

## FILM 101 – 407 FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

Fall Quarter 2021 - 2022

Tues/Thurs 11:50AM – 1:20PM

Loop Campus – 14 E. Jackson Blvd. – Room 211

Instructor: Alexander Sherman

Office Hours: TBD

Email: asherma9@depaul.edu

**Course Description** – This course will examine the craft, technology, and aesthetic principles of media production. Drawing on a wide array of historical examples, the course will look at the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: the importance of story and controlling ideas, storytelling with images, the basics of composition and editing, and an examination of narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects thus, putting theory into practice. The following topics will be covered: the importance of story and expressing ideas; storytelling with images and sound; the basics of image composition and editing; narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches and their intersections. Please Note: This course is not a production course. Rather, it is an exploration of the aesthetics of cinema. For students who want to get an introduction to digital cinema production, the course to take is DC 210 Digital Cinema Production I.

**Course Objectives** After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identifying the function of cinematic technique in the art of storytelling.
- Examine the relationship between theory and practice in the filmmaking process.
- Utilize the film language in the analysis of short feature length media.
- Create a short film of approximately two minutes in length demonstrating the aesthetic, critical and practical material of the course.

**Text** : *Film Art: An Introduction* (12<sup>th</sup> Edition) by David Bordwell & Kristen Thompson.  
Supplemental materials will be provided and shared with you on D2L.

### Basis for Evaluation

Analysis Paper 1 .....	5%
Analysis Paper 2 .....	15%
Screening Responses .....	20%
Composition Exercise .....	20%
Final Assignment .....	30%
Attendance & Participation .....	10%
TOTAL .....	100%

A = 100 – 94, A- = 93 – 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.

## CLASS SCHEDULE & COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1	Th 9/9	Introductions, Syllabus, What is Cinema? <i>Symbiopsychotaxiplasm</i> (William Greaves, 1968)
WEEK 2	Tu 9/14	Birth of Cinema & The Big Picture <i>Sherlock Jr.</i> (Buster Keaton, 1924) Read: Film Art Ch. 1
	Th 9/16	The Filmmaking Process
WEEK 3	Tu 9/21	Form <i>The Fits</i> (Anna-Rose Holmer, 2015) Read: Film Art Ch. 2
	Th 9/23	Form Discussion
WEEK 4	Tu 9/28	Narrative Read: Film Art Ch. 3 <i>Do The Right Thing</i> (Spike Lee, 1989)
	Th 9/30	Narrative Discussion
WEEK 5	Tu 10/5	Mise-En-Scene <i>Citizen Kane</i> (Orson Welles, 1941) Read: Film Art Ch. 4
	Th 10/7	Mise-En-Scene Discussion
WEEK 6	Tu 10/12	Cinematography: Optics <i>Moonlight</i> (Barry Jenkins, 2016)
	Th 10/14	Cinematography: Light Read: Film Art Ch. 5
WEEK 7	Tu 10/19	Editing TBD Read: Ch. 6
	Th 10/21	Editing Discussion
WEEK 8	Tu 10/26	Sound TBD Read: Ch. 7
	Th 10/28	Sound Discussion
WEEK 9	Tu 11/2	Challenging Classical Cinema <i>Chungking Express</i> (Wong Kar-Wai, 1994)

	Th 11/4	Documentary
WEEK 10	Tu 11/9	Film Genres
	Th 11/11	Experimental Cinema
WEEK 11	Tu 11/16	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Cinema
	Th 11/18	<b>Final Project and Final Paper Due</b>

**Content & Schedule Changes** The syllabus is subject to change depending on class progress, time constraints, or material availability. The overall workload, however, will not change. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly. You will be notified of any changes in the syllabus in a timely fashion.

**Grading** Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time (all deadlines will be posted on D2L). Late work will receive zero points for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

**Course Policies** In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

**Attendance** You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for seeking the information you missed. Watch the lecture under the tab "RECORDINGS" on D2L. You may also visit my office hours to ask questions. Excused absences require that you please provide some sort of documentation and notice prior to the class you miss. Communication is the key to staying on top of your work.

**Illness** If you are sick, please contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, absences may be excused and extensions may be granted. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion.

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

**Reading Assignments** Reading assignments are *mandatory* and should be completed by the date they are assigned in the syllabus. The textbook (and other) readings supplement and inform the lectures and discussions and will be crucial in understanding photography as well as writing your weekly responses. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class.

**D2L & COLTUBE** The course materials for this course, such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at [https://](https://d2l.depaul.edu/) **HYPERLINK "https://d2l.depaul.edu/"d2l** **HYPERLINK "https://d2l.depaul.edu/"**. **HYPERLINK "https://d2l.depaul.edu/"depaul** **HYPERLINK "https://d2l.depaul.edu/"**.edu/. Please make sure you have access to D2L.

**Computer/Smart Phone Use** This course involves a mixture of lecture and discussion and as such, requires your full attention. There will be no phones or computers allowed during class. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis.

**Academic Integrity** Plagiarism is dishonest behavior and therefore violates collegiality as well as University policy. You should familiarize yourself with behavior that constitutes plagiarism by reviewing the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty at: <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/Resources/Students/index.html>. Any cases of plagiarism will automatically receive a zero and be reported to departmental and University officials for disciplinary action.

**Special Needs** Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, instructors must make reasonable accommodations for students with physical, mental, or learning disabilities. Let me know at the beginning of the term if you require some modification of seating, testing, or other class adjustments so that appropriate arrangements may be made.