

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

Fall 2021: September 8 – November 17, 2021

Wednesdays, 10:00am – 1:15pm

Location: 14 East Jackson, 214 at Loop Campus

Instructor: Nick Schmidt

Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:30am – 10:00am or by appt.

Email: [nschmid5@depaul.edu](mailto:nschmid5@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.

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

September 8 – Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema Production  
Screen: Living In Oblivion (Tom DiCillo, 1995)  
Read: My First Movie: Tom DiCillo

**Week (2)**

September 15 – 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)**

September 22 – 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)**

September 29 – 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 9:35AM week 5

**Week (5)**

October 6 – Production Design

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

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

**Week (6)**

October 13 - MIDTERM

**Week (7)**

October 20 – Producing/Directing

**Week (8)**

October 27 – Documentary

Written Assignment/Response 3: due 10AM week 9

**Week (9)**

November 3 – Short Films

**Week (10)**

November 10 – 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).

## **Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University as aligned with our Vincentian Values**

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore “what must be done” in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

### **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>

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

### **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 (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus (773) 325-1677
- Email: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu)

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 the 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>

**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>