

DC 274 - Image, Optics & Cinematic Motion - Summer Session I

Instructor: Brian Mellen
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Office hours: Before class by appointment only 4:30pm to 6:00pm TuTh

Summary of Course:

Cinematography is the scientifically grounded discipline of making lighting and camera choices in order to record moving images. This course deals with the basic mathematics, physics, and photochemistry that underlies cinematography and that motivates camera design and construction. While we have adopted motion images into our daily lives, most people are unaware of the complexities involved in its creation and distribution - the "language of motion" so to speak.

As opposed to photography where the story is one still image, cinematography must deal with objects in motion and the consequential time based considerations of shutter speed vs. frame rate, image resolution, camera motion, motion perception of the viewer and the display of the image(s) on large screens.

A student who masters the foundations of cinematography through a mixture of lectures, readings, exercises, and labs will be able to evaluate and understand how motion based recording choices affect perception of moving images they see everyday.

** Syllabus is subject to change*

Course objectives:

- To control the depiction of three-dimensional space on a 2D surface through the use of optics.
- To understand the nature of light and film/video latitude.
- To control exposure.
- To determine a visual "look" and achieve it through photochemical and/or digital means.
- To understand how the relationship of resolution, frame rate, shutter speed, and camera movement influence the viewer.

Textbooks and printed resources:

Cinematography, by Blain Brown

Hand-outs supplied by instructor as needed

Grading:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Assignments & In-Class Labs	30%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%

LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Grading Scale:

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82- 80, C+ = 79-77, C = 76-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-67, D = 66-63, 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

Course Policies:

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

Attendance & Participation:

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. For Summer Session I, you are allowed one (1) unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Three absences result in an automatic F for the course. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized.

Assignments and Exercises:

Assignments and exercises must be completed by the due date as indicated in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

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. Make-up exams will be administered by the College according to its make-up exam schedule.

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 <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct. All emails to the instructor must contain a heading specific to the subject discussed in the email.

Plagiarism:

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>.

Course Lectures/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 as specified by the instructor.

Content Changes:

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

CLASS SCHEDULE

** Syllabus schedule is subject to change*

Week One 06/18 and 06/20

Lecture: A History of Moving Images & Cameras, The Technical Transformation of Reality

Lab: Intro to Lab, Procedures, and ColWeb, Create and Upload an Animation in Class

Readings: Writing with Motion (pp. 1-11), Shooting Methods (pp. 13-33), Visual Language (pp. 37-52), Language of the Lens (pp. 53-66), Cinematic Continuity (pp. 77-102)

Week Two 06/25 and 06/27

Lecture - Exposure and Photography, Understanding Lighting and Depth of Field, Midterm Review

Lab - Light Metering

Quiz 1 due 06/27

Readings: Exposure (pp. 181-208), Visual Storytelling (pp. 67-75), Lighting Basics (pp. 103-126)

Week Three 07/02 (No class on 07/04 for the Fourth of July)

Lecture - Optics

Lab - Exposure - DoF

Midterm on 07/02 at 6pm

Readings: Optics & Focus (pp. 269-285), Camera Movement (209-226)

Week Four 07/09 and 07/11

Lecture - Specialized Cinematography, Color and Science

Lab - Optics

Quiz 2 due 07/11

Readings: Color (pp. 227-244), Image Control (pp. 245-268), HD Cinematography (pp. 147-180)

Week Five 07/16 and 07/18

Lecture - Image Control and History of TV, Future of Cinematography, Final Review

Lab - Slow Motion

Final Exam on 07/18 at 6pm