

**FILM 490 – Adv. Topics in Cinema/Lighting BIPOC**

January 2nd, 2023

Instructor: Estrella Vargas (she/her/hers), Adjunct Faculty

**Winter 2023**, meets at Cinespace DePaul room 101 on Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:15 pm

*Instruction consists of lectures, discussions, demonstrations and practical exercises.*

*Office hours: Wednesdays between 5:00 – 6:00 pm and 9:00 – 9:45 pm at Cinespace room 101 – email me to set up an appointment.*

*Email: evarga16@depaul.edu - Expect a reply within 24 hours.*

**Course Description** - *This class will be an in-depth examination of a filmmaker, film genre, or film movement that has had a significant influence on the development of cinematic storytelling and expression. Through lectures, screenings, readings, discussions, and critical writing assignments, students will analyze the distinctive traits of the selected topic within the broader context of cinema history and culture. Specific topics will be selected by the instructor. This course is repeatable.*

**Summary of Course** - *In this course students will examine camera and lighting techniques for lighting Black, Indigenous and People of Color. Students will have the opportunity to expand current practices. Students will view demonstrations and discussions of current camera and lighting practices. Students will experiment and discover specific colors and color combinations to utilize for specific types of lighting – natural/time of day, beauty and mood-centric. Students will produce a written and visual recording of these methods and techniques to benefit their work.*

*Evaluation of each student's progress will be based on their ability to master and expand on the existing demonstrated practices of lighting Black, Indigenous and People of Color.*

**Learning Outcomes** - *Upon completion of Lighting: BIPOC, students will be able to –*

- identify and create reflective or sheen lighting techniques.*
- employ lighting skills necessary to visually and emotionally engage an audience.*
- utilize and apply knowledge to complimentarily light darker skin tones.*
- demonstrate an ability to utilize advanced motion picture lighting tools to specific effect.*

**Textbook and Resources** – *None. Handouts will be given. Recommended accompanied reading (not required) - Set Lighting Technician's Handbook: Film Lighting Equipment, Practice, and Electrical Distribution, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> edition, by Harry Box. ISBN-13: 978-0240810751 or ISBN:9780429749353 respectively.*

**Prerequisites** – FILM 455 Lighting for Cinema 1 or permission from Instructor. (This course may be substituted for FILM 456 Lighting for Cinema 2).

**Course Management System** – Assignments, readings, feedback and grading will be given weekly online using the D2L system - <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home>. Students must check the information provided online each week. Acceptable file formats are .jpg, .mov, .m4v, .cr2, .avi, .pdf & .doc. Larger files should be compressed into a .zip file before uploading to D2L – don't send anything larger than 100MB. All assignments must be turned into D2L, not emailed. **Late assignments are deducted 5 pts. for each week late.** FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS – Students must name all files (word, .pdf, .mov, .m4v, zip or folders) in the following way: lastname\_firstname\_assignment. Example: vargas\_estrella\_assignment#3.mov.

Note: All images assigned are to be composed in a **horizontal aspect ratio**, with the subject NOT looking at the lens per narrative feature film custom.

**Grading Policy** - Class attendance/participation 40%, Assignments 40%, Final Project 20% 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.

Last day to drop this course with no penalty is **Sunday, January 15<sup>h</sup>**. Visit <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

**Equipment use** – Students enrolled in this course will have an opportunity to have hands-on time with Advanced Camera packages, the standard lighting packages found on our stages as well as our most advanced LED, Tungsten & HMI fixtures during in-person sessions. To complete homework assignments, students have access to reserve and check out the Canon C100 camera package, tungsten, Kino Flo and LED kits and a variety of grip equipment.

**Additional Required Supplies:** A pair of heat resistant work gloves and a small flashlight – handheld or headband style. Bring these items to our in-person class meetings. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear to work on the stage (a warehouse or factory type environment). **No open toe shoes are allowed.**

**Cinespace DePaul Stages** – If driving, use this address for the DePaul parking lot - 2525 W. 15th Street, Chicago, IL 60608. As there are many one-way streets nearby, approach from the north at Ogden Avenue for easier access.

**New Policy at Cinespace** - SECURITY GATES. **\*\*ALL DEPAUL FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF MUST HAVE A DEPAUL-ISSUED ID ON THEM AT ALL TIMES\*\***. Security gates are in full operation at Cinespace. DePaul personnel should be able to walk on at any of the gates with a DePaul-issued ID card during normal studio business hours (5am-8pm M-F).

Please note that the main gate at Rockwell and 15th Street is the only gate that will remain accessible outside of normal studio business hours.

**DePaul Shuttle info** - The DePaul shuttle vehicle **will depart** from the south side of Jackson Blvd. at 1 E. Jackson (south of the Daley bldg., east of State St. & in front of the Barnes & Noble), approximately 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the class and drop students off at Cinespace DePaul Stages. Soon after the class ends, the shuttle will transport students back to the Loop campus.

Visit <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Cinespace-Studios.aspx> for up to date shuttle information or email John Corba at JCorba@depaul.edu. DePaul students do not need to show ID to enter the secure area of Cinespace while on the shuttle. However, everyone should still have a DePaul ID. The shuttle drop-off and pick up location at Cinespace is in the blue curb area on the east side of Rockwell between 15th Place and 16th Street.

**Safety Training** - The Safety class is accessible online through each student's D2L homepage. Click the **"SCA Central" tab** and then click **"Info and Resources."** The Orientation to Production and Set Safety (O.P.S.S.) modules will be in the left-hand column of the page. All students should take the three video presentations and accompanying quizzes preferably before coming to Cinespace or at least within the first week of classes. **\*\*\*Important\*\*\*** Any students who have not taken and passed O.P.S.S. will not be able to make reservations for space or equipment. (This includes camera & lighting equipment allotted for your reservations).

**Week-by-week schedule** (expect weekly changes) –

**Week 1 (Jan 4th)** - Introductions and How camera sensors affect Skin Tone Lecture/ Exercise. Ava Berkosky video. Assignment #1: Good and Bad Lighting examples and Quiz

**Week 2 (Jan 11<sup>th</sup>)** – Polarizer and Sheen Lighting – moisturizers, and Polarizers. Angle of light source to subject. Assignment #2: TBD

**Week 3 (Jan 18<sup>th</sup>)** – Diffusion and Light Sources - reflector - materials and sizes. Assignment #3: TBD

**Week 4 (Jan 25<sup>th</sup>)** – Overview of materials in class  
Assignment 4: TBD

**Week 5 (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>)** – Group Exercise – Mood Lighting for BIPOC  
Using the lighting techniques learned in class, each group of students will get a camera and lighting package to capture a short scene for a specific Time of Day. Assignment 5:

**Week 6 (Feb 8<sup>th</sup>)** - Overview of Material followed by Group Exercise – Interview

*Using the lighting techniques learned in class, each group of students will get a camera and lighting package to capture a short scene for a specific Time of Day. Assignment 6: Write your own 3–5-page story that centers BIPOC voices or choose from a list of donated scripts and create a visual mood board to visualize your ideas for the cinematography.*

**Week 7 (Feb 15<sup>th</sup>)** – Overview of Material followed by Final Project Introduction. Students will split into groups and choose a 3–5-minute film they wish to produce for their final film. Assignment #7: List of roles, materials your group needs and general shot list for your final project.

**Week 8 (Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>)** – Work on Short Film in Class

**Week 9 (March 1<sup>st</sup>)** – Work on Short Film in Class

**Week 10 (March 8<sup>th</sup>)** – Work on Short Film in Class

**Week 11** – No class. Turn in Final Project.

**Final Project** – Students will produce a 3-5 minute film that centers a character that identifies as BIPOC. Students will carefully choose a camera package and lighting materials and apply the skills learned in this class to properly light their character/s. Each group of students will explain the decision behind their camera of choice as well as diffusions. Students can write their own short script or use an existing one from the list of shorts Professor Estrella shares with the class.

**Cross-listed Course** - Graduate students will be given additional assignments and expected to take on more responsibilities within classroom exercises than undergraduate students. Graduate students will be graded on a stricter and higher scale with supplemental readings.

**Differing levels of student experience** – All students arrive to this class with different levels of on-set work experience. It is expected that students with more on-set work experience share their experience and help facilitate and contribute to make the imagery of every classmate better.

**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. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

**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).

### **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 mask as stipulated by guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>) and DePaul University at all times while on campus, both inside buildings and outside on the grounds;
2. Maintain physical distance of at least six feet in all DePaul spaces (including classrooms, meeting rooms, hallways, restrooms, 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 located on D2L here - <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home/778150> and
5. Abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Order.

By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. These recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who have a medical reason for not complying must register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD).

**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

### **Course Policies -**

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

Class Discussion: Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

Attitude: 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.

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 <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

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 instances 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.*

*Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring 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 in an undistruptive 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.*