22 through 11:59PM (CST) Monday, 11/23. You will not be able to take the exam thereafter.

Notes on the Evaluation of Student Work:

Grading rubrics according to which written assignments are assessed will be available on D2L under Content. In order to obtain the desired grade on any assignment, students must review and adhere to these guidelines. In general, written work will be evaluated according to the clarity of your writing, adherence to assignment guidelines, and basic mechanics (i.e. spelling, grammar, and punctuation). Please allow up to 7-10 days for the return of graded materials.

Class Policies**Class Format:**

We will meet twice a week on Zoom during our assigned class period. During that time we will discuss the week's course concepts, screen clips, and split up into breakout rooms for discussion sessions. Each of the 10 modules in the quarter will begin on a Thursday and encompass the following Tuesday's session. Readings and screenings associated with each module's content must be completed by in order to participate in discussions.

Attendance/Participation:

Each week's class consists of a combination of lectures, screenings, and class discussions. Attendance is mandatory and participation in all discussions/exercises is expected. I assess both

the quality and quantity of participation in class to elevate collective learning. Students who are absent obviously cannot participate in class.

For the purposes of this class, an absence is defined as not showing up for class, sleeping in class, or showing up 15 minutes late or more for a class. All absences will result in a deduction of 1 point from your overall Attendance/Participation grade; **if you are absent more than three times, you fail the course.**

(Note: Excused absences may be obtained *from the Dean of Students Offices* under certain circumstances and given the proper documentation.)

Feature Film Screenings:

Students are *required* to view 10 feature films, plus one short film, on their own time in order to complete assignments and participate in discussions. Screenings must be completed by the Tuesday session of the module associated with each film in order to participate in that day's discussions. Links to these films can be found in each module's content section on D2L.

[DISCLAIMER: *Assigned features include adult language, violence, & sexual content.*]

Late Work:

Essays must be completed and uploaded to D2L in PDF format and quizzes completed by the assigned date/time. **Late essays will receive a 20% grade deduction for each day they are submitted late.** Quizzes and the Final Exam, however, must be completed by the assigned due date/time or you will receive a grade of zero. Submissions by email will not be accepted. I also suggest backing up work online, as computers crash.

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. For additional information, please see <http://wapp.is.depaul.edu/OnlineTeachEvalMobile/FAQ/studentfaqhome.aspx>

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://offices.depaul.edu/academic-affairs/faculty-resources/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>. **If the instructor finds a student has violated the Academic Integrity Policy/plagiarized their work, the student will fail the course, receiving an automatic F grade.**

(Note: Turnitin is used to check the originality of submissions on D2L.) Actions taken by the instructor in this regard do not preclude the university from taking further action, including dismissal from the university.

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>

Preferred Name & 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 policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332

Students with Disabilities:

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support

services to assist with their 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 register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gregory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

Class Schedule

Module 1 (9/10 & 9/15): Introductions & What is Cinema?

Assign: Essay 1 (Due by 2PM (CST) on Tuesday, 9/22)

Film Screenings Due 9/15:

1. *American Movie* (Dir. Chris Smith, 1999, 107 min.)
2. “Coven” (Dir. Mark Borchardt, 1997, 36 min.)

Module 2 (9/17 & 9/22): Screenwriting/Narrative Structure

Readings Due:

1. Field, “What is a Screenplay?”
2. McKee, “Introduction to *Story*”

Film Screening Due 9/22: *Vertigo* (Dir. Alfred Hitchcock, 1958, 129 min.)

ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Tuesday, 9/22): Essay 1

Module 3 (9/24 & 9/29): Directing

Readings Due:

1. Lumet, “The Director: The Best Job in the World”
2. [Read after you screen the film:] Taubin, “*My Own Private Idaho*: Private Places”

Assign: Essay 2 (Due by 2PM (CST) on Tuesday, 10/13)

Film Screening Due 9/29: *My Own Private Idaho* (Dir. Gus Van Sant, 1991, 104 min.)

ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Thursday, 9/24): Quiz 1

Module 4 (10/1 & 10/6): Cinematography

Reading Due:

Lumet, “The Camera: Your Best Friend”

Film Screening Due 10/1: *Fruitvale Station* (Dir. Ryan Coogler, 2013, 90 min.) or TBD

ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Thursday, 10/1): Quiz 2

Module 5 (10/8 & 10/13): Mise-en-Scène & Production Design

Readings Due:

Corrigan & White, Selections from “Exploring a Material World: Mise-en-Scène”

Film Screening Due by 10/13: *Lake of Dracula* (Dir. Michio Yamamoto, 1971, 82 min.)

ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Tuesday, 10/13): Essay 2

Module 6 (10/15 & 10/20): Editing

Readings Due:

Murch, “In the Blink of an Eye”

Assign: Essay 3 (Due by 2PM (CST) on Tuesday, 11/10)

Film Screening Due by 10/20: *The Limey* (Dir. Steven Soderbergh, 1999, 91 min.)

Module 7 (10/22 & 10/27): Sound Design & Music

Readings Due:

Bordwell & Thompson, “Sound in the Cinema”

Film Screening Due 10/27: *WALL-E* (Dir. Andrew Stanton, 2008, 98 min.)

ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Thursday, 10/22): Quiz 3

Module 8 (10/29 & 11/3): Documentary

Readings Due:

McLane, "Some Ways to Think About Documentary"

Film Screening Due 11/3: *F for Fake* (Dir. Orson Welles, 1973, 90 min.)**ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Thursday, 10/29): Quiz 4****Module 9 (11/5 & 11/10): Independent Cinema****Film Screening Due by 11/10:** *Killer of Sheep* (Dir. Charles Burnett, 1978, 83 min.)**ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Tuesday, 11/10): Essay 3****Module 10 (11/12 & 11/17): Cult/Subversive Cinema**

Readings Due:

Mathijs & Mendik, "Editorial Introduction: What is Cult Film?"

Film Screening Due 11/17: *Harold and Maude* (Dir. Hal Ashby, 1971, 91 minutes)**ASSIGNMENT DUE (by 2PM (CST) on Thursday, 11/12): Quiz 5****FINAL EXAM:**

Open from 12:01AM (CST) Sunday, 11/22 to 11:59PM (CST) Monday, 11/23, proctored using Respondus Monitor. See D2L to ensure system compatibility with Respondus BEFORE the Fall Quarter drop date.

Respondus Monitor is a proctoring application that builds on the LockDown Browser using a webcam to assist with the academic integrity of online exams. When this feature is enabled for a quiz or exam, students are required to use a webcam and microphone with LockDown Browser to ensure that the testing environment facilitates academic honesty. After the exam is complete, instructors have access to a report that shows any students with any flagged issues. Instructors are able to review the reports and associated recordings to determine if a violation occurred.

- Assessments are displayed full-screen and cannot be minimized.
- Browser menu and toolbar options are removed, except for Back, Forward, Refresh and Stop.
- Prevents access to other applications including messaging, screen-sharing, virtual machines, and remote desktops.
- Printing and screen capture functions are disabled.
- Copying and pasting anything to or from an assessment is prevented.

- Right-click menu options, function keys, keyboard shortcuts and task switching are disabled.
- An assessment cannot be exited until the student submits it for grading.