

Course: DC 210

Instructor: John Psathas

Office: CDM 462

Office hours: T TH 10:00 am - 11:30 am

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312.316.5471 (Cell)

## Summary

DC 210 - Digital Cinema Production I

This course is a beginning workshop in narrative film production. This course will explore the fundamentals of production including: organization and preparation, camera and lens technology, composition, lighting, cinematography, sound recording and directing. Utilizing digital technology, students will work together to produce several films with an emphasis on visual storytelling and personal expression.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and hierarchy of a working film production
- Understanding of the language of film and video and how to employ basic shooting and editing techniques to express a story visually
- Ability to successfully operate video cameras, lights, sound equipment, and non-linear editing programs in order to create a finished short film

## Texts

Handouts provided by Instructor

### **SUGGESTED**

On Directing Film, David Mamet

### **REQUIRED SUPPLIES:**

1 External FIREWIRE (400 or 800) or USB 3.0 Hard drive (250 GB minimum) - NO USB 2.0!!!

1 USB flashdrive for project backups (8 GB)

4 blank Mini DV Tapes

Blank DVD-Rs WITH CASES for screening class projects

## **Grading**

Script/Script Breakdown- 10%

Scene Storyboards and Plot Overheads- 10%

Lighting Assignment- 10%

48 hr. Midterm- 15%

Rough Cuts- 10%

Final Project- 30%

Participation- 15%

## **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### **Grading Scale**

93-100: A 90-92: A- 87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80- 82: B- 77-79: C + 73-76: C 70-72: C - 67-69: D + 60-66: D

## **Course Policies**

### **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.

### **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:**

This course demands class participation- attendance is mandatory. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized.

### **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. Following the readings will greatly impact your final film and aid you as filmmakers.

### **Group Evaluations:**

Most of the assignments in this class will require you to work in a team. At the end of the quarter, 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 all assignments; if evaluations are negative, the grades of the group member's in question will be docked. These evaluations will be HEAVILY factored into your grade for your midterm (worth 15% of your final grade) and final film (worth 30% of your final grade).

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on 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, consult your student handbook.

### **Content Changes:**

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require alteration or rescheduling. You will be notified of all changes. As the semester progresses, some items may change at the instructors discretion, but the overall workload will not. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly.

### **Sexual Harassment:**

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

## **Schedule:**

### **Week 1**

Introduction, Production Roles, Production Order of Operations

First steps in Pre-Production, Assigning Roles, Choosing Groups

READ: Mamet 1 & 2

### **Week 2**

Storyboards and Overheads, Visualization, Coverage, Composition, Editing in Camera

Locations, Casting Basics, Script Breakdowns

READ: Mamet 3

DUE: Scripts

Week 3

Equipment Overview, Camera functions and set up, basic sound recording

Camera contd., Lighting Demo

DUE: Script Breakdowns

Week 4

Grip/Electric, setting lights, Camera and Lighting tests

DUE: Scene Storyboards and Plot Overheads

Week 5

Grip/Electric, setting lights, Camera and Lighting tests cont'd

DUE: Lighting Assignment

Week 6

**48 HR. MIDTERM - PLAN YOUR TIME ACCORDINGLY!!!**

Week 7

Production meetings with groups

Scene construction, Directing, Working with Actors, Rehearsals

READ: Mamet Chapters 4 & 5

Week 8

Set Etiquette, Lingo, Production Management - Choices and Critical Paths, Directing

Week 9

Post-production Workflow, Editing, Sound Design, Exporting to DVD

DUE: Rough Cuts screened in class (Vimeo/Youtube or on DVD)

Week 10

Screening: Living in Oblivion

Screening: American Movie

## Week 11 - FINALS WEEK

Exam date and time: **TUESDAY, March 19th 11:45 a.m - 2:00 p.m.**

DUE: Final Films

Attendance at the scheduled final is mandatory- no exceptions.

## 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% 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.

## Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

## Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism

entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

## Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

## 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 either the PLS Program (for LD, AD/HD) or The Office for Students with Disabilities (for all other disabilities) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773)325.1677

Fax: (773)325.3720

TTY: (773)325.7296