

## **FILM 101 - Foundations of Cinema for Majors - Fall 2020 - Brian Mellen**

**bmellen@cdm.depaul.edu**

**Office hours: M 1:20pm-1:35pm Zoom By Appt. Only**  
**W 1:20pm-1:35pm Zoom By Appt. Only**  
**Tu 9:30am-1:00pm Zoom By Appt. Only**

### **Course Description:**

This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. Drawing heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on story and storytelling. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will produce their own projects, putting theory into practice.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

*\* Syllabus is subject to change*

### **Course Objectives:**

The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end of the course, students should form some understanding of cinematic language and be able to incorporate structure, the framed image, sound, and editing into their own creative work.

The following topics will be covered:

- The importance of story and expressing ideas;
- Storytelling with images;
- Basics of image composition and editing;
- Basics of lighting and sound design; and
- Narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches and their intersections.

Please note: This course teaches concepts rather than technology. Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in FILM 101 to better communicate their ideas in Production I (FILM 110) and beyond.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the function of cinematic techniques in the art of storytelling.
- Examine the relationship between theory and practice in the filmmaking process.
- Integrate the aesthetic principles of visual design, style, and film form in the creation of multiple projects.
- Utilize film language in the analysis of short and feature-length media.
- Create a short film of approximately 5 minutes in length demonstrating the aesthetic, critical, and practical material of the course.
- Prepare written materials such as: treatment or screenplay; previsualization documents including storyboards, overheads, shot list; producing materials including script breakdowns, releases, call sheets, and production schedules.

- Operate camera, light kits, and field recording equipment. Evaluate peer work during class critiques through both rough and final stages.

**Textbooks and printed resources:**

Film Art: An Introduction, (12th ed.) by David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, & Jeff Smith  
McGraw-Hill, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1260565669

**Required Supplies:**

You must have your own external drive for your project work for this and other DC classes. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained. Therefore you need either a:

SMARTPHONE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE PROJECTS

You will need an smartphone tripod to complete several of the labs, here is a recommendation:

<https://www.amazon.com/UBeesize-Flexible-Wireless-Universal-Compatible/dp/B07Y1TPCX2/>

Portable hard drive (USB 3.0/Thunderbolt)

or

1 USB 3.0 for backing up projects

**Software needed to complete assignments:**

Editing platform - Premiere Pro or other Editing Software

PLEASE NOTE: DePaul University is providing free licenses of Adobe CC to students enrolled in any class in the Fall quarter that requires Adobe CC. One or more of your sections have been identified as requiring Adobe CC. The following link includes the instructions to access Adobe CC.

[https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010764](https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010764)

Word processing program  
D2L

**Drop Dates:**

Tues., Sept. 15 (by 11:59pm): Last day to add (or swap) classes

Tues., Sept. 22: Last day to drop classes with no penalty

Tues., Oct. 27: Last day to withdraw from classes

**Grading:**

Attendance	10%
Discussion Posts	10%
Quizzes	10%
Assignments	20%
Projects	20%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	10%

Participation in Discussion Forum: 10% of your total grade (1% per week, 2% for week 9). You must post to receive any credit.

Discussion Forum Rubric (A weekly grade will be given):  
100% = 1 posting and 2 replies to other posters per week  
75% = 1 posting and 1 reply to other posters per week  
50% = 1 posting and 0 replies to other posters per week  
0% = 0 posting and 0 replies to other posters per week

**LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.****Grading Scale:**

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82- 80, C+ = 79-77, C = 76-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-67, D = 66-63, 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

**Course Policies:**

In addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course.

**A Note About Online Classes:**

This quarter presents unique challenges to our program at DePaul and our class. Please be patient. There will be technical issues that arise that we wouldn't normally have to deal with because this course is online and also because it's never been taught online before.

Even though this class will be given online, we will treat this class as much as we possibly can like an in-person class. I will have normal Offices Hours where you can meet with me. I will respond to emails as quickly as I can.

Please understand though, now that we are online and many of us working from home, I will not expect 24-hour access to you and in return, you should not expect the same for me. The best ways to reach me are during Office Hours and email. For more urgent issues, Office Hours are best. I will respond to email as quickly as possible but please understand that immediate help is better suited for in class or doing office hours. For our mental health we're all going to need to allow ourselves to take breaks from work and school.

Likewise, please make sure your family and friends understand that you are still in school if you are at home. Make it clear that you will not be able to run errands or help out during normal

scheduled class. And make sure you establish a set time when you'll be working on school work for this class and others.

Furthermore, don't use online distance as an excuse to be rude to each other or to me in while interacting with your fellow classmates in this course. I am aware that not everyone acts the same way when they're not physically in the same room and instead interacting online. **Let's be kind and civil to each other during this time.**

I'm concerned about our wellbeing this quarter I want to make sure you know that this is priority while taking my class.

### **Electronic Devices:**

There is a no tolerance policy on electronic device usage during class. Cell phone/tablet usage and/or internet usage during class will result in 0 attendance points for the day. It is distracting to others around you. You may take notes on a computer using word or text edit (do not browse the internet) but not on a cellphone/tablet.

### **Cell Phones/On Call:**

If you have a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room or mute your computer's microphone in a non-disruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

### **Student responsibilities:**

Each student is responsible for their time management and for meeting the expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines in class. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for an assignment sheet detailing any homework. If an assignment is listed on the syllabus you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

### **Attendance & Participation:**

This course demands class participation - attendance is mandatory. Give yourself at least five minutes before class starts to have enough time to login. Zoom doesn't always allow you to login quickly. Students arriving to Zoom meetings more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. You are allowed one (2) unexcused absence. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Four (4) unexcused absences or more will result in a failing grade. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized. If you are sick, have a family emergency, a conflict with work, or any other kind of unforeseen circumstance, please tell me ASAP so that I know what is going on and I can help you out. Addressing these issues weeks after the absence occurred will make it more difficult to help you out and I do want to help wherever I can.

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. Furthermore, disruptive behavior in Zoom will result in your removal of the Zoom session and an unexcused absence for the day. If any issues arise a student may be asked to speak privately with the instructor. The professor will work with

the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues. Also, adhering to the courses cellphone and computer policy is factored into this portion of your grade as well. SEE ABOVE.

### **Course Lectures/Reading Assignments:**

Readings are due for the next class session unless otherwise noted. Please keep up or it will be hard to follow in-class demos and lectures.

Lecture presentations will occur weekly. The readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements lectures. The instructor will use both the classroom and the readings for quiz questions. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class. **BOTH SOURCES ARE NEEDED.**

### **Discussion Posts:**

Every week you are required to post at least once and reply to at least two other students week-to-week on D2L. This is a time to ask questions about concepts you need clarification from on the lecture or lab. You will help each other. The instructor of this class will casually check in from time-to-time, but to get clarification directly from the instructor or lab assistant, please email or schedule time during office hours. Discussion Posts are an opportunity for students to help each other.

If you can't come up with any concepts you have questions on, at least post what you found interesting in lecture or a new concept you learned. Reply to others with questions to help them out.

### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given on lectures in class throughout the quarter. You will have an unlimited number of times to take the quiz to get the answers right so that you master the knowledge needed to do well on the Final Exam. Quizzes will be multiple choice and true/false.

### **Deadlines:**

Video production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructors discretion. **You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.**

### **Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism:**

This course demands class participation - attendance is mandatory. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. You are allowed one (2) unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized.

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. Also, adhering to the courses cellphone and computer policy is factored into this portion of your grade as well. SEE ABOVE.

**Content Changes:**

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

**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](#).

**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: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment).

**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.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

**Content Changes:**

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

*\* Syllabus schedule is subject to change*

### **Week One 09/09 and 09/14**

Introductions, Review of Syllabus, History of Cinema

**PROJECT #1 (09/30 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #1 (09/16 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #2 (09/16 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art, Ch. 1 "Film as Art"*

### **Week Two 09/16 and 09/21**

Basic Concepts and Terminologies, Narrative Form, Project 1 Screenings

**ASSIGNMENT #1 (09/23 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #2 (09/23 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #2 (09/23 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art, Ch. 3 "Narrative Form" (72-99 only)*

### **Week Three 09/23 and 09/28**

Narrative Form

**ASSIGNMENT #2 (10/08 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #3 (09/30 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #3 (09/30):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art, Ch. 4 "The Shot: Mis-en-Scene"*

### **Week Four 09/30 and 10/05**

Mis-en-Scene

**PROJECT #2 (10/14 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #4 (10/07 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #4 (10/07 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art, Ch. 5 "The Shot: Cinematography"*

### **Week Five 10/07 and 10/12**

Cinematography

**ASSIGNMENT #3 (10/14 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #5 (10/14 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #4 (10/14 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art, Ch. 6 "The Relation of Shot-to-Shot: Editing"*

### **Week Six 10/14 and 10/19**

Editing

**PROJECT #3 (10/28 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #5 (10/21 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #5 (10/21 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art, Ch. 7 "Sound in the Cinema"*

### **Week Seven 10/21 and 10/26**

Sound in the Cinema, Project 2 Screenings

**PROJECT #4 (11/23 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #6 (10/28 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #6 (10/28 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

### **Week Eight 10/28 and 11/02**

Topic TBD

**ASSIGNMENT #4 (11/04 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Discussion Post #7 (11/04 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #7 (11/04 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

### **Week Nine 11/04 and 11/09**

Project 3 Screenings

**Discussion Post #7 (11/11 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #7 (11/11 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.



### **Week Ten 11/11 and 11/16**

Influential Cinematic Waves: Neo-Realism in Italy & The New Wave in France, Avant-Grade

**Discussion Post #7 (11/23 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #7 (11/23 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Film Art*, Ch. 10 “Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films” (pp. 350-396)

### **Week Eleven 11/23**

Project #4 due by 2:30pm

**Assignment #1:** Narrative Structure (5 pts)

**Assignment #2:** Scene Analysis (5 pts)

**Assignment #3:** Mise-en-scène (5 pts)

**Assignment #4:** Scene Analysis (5 pts)

**Project #1:** Silent Short (10 pts)

**Project #2:** Still Photo Project (15 pts)

**Project #3:** Soundscape Project (15 pts)

**Project #4:** Final Project (20 pts)