

FILM 210: Cinema Production II

Spring 2023

Class Time: Mondays 1:30pm-4:45pm

Location: 14 E. Jackson, Room LL 107

Instructor: Jimmy Boratyn

Office Hours: Online on Thursdays 12pm-8pm or by

apt. Email: jboratyn@depaul.edu

UNIVERSITY

- DePaul will continue to update [their COVID-19 Updates and Guidance page](#). Please visit the [Health and Safety Practices page](#) for the most current mandatory protocols.

CDM

- For more specific questions about CDM, check out this page for current info: [CDM Student Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Course Description:

- This course expands on topics covered in FILM 110 Production I. Students will refine their skills in the areas of line-producing, pre-production, cinematography, lighting, sound recording, post-production workflow.

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

- Analyze and critique a motion picture for narrative, technical proficiency, and creative ambition.
- Evaluate one's contribution and the contributions of others throughout the collaborative process.
- Collaborate in the creation of motion pictures utilizing industry standard practices.
- Examine the conventions of motion picture genres and forms through the screening and study of a many examples.
- Create motion pictures that adhere to specific genre conventions or forms while demonstrating an advanced knowledge of camera, editing, lighting, and sound aesthetics.

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met:

- Students will develop their own cinematic styles and tastes through screenings, lectures, and discussions.
- Students will complete 4 short production assignments, working within different genres and adhering to randomized technical and artistic obstructions.
- Instructor lectures will detail formal practices, policies, and procedures common to professional film industry production.

Prerequisite: FILM 250 and POST 124

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

Supplies

- **REQUIRED:**
 - 1 External Hard drive (500 GB minimum)
 - 1 USB flashdrive for project backups and submissions (8 GB)
 - Grip Gloves
- **Suggested:**
 - Audio- Closed Back Headphones (no earbuds)
 - G&E- Multi-tool, Flashlight, Gaff Tape, Black Wrap, Gels, Diffusion
 - Camera- Lens Tissue, Lens Fluid, Lens Cloth, Lens Blower Bulb, Allen Wrench tool, Paper Tape, Sharpie, MEMORY CARDS (CF & SD)

Hardware/Software

- Still and Video Camera, Audio Recording Equipment: Gear is available for checkout from the CDM Equipment Center, Cinespace Stage, and Camera Vault.
- Editing Software: CDM Computer Labs are available for software use outside of class with and offer Adobe Creative Cloud on PC and Mac operating systems. This course will require you to use a non-linear editing system to edit several of your assignments.
 - Information on labs, rooms, production equipment, rules, and guidelines can be found at the [CDM Production Resources website](#).

Additional Costs

- Producing digital content is rarely a cheap endeavor. Such costs will potentially include items for art direction (costumes, make-up, set decoration), production (gaff tape, black wrap, camera media), post-production (primary external hard drives and a back-up) and general necessities (transportation costs and craft services). As a general guideline for all films that you make, your project budgets should always include a 10% contingency fee to help account for cost overruns.

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.

Additional Website Content

- Netflix
- Hulu
- Vimeo
- YouTube
- Short of the Week

Suggested Online Resources

- CineFix: A useful, entertaining and inspiring YouTube channel for video essays, interviews.
- [Every Frame a Painting](#): Tony Zhou's video essays on variety of aspects of art of filmmaking.
- Fandor: An informing source for video essays.
- No Film School: In-depth video essays and articles on all kinds of topics.
- [LinkedinLearning](#): A useful collection of video tutorials for learning various software programs. All DePaul students have free access to LinkedInLearning. It is available at the library and by (free) subscription. It is highly recommended that you watch the essential training on Adobe.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

- This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. Depending on many variables outside of our control, the assignments projected for the term may require alteration or rescheduling. If a change occurs, it will be posted under Announcements in D2L. Please ensure that campus connect and D2L have your correct email address. Also, make sure you are receiving all notifications via D2L.

Grading:

- Assignment 1: 20%
- Assignment 2: 20%
- Assignment 3: 20%
- Assignment 4: 20%
- Participation: 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

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Assignments 1 - 4:

- Students will be broken into teams of four to five students. Each team will be assigned a specific genre or medium of cinema/media production, along with specific restrictions or obstructions for the film. Detailed parameters for each assignment will be distributed via D2L. For some projects, director and other crew roles will be assigned for each team. For other projects, roles and collaboration will be determined by the team as a whole. All teams will be given the same topic. Each team will be required to produce a finished project for screening every two or three week(s). Projects will be due at the beginning of the class on which they will be screened and critiqued. A working, non-private, downloadable Vimeo link must be uploaded to D2L before class time. In case of internet issues, you should also bring an .h264 video file of your assignment to class.

Class Schedule and Course Outline:

- WEEK 1 (3/27)
 - Introductions and Course Expectations. Mastery: Conventions and Cliché. How restrictions feed creativity. Groups Assigned for Assignment 1. The Wheel of Pain!
 - Screen: Shorts
 - **ASSIGNMENT**
 - **Assignment 1 Script for Table Read**
 - **Assignment 1**
- WEEK 2 (4/3)
 - Table Reads for Assignment 1 Script. Pre-production, initial steps, pre-visualizations, and attainable goals. Pre-Pro Meetings
 - **ASSIGNMENT**
 - **Assignment 1 Pre-Production: Schedule and Storyboards**
 - **DUE:**
 - **Assignment 1 Scripts**

- WEEK 3 (4/10)
 - Lecture: It's ok to like movies.
 - **DUE: ASSIGNMENT 1 Pre-Production: Schedule and Storyboard**
- WEEK 4 (4/17)
 - Screening and discussion of Assignment 1. Visual comedy. Juxtaposition and contrast. Style and Point of Attack.
 - Screen
 - Assignment 1 & the Competition
 - **ASSIGNMENT:**
 - **Assignment 2**
 - **DUE:**
 - **Assignment 1**
- WEEK 5 (4/24)
 - Screening and Discussion on the Competition. EP Budget and Scheduling. Budgeting Resources, Production Insurance, and What/Who you need to know about filming in Chicago. Group Meetings.
- WEEK 6 (5/1)
 - Screening and Discussion of Assignment 2. Mystery, Story, Tone, Suspense, and Avoiding cliché. Holding interest without withholding information.
 - Screen
 - Assignment 2 & the Competition
 - **ASSIGNMENT:**
 - **Assignment 3**
 - **DUE:**
 - **Assignment 2**
- WEEK 7 (5/8)
 - Lecture: Production Design. Science Fiction Production Design on a Budget. Having a look that defines your film. Science Fiction Conventions.
- WEEK 8 (5/15)
 - Screening and discussion of Assignment 3. Message, payoff, truth. All films are fairy tales. Subtlety.
 - Screen
 - Assignment 3 & the Competition
 - **ASSIGNMENT:**
 - **Assignment 4**
 - **DUE:**
 - **Assignment 3**
- WEEK 9 (5/22)
 - Characters and representation. Group meetings.
 - Festivals. Distribution. Professional Environment.
- WEEK 10 (5/29) – MEMORIAL DAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED – NO CLASS

- WEEK 11 – FINAL WEEK (6/5) **2:30pm-4:45pm**
 - Attendance at the scheduled final is mandatory – NO EXCEPTIONS
 - **DUE: ASSIGNMENT 4**
 - Screen: Assignment 4

Course Policies:

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.

Student responsibilities and the Syllabus:

- Each student is responsible for their time management and for meeting the all expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines listed on the syllabus. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding the absence and remain up-to-date regarding the topics covered in class. If an assignment is listed on the syllabus, students are still responsible for completing the assignment on time. I will not accept excuses for ignoring class or project obligations.

Reading and Screening Assignments:

- “The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.” – Mark Twain

Statement on Challenging Material:

- Learning is uncomfortable. We will screen films that experiment with perception and may include disruptive sounds, flashing lights, or images/speech of a violent, sexually explicit, or politically charged nature. This is an inclusive environment, which means you may be exposed to identities that may affirm or undermine your own. This is a chance for growth. Film can be transformative and cathartic. However, it can also bring up past trauma. We will discuss these topics courageously, respectfully, and honestly as equals. If you ever need to step out, due to something that happens externally or internally at class, go ahead, but you will be expected to take responsibility for missed work and schedule a time to propose an alternative way to engage with the course material.

Attendance:

- This course is demanding, both in terms of creativity and collaboration. Absences are an impediment to the artistic results of those demands. Given the uncertain nature of the world we currently find ourselves in, however, I have no intention of making your life any more challenging with an unforgiving or punitive attendance policy. With most creative efforts, however, you get out what you put in— the same can be said of this course.

Group Evaluations:

- Most of the assignments in this class will require you to work in a team. At the end of each assignment, each group member is required to turn in a written evaluation of their team members. If all evaluations are uniformly positive, all group members will share the grades in the assignment; if evaluations are negative, questions will be asked and the grades of the group member(s) in question may be docked. These evaluations will be HEAVILY factored into your final grades.

Deadlines:

- Video production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading without prior consent of the Instructor. To be clear, this prior consent is not only rare, it is only given days in advance of the due date, not hours. You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

Phones, Texting, Social Media, Email, Chatting:

- Please do your best to avoid electronic distractions in class. If it becomes an issue, you will be asked to leave and considered absent. If you must use a cell phone or electronic device for any reason, please leave the classroom.

Food Policy:

- No food or beverages are allowed on the Stages— please leave it outside.

Email Policy:

- Please type **FILM 210 PRODUCTION II** in the subject of all e-mails to the instructor about this class to ensure that they are responded in a timely fashion.

Assignment & Project Labeling/Format Policy:

- Please label all assignments as GROUP#_ASSIGNMENT. For example, I would label the Assignment 3 as: GROUP_4_ASSIGNMENT_3.mov.

Assignment Submission Policy:

- All documents must be submitted as a single pdf file. All films should be submitted with a working Vimeo link that enables the video to be downloaded. In case of internet issues, you should also bring an .h264 video file of your assignment to class.
- Projects not submitted in the proper format or properly labeled WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Do not submit the wrong file, an incomplete file, a corrupted file, etc. Submit the correct project file or document through D2L by each deadline. Do not leave this until the last second. You should upload several hours before the deadline to be safe. No late work will be accepted.

Equipment Checkout Policies:

- Students are expected to follow all equipment policies when checking out gear from the Cage, Stage or Cinespace. All of these policies can be found under "Equipment" on the Production Resources Website.
- REQUIRED Cinespace Orientation to Production and Set Safety Training: Students who have not shot at Cinespace before MUST complete the Cinespace Orientation to Production and Set Safety Training (O.P.S.S.) before being allowed to do so. The three O.P.S.S. Modules and Quizzes are available in SCA Central here. Students must watch each Module video and score 100% on the accompanying quiz to pass the O.P.S.S. training. Please complete this by our 2nd class meeting.

SCA Production Handbook:

- The School of Cinematic Arts Production Handbook is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. The answers to most questions regarding contacts, resources, contracts, rules, and guidelines can be found inside. It is updated annually on SCA Central and linked to the CDM Production Resources page.

Talent Waivers:

- Talent waivers must be signed by any outside talent (non-DePaul students) prior to camera rolling for any projects. These waivers must be signed and submitted to the Production Office before shooting. Waivers and other commonly used forms can be found on SCA Central under "Filmmaking Paperwork".

DePaul Production Insurance:

- DePaul production insurance does not cover the use of fire (including pyrotechnics and fireplaces), vehicles, or animals of any kind. Insurance is required for location agreements, film permits, and any equipment rental agreements. Any questions about DePaul's production insurance should be directed to the Production Office well before shooting begins (production@cdm.depaul.edu).

Use of Prop Firearms:

- Rules and regulations MUST be followed when using prop firearms. The instructor must approve the appearance of a prop gun in any student film. An approved/signed Prop Firearm Request Form must be submitted to the Production Office prior to filming. It can be found on SCA Central under "Filmmaking Paperwork".

ABC - Always Be Careful:

- Film and video production shoots can be hazardous. Above all, work safely in all situations and always think before you act. Please don't hesitate to ask me if you're unsure about anything regarding your shoot, in or out of class.

Original Work:

- All work submitted for this class should be original and made specifically for this class. If you are found to be submitting work you have made for another class you will receive zero credit for that particular assignment.

Academic Integrity Violations:

- Plagiarism or cheating on assignments or tests are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you are in doubt about the definitions of plagiarism or cheating, consult your student handbook and the University's Academic Integrity Policy. All students will be held to the Code of Student Responsibility.

Content Changes:

- Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require alteration or rescheduling. You will be notified of all changes. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L, and/or sent via email. As the quarter progresses, some items may change at the instructors discretion, but the overall workload will not. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly.

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion:

- Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University is 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 creators, 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.

Classroom Decorum and the Student Handbook:

- All policies as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class. Please be respectful of your fellow students and their work.

University Policies**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.

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 [here](#)

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
- 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 a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible. Please see this [website](#) for Services and Contact Information.