

FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

DC110 - 401

M/w : 10:10 – 11:40pm

CDM 708

Instructor: ANURADHA RANA

Office: CDM 406

Office hours: Mon 12:00 – 3:00 and by appointment.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. Drawing heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on story and storytelling. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects putting theory into practice.

Prerequisite(s): None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end of the course students should understand cinematic language and be able to incorporate structure, the framed image, sound, and editing into their own creative work.

The following topics will be covered:

- The importance of story and expressing ideas;
- Storytelling with images, actions and sound;
- Basics of image composition and editing;
- Narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches and their intersections.

Please Note: This course teaches concepts rather than technology. Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in DC 110 to better communicate their ideas in Digital Cinema Production I and beyond.

TEXTBOOK:

Film Art, 9th Edition by Bordwell and Thompson Both available at the Loop Barnes & Noble.

Handouts and assignment guidelines will be posted on D2L. Please ensure that you have access to D2L. No paper handouts will be given in class unless requested.

COURSE MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE STUDENT:

- Access to a digital still or video camera.

GRADING

Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time (all deadlines are on the syllabus and on D2L). Late work will receive zero points for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Image Design Exercises | | 30% |
| ▪ MIDTERM - Self Portrait | 15 | |
| ▪ FINAL - Photo Roman | 15 | |
| Responses (weighed equally) | | 40% |
| Short Film structure (screening) | | |
| La Jetee | | |
| Pan's Labyrinth | | |
| Ratcatcher | | |
| Run Lola Run | | |
| Documentary (TBA) | | |
| Baraka / A Movie | | |
| Quizzes | | 10% |
| ▪ Quizzes – 3 (equal weight) | 10 | |
| Other | | 20% |
| ▪ Attendance | 10 | |
| ▪ Participation: | 5 | |
| ▪ Profile Photo | | |
| ▪ Persuasive Note | | |
| ▪ Short Film | 5 | |
| ▪ <i>Optional Extra credit essay:</i> | | 5% |
| TOTAL | | 100% |

Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 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. | |

CONTENT CHANGES – This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes. As the semester progresses, some items may change at the instructor's discretion, but the overall workload will not. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly.

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WEEK 1

- 1/7 **Topic :** Introduction to students, syllabus
 Importance of film language, aesthetics for filmmakers.
 Basic film terminology. Film units
 Assign: Persuasive note
- 1/9 **Topic:** Narrative structure
 Short Films Vs Features
 Screen: Shorts (Various)
 Read: B & T Chapter 3
 Due: Short Film Analysis

WEEK 2

- 1/14 **Topic :** Narrative structure : Forms and Patterns
 Introduction to Photo Roman.
 Screen: *La Jeteé* by Chris Marker, Others
 Read: B & T: Chapters 2
 Assign: *La Jeteé* Reaction Paper
- 1/16 **Topic :** Mise-en-scene
 Screen: Various Films / Clips
 Read: B & T Chapter 4

WEEK 3

- 1/21 **Topic :** Mise-en-scene
 Screen : Pan's Labyrinth
 Due: *La Jeteé* Reaction Paper
- 1/23 **Topic :** Mise-en-scene Contd.
 Screen: Pan's Labyrinth *Contd.*
 Assign: Mise-en-scene Reaction Paper
 Midterm : Self-portrait assignment

WEEK 4

- 1/28 **Topic :** Cinematography
 Read: B & T: Chapter 5
- 1/30 **Topic :** Cinematography
 Screen: *Ratcatcher*
 Assign: Cinematography Reaction Paper
 Due: Mise-en-Scene Reaction Paper

WEEK 5

- 2/4 **Topic :** Editing - Continuity
 Read: B & T: Chapter 6
 Due: Cinematography Reaction Paper
- 2/6 **Topic :** Editing – Discontinuity, montage etc
 Screen: Various Clips

WEEK 6

- 2/11 **Screen:** *Run Lola Run*
Assign: Editing Reaction Paper
- 2/13 **Topic :** Midterm Screenings : Self Portrait.
Assign: Final : Photo Roman

WEEK 7

- 2/18 **Topic :** Sound
Read: B & T: Chapter 7
Assign: Photo Roman – Telling a Story Visually
Due: Editing Reaction Paper
- 2/20 **Topic :** Sound
Screen : TBA
Assign: Sound Reaction Paper

WEEK 8

- 2/25 **Topic :** Documentary approaches
Due: Sound Reaction Paper
- 2/27 **Screen:** *The Gleaners and I* (may change)
Read: B & T: Chapter 10, pgs 350 - 371
Assign: Documentary Reaction Paper
Due: Storyboards and treatment for photo roman

WEEK 9

- 3/4 **Topic :** Avant-garde & other non-narrative approaches
Read: B & T: Chapter 10, pgs 369 – 395
Due: Documentary Reaction Paper
- 3/6 **Topic :** Avant-garde and other non-narrative approaches continued. Film form refresher.
Screen: *Baraka*
Assign: *Baraka* Reaction Paper

WEEK 10

- 3/11 **Screen:** *In the Mood for Love*
Due: *Baraka* Reaction Paper
- 3/13 **Topic:** **Final Exam**
Photo Roman Assignments Due Next Week

WEEK 11

3/18 FINALS WEEK: 8:45 – 11:00 am

Screen photo roman assignments

COURSE POLICIES:

In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES – Each student is responsible for their time management and 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 details of the homework if 'assignment' is listed on the syllabus – you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

DEADLINES – Media production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an 'A' in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

ATTENDANCE – Attendance and attention in class are mandatory. Any absence (missing more than 15 minutes of class time per session) will impact your grade. Each student is allowed ONE unexcused absence (equal to two tardies) before your grade is affected.

If you are sick, please contact me by email [prior](#) to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, absences may be excused and extensions may be granted. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion. Absolutely no consideration will be given for those who request special treatment without advanced notice, even with a doctor's note.

COMPUTER USE – Using the computer during class time for any reason other than taking notes will have a negative impact on your participation grade. I can tell the difference between using your laptop to take notes and using it for other purposes.

EXAMINATIONS – Students who do not take exams during the regularly scheduled time will receive a failing grade for the exam unless they have contacted the instructor in advance to arrange for a make-up exam. Students contacting the instructor after the exam has been given will not be allowed to make-up the exam for any reason. Make-up exams will be administered by the College according to its make-up exam schedule.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) at: <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/handbook/code16.html>.

READING ASSIGNMENTS – The assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class. The exam will cover both lecture and reading materials.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY – Please email or call any time you have a question or concern about the class. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, it means I did not receive your message so please check the address or phone number and contact me again. If you are unable to meet during my office hours, contact me to make other arrangements.