

Course: **POST 309/409 – Editing the Feature Film**  
Section: **501 – Winter 2024**  
Class Number: 26139/26140  
Meeting Time: Tu 1:30pm to 4:45pm  
Location: ON-CAMPUS

Instructor: Brian Mellen  
Email: [bmellen@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:bmellen@cdm.depaul.edu)  
Office: ON-CAMPUS  
Office Hours: Tu 4:45pm to 5:45pm CDM 632 By Appt. Only  
Th 10:10am – 11:50am Daley Building 200B By Appt. Only

## **POST 309/409 - Editing the Feature Film**

### **Course Description:**

In this course, students will be introduced to the specialized post-production workflow of editing the feature film. Topics will include: understanding the script notes, organizing the project, editing scenes with a focus on performance and character arcs, working with sound effects and music, performing a temp mix, breaking the film into reels, and producing deliverables for the composer, sound editor, and color correction.

### **Learning Goals:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be expected to:

- Understand and utilize script notes
- Organize a feature-length film
- Compose scenes with a focus on performance and character arcs
- Create a temp sound mix using dialogue, sound effects, and temp music
- Break a film into reels
- Produce deliverables for the composer, sound editor, and color correction
- Supervise the final mix and color correction

**Prerequisites:** POST 200

**Software:** Adobe Premiere Pro

*\*Adobe Creative Cloud Licenses Provided by DePaul*

### **Required Materials/Equipment:**

An external hard drive (USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt or better) with a minimum of 500 GB

*\*It is very important that you have your own external hard drive, so that you can save your personal projects and media on it. **Exceptions for missed work due to data loss will not be granted.***

**Required Textbooks:** **ON FILM EDITING – Author: DMYTRYK**  
**IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE – Author: MURCH**

**LinkedIn Learning:** Subscription is included with tuition.

## Changes to Syllabus:

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter.

## Drop Dates:

Friday, Jan. 12: Last day to add (or swap) classes  
Friday, Jan. 19: Last day to drop classes with no penalty  
Sat, Jan. 20: Grades of "W" assigned for classes dropped on or after this day  
Friday, Feb. 23: Last day to withdraw from class

## Course Schedule:

### WEEK 1 (Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>)

Lecture: Setting Up and Organizing Your Project  
Assign Project for the Quarter  
Read: Bernadette Script (before next class)  
Quiz #1 (Due Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>)  
Discussion Post #1: Details posted on D2L. (Due Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>)

### Week 2 (Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Editing Exercise 1

Lecture: The Difference Between an Assembly, Rough Cut, Fine Cut  
Do: Editing Exercise 1  
Read: Dmytryk, **Chapters 1 – 4**; Murch, **Pages 1 – 9**  
Quiz #2: (Due Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>)  
Discussion Post #2: Details posted on D2L. (Due Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>)

### Week 3 (Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Project (Organized)

**DUE: HALF Audio Synced to Bernadette Scene Footage**  
**DUE: Editing Exercise 2**

Lecture: Character Arcs  
Do: Editing Exercise 2  
Read: Dmytryk, **Chapters 5 – 7**; Murch, **Pages 10 – 20**  
Quiz #3: (Due Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>)  
Discussion Post #3: Details posted on D2L. (Due Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>)

### Week 4 (Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: ALL Audio synced to Bernadette Scene Footage

**DUE: Editing Exercise 3**

Do: Editing Exercise 3  
Read: Dmytryk, **Chapters 8 – 9**; Murch, **Pages 21 – 31**  
Quiz #4: (Due Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>)  
Discussion Post #4: Details posted on D2L. (Due Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>)

### Week 5 (Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>)

Do: Work on Rough Cuts  
Read: Dmytryk, **Chapters 10 – 12**; Murch, **Pages 32 – 42**  
Discussion Post #5: Details posted on D2L. (Due Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>)

### Week 6 (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Project (Rough Cut 1)

Do: Exchange Scenes (Footage & Projects)  
Screen Project Rough Cut 1  
Read: Dmytryk, **Chapters 13 – 14**; Murch, **Pages 46 – 50**  
Quiz #5: (Due Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>)

**Week 7 (Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Editing Exercise 4**

Lecture: Breaking a Film into Reels and Delivering Deliverables

Do: Editing Exercise 4

Read: Dmytryk, **Chapter 15**; Murch, **Pages 52 – 63**

Quiz #6: (Due March 5<sup>th</sup>)

Discussion Post #6: Details posted on D2L. (Due March 5<sup>th</sup>)

**Week 8 (March 5<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Project (Rough Cut 2) by 03/03 at 11:59pm**

Do: Exchange Scenes (Footage & Projects)

Screen Project Rough Cut 2

Read: Dmytryk, **Chapter 16-17**; Murch, **Pages 64 – 72**

Quiz #7: (Due March 12<sup>th</sup>)

Discussion Post #7: Details posted on D2L. (Due March 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Week 9 (March 12<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Fine Cut by 03/17 at 11:59pm  
DUE: Deliverables by 03/19 at 2:30pm**

Lecture: Supervising the Final Mix and Color Correction

Screen: Bernadette (Official Cut)

Workshop: Project

Discussion Post #8: Details posted on D2L. (Due March 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Week 10 (March 19<sup>th</sup>) – DUE: Project Deliverables and Editing Paper**

Class meets at 2:30pm

Screen Project Fine Cut

Upload Project Deliverables to the Google Drive by 2:30 PM on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Grading:**

<b>Project Organization</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Project Rough Cut 1</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Project Rough Cut 2</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Project Fine Cut</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Project Deliverables</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Editor Analysis Paper</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Editing Exercises</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Attendance/Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Discussion Posts</b>	<b>10%</b>

**A** = 93-100    **A-** = 90-92

**B+** = 87-89    **B** = 83-86    **B-** = 80-82

**C+** = 77-79    **C** = 73-76    **C-** = 70-72

**D+** = 67-69    **D** = 60-66

**F** = 0-59

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

**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.**

**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 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.

**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.

Also, eventually all hard drives fail. Make sure you backup your projects at least twice for this class and all future projects. If your hard drive fails and you didn't backup your project, no extensions will be given. No accommodations are typically made in the real world for lack of preparation and in order to prepare you for the job market, no accommodations will be made in this course for lost data.

**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 to class more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Missing three (3) or more classes 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. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues if issues are ongoing and can't be resolved in class. Also, adhering to the courses cellphone and computer policy is factored into this portion of your grade as well. SEE ABOVE.

## Assignments:

You will submit all of your assignments to the appropriate Google Drive folder. The organization of your editing projects is a significant part of your grade. **LATE PROJECTS will not receive credit.**

## Quiz:

Periodic quizzes will be given throughout the quarter testing you on important information from lecture and tutorials. These could be given anytime during class and many times happen at the beginning of class. Make sure you come to class on time. If you miss them you forfeit credit.

## Editing Exercises:

Editing exercises will be completed during class time. Editing exercises that are turned in on time can be made up and turned in again for more points; however, **all resubmissions must be turned in within two weeks of the due date.** Missed editing exercises can be made up and turned in before the start of the following class. If an editing exercise is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to watch the missed lecture on D2L and turn in their makeup assignment before the start of the following class. For your convenience, all lectures are recorded and saved on D2L.

## Editing Analysis Paper:

Students will be required to write a 1-2 page paper comparing and contrasting the classes' cut of Bernadette and the official edit. More information will be given on D2L about this particular assignment as the quarter progresses.

## 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](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).

Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

Lewis Center 1420

25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312) 362-8002

Fax: (312) 362-6544

TTY: (773) 325-7296