

Course Syllabus

SCWR 346 - Filmmakers Seminar

LA Quarter, Spring 2024

Mon 6:30p-9:45pm

Instructor: Kurt Lustgarten (klustgar@depaul.edu)

Office Hours: Email instructor to schedule

Course Description

This class offers an in-depth examination of the entertainment industry, particularly film and television production and development. Students will gain a deep understanding of their chosen field of interest along with a broader sense of filmmaking and its collaborative essence via guest speakers, discourse, and assignments.

Course Goals

Students will hear from guest speakers from various departments, who will speak about their careers within the entertainment industry. Students will gain insight into the nature of the business in Los Angeles and how they might fit into this exciting and demanding world. Students will emerge with a demonstrable understanding of Hollywood structure, the diversity of career paths, and the breadth of roles that encompass the title “filmmaker.”

Course Outcomes

Trade Tracking Paper: Knowing the business you wish to break into is vital. Students are expected to keep track of industry news via established sources (ie, “trades” such as *Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Deadline*, etc). Students will identify an article that corresponds to their desired career track and submit a two page paper, double-spaced, demonstrating how it correlates to their aspirations, along with a link to the article.

Guest Speaker Paper: Students will write three to four pages about their favorite speaker(s) from class, what they learned from the discussion, and how it might apply to them and their career interests.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- have a demonstrable understanding of various roles within the industry
- be able to accurately track and understand business movement
- have a grounded, practical grasp of their intended career path
- possess a refined ability to navigate networking opportunities and cultivate meaningful professional relationships

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Grading

Showing up and meeting deadlines are critical to success in this business. Therefore, it's essential that you attend class and events. Absences that are not cleared before class will result in a drop of grade.

Participation/Attendance: 50%

Trade Tracking Paper: 20%

Guest Speaker Paper: 30%

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 indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concepts.

Class Schedule

Due to the unique nature of the LA Quarter and guest speaker availability, this **schedule is subject to change**. Please consult the class calendar on D2L and professor emails for the most up to date schedule on guest speakers, student postings, assignments, and due-dates.

Additionally, students should note that guests are offering forthright discussions of their personal experiences. Opinions and attitudes expressed may differ from your own and students may inform the instructor privately should anything prove challenging or uncomfortable. These discussions are for the benefit of the class and should be reserved for those in attendance alone, however sharing class notes with fellow enrolled students who are unable to attend a session is acceptable. Recording is not permitted without prior clearance from our guests.

Week 1 - 04/01

Introductions/Course overview

Week 2 - 04/08

Guest Speakers TBD

Week 3 - 04/15

Guest: Author and film historian, Sam Wasson (*The Big Goodbye*, *The Path to Paradise*)

Week 4 - 04/22

Guest: Megan Halpern, Senior Vice President, *The Blacklist*

Week 5 - 04/29

Guest Speakers TBD

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Week 6 - 05/06

Guest Speakers

DUE: Trade Tracking Paper

Week 7 - 05/13

Guest Speakers TBD

Week 8 - 05/20

Guest Speakers TBD

Week 9 - 05/27

Guest Speakers TBD

Week 10 - 06/03

Guest Speakers TBD

FINALS WEEK - 06/10 (NO CLASS)

DUE: Guest Speaker Paper

Course Policies

Attendance

Classroom attendance is MANDATORY. More than one excused absence (ie, doctor's note, other reason with Instructor's approval, etc) will result in a lowering of grade per each absence. The Instructor must be informed of any absence at least 24hrs prior to the start of class.

Deadlines

Strict Adherence to deadlines is expected. Materials presented or posted late will result in a decreased grade for the particular assignment.

Use of AI

The assignments are intended to be personal analyses of your career intent and development. It is therefore required that your critical analysis be your own and the use of AI for these assignments will not be accepted.

School Policies

Online Instructor Evaluation

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%

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participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at CampusConnect is correct.

Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L, and sent via email.

Resources for 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: Student Center, LPC, Suite #370 Phone number: (773)325.1677 Fax: (773)325.3720 TTY: (773)325.7296

COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions

The health and safety of everyone at DePaul depend on the cooperation of all who come to campus. By taking care of yourself, you protect the entire community. DePaul's COVID-19 response plans are based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the university's medical advisor from AMITA Health.

Mandatory protocols must be followed by DePaul students, faculty and staff at all times on both campuses <https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/guidance/health-safety-practices/Pages/default.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. More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

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Enrollment/Withdrawal/Incomplete

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>

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion

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.

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>