

FILM 100: INTRODUCTION TO CINEMA: THE ART OF MAKING MOVIES

Winter 2020: September 9 – November 18 2020

Wednesdays, 10:00am – 1:15pm

Online: SYNC

Instructor: Nick Schmidt

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm-3:00pm or by apt.

Email: nschmid5@cdm.depaul.edu

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. This course is not intended for students who intend to major or minor in Digital Cinema.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize film as an artistic medium
- Identify the craft and techniques of specific roles in the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze visual communication as used by filmmakers
- Discuss the methods, forms and styles in a wide array of feature film examples

Learning Domain Description: FILM100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies 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 by 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 to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art theatre, or music as such, through the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take courses in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater.

Text: There is no required textbook for this course. Required materials will be provided and shared with you on D2L or email.

D2L: The course materials for this course, such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Please make sure to have access to D2L. You should be able to log into with your Campus Connect credentials.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: 20% (10 classes, 2 points each)

Written Assignments/Responses: 30% (3 written assignments, 10 points each)

Midterm: 20% (20 points)

Final Paper: 30% (30 points)

100 points total

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.

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.

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

Class Schedule and Course Outline:**Week (1)**

9/9 – Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema Production

Screen: *Living In Oblivion* (Tom DiCillo, 1995)

Read: My First Movie: Tom DiCillo

Week (2)

9/16 – Story/Structure/Screenplays

Screen: *Thelma & Louise* (Ridley Scott, 1991)

Reading: Let's Beat It Out, *Save The Cat! The Last Book On Screenwriting That You'll Ever Need*, Blake Snyder (2005) and *Thelma & Louise* screenplay

Written Assignment/Response 1: due 10AM week 3

Week (3)

9/23 – Photography/Cinematography

Screen: *Do The Right Thing* (Spike Lee, 1989)

Reading: Film Criticism – *Do The Right Thing*, (Bordwell, Thompson) and

Photography – *Understanding Movies* (Louis Giannetti)

Homework: Watch - Making of *Do The Right Thing* and other extras

Week (4)

9/30– Editing and Sound

Screen: *The Cutting Edge, The Magic of Movie Editing*, (Wendy Apple, 2004)

Homework: Read – In the Blink Of An Eye, Walter Murch.(1995)

Written Assignment/Response 2: due 10AM week 5

Week (5)

10/7 – Production Design

Screen: *The Host* (Bong Joon-Ho, 2006)

Read: *The Filmmaker's Guide to Production Design*, (Vincent LoBrutto, 2002)

Week (6)

10/14 - MIDTERM

Week (7)

10/21 – Producing/Directing

Week (8)

10/28 – Documentary

Written Assignment/Response 3: due 10AM week 9

Week (9)

11/4 – Short Films

Week (10)

11/11 – Independent/Micro Budget

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. When a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions: Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to (1) wear a cloth face covering at all times while on campus, both inside buildings and outside on the grounds; (2) maintain physical distance (at least six feet) in all DePaul spaces (including classrooms, meeting rooms, hallways, rest rooms, offices, and outdoor spaces); (3) conduct a daily self-screening process for the symptoms of COVID-19 using the #CampusClear app before coming to campus; (4) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training; and (5) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Order. By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines

evolve. Students who have a medical reason for not complying should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

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 instance 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.

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.

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.

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 – 312-362-8002, Fax – 312-362-6544, TTY – 773-325-7296

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 Campus Connect.

Emergency Plan: An emergency can occur at any time, suddenly and without warning. Proper planning is essential to minimize the impact of any emergency on the university community, operations and facilities. The following link provides detailed information on Emergency Evacuation and Fire Alarm safety: <https://resources.depaul.edu/emergency-plan/emergency-evacuation/Pages/Evacuation.aspx>. The University will use the DPU Alert to announce school

closing or other emergencies. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the primary outdoor assembly area for CDM will be Grant Park (Southeast corner of Jackson and Michigan Ave).

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 alternative name and 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 <https://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>