

# DC210–403 DIGITAL CINEMA PRODUCTION 1

FALL 2013

M/W: 10:10 – 11:40am

14 E. Jackson LL107 / LL106

**Instructor:** ANURADHA RANA

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Office hours: Wed 12:00–3:00 or appointment

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**Welcome to DC 210 a.k.a. Production I.** This class is an opportunity to learn the basics of the art, craft, trade and community of Film (except we're all digital). It's a place to take the gallant, yet possibly awkward steps that will someday grace the extras on a BluRay (or whatever is in season at the time) of famous directors' first films. It's a chance to experiment on things just *because*. It's an intense storm of information and exercises to prepare you for further study in digital cinema.

What do you want this experience to be? It's you who ultimately define this for yourself. So take chances. Take it seriously, but don't forget that cinema is an insanely dicey and challenging field; if you don't enjoy it, harbor some passion for it somewhere inside you that tingles your spine at the thought of all you can possibly do with this thing called "Filmmaking", you're probably wasting your time. Unlike a murky pond, the best way to test these waters is to just dive in. You're not alone, but ultimately your success is up to you.

Good luck and remember to have fun!

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a beginning workshop in **narrative film production**. The course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of cinema, including camera and lens technology, composition, lighting, directing and sound recording. Utilizing digital technology, students will produce several films with an emphasis on visual storytelling and personal expression.

**Prerequisite: DC 220**

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To understand the language of film and video and to employ basic shooting and editing techniques to express a story visually.
- To be able to successfully operate video cameras and non-linear editing programs in order to create a total of three required projects.
- To be able to enter more advanced courses including Digital Cinema II with a solid foundation of technical proficiency as well as the development of an individual style and expression.

## **TEXTBOOK and Course Materials:**

Handouts will be posted on D2L. It is your responsibility to download the handouts and the assignment guidelines.

Recommended : *On Directing Film* by David Mamet

## COURSE MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE STUDENT:

A portable FIREWIRE drive (no USB drives) for editing. You will need this by the end of the first week.

## GRADING

Grades will be given for each assignment. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. This class requires a time commitment outside of class hours. Please make a note of production weeks and In-class exercises.

**Late work will not be accepted.**

<b>GRADE BREAKDOWN:</b>	
<b>In-Class Exercises</b>	<b>15%</b>
▪ Scavenger Hunt (Stills, group)*	5
▪ Group lighting exercise (group)	5
▪ Shoot to script exercise (Class)**	5
<b>Films</b>	<b>60%</b>
▪ Chase Sequence (group):	15
▪ <b>Midterm</b> - Character Study (group):	20
▪ <b>Final</b> - Theme Film (individual):	25
<b>Quiz/Exams</b>	<b>15%</b>
▪ Quizzes – 3 (Online, equal weight)	7.5
▪ Final Exam (In Class)	7.5
<b>Other</b>	<b>10%</b>
▪ Attendance & Participation:	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Optional extra credit – film production:</i>	<i>2%</i>

\* Will need to be completed outside of class.

\*\* This is an extra in class shoot that will be scheduled if all the other exercises have been completed.

## Detailed descriptions of assignments and guidelines are available on D2L.

Please email me asap if you have any problem accessing the D2L class site or the assignment guidelines.

## GRADING SCALE

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.

## **GROUP EVALUATIONS:**

Most of the assignments in this class will require you to work in a team. Group/Self evaluations are due at the time of the final screening of each project. 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 members in question will be docked. These evaluations will be HEAVILY factored into your grade for attendance and participation. They will also affect your midterm and final film grades (worth 15% of your final grade).

**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.

## **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 an assignment is listed on the syllabus, you are 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** – This class requires class participation. 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 (1) unexcused absence (or two tardies). After that, each absence will incur a one letter grade deduction from your grade. Tardiness will also be penalized. Two tardies is equal to one absence. If you are sick, please email me before class to let me know, and keep me updated until you return to class.

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. Phones should be in your bag. If you are texting during class, you are not participating.

**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 text if you have a question or concern about the class. During the week, I respond promptly to emails. 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 emailing with a question the night before an assignment is due, do not expect an extension on the assignment. No late work will be accepted.

**Withdrawal and Drop Deadlines Autumn Quarter 2013:**

September 24, 2013	Last day to drop classes with no penalty Last day to select pass/fail option
September 25, 2013	Grades of “W” assigned for AQ2013 classes dropped on or after this day
October 29, 2013	Last day to withdraw from AQ2013 classes

## ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST:

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE	Complete?
<b>SCAVENGER HUNT</b>	<b>50 (5%)</b>	Week 2 – 9/18	
<b>CHASE SEQUENCE:</b>	<b>150 (15%)</b>		
Storyboards	30	Week 2 – 9/23	
Shoot Participation	50	Week 2	
Screen Fine Cut	70	Week 3 – 9/30	
<b>MIDTERM - CHARACTER STUDY:</b>	<b>200 (20%)</b>		
Ideas		Week 1 – 9/16	
PITCH + Treatment draft 1	20	Week 3 – 9/25	
Storyboards	20	Week 4 – 10/2	
Final Treatment	20	Week 4 – 10/2	
Rough Cut	40	Week 5 – 10/14	
Fine Cut	80	Week 6 – 10/21	
Group Evaluation	20	Week 6 – 10/21	
<b>LIGHTING EXERCISE (In Class)</b>	<b>50 (5%)</b>	Week 5 – 10/9	
<b>FINAL – THEME FILM</b>	<b>250 (25%)</b>		
Ideas		Week 5 – 10/9	
PITCH + Treatment draft 1	20	Week 6 – 10/16	
Final Treatment	20	Week 6 – 10/16	
Preproduction Package & Meeting	50	Week 7/8 – 10/28, 10/30	
Rough Cut	40	Week 9/10 – 11/11, 11/13	
Fine Cut	100	Week 11 –	
Self/Group Evaluation	20	Week 11 –	
<b>Set Etiquette Shoot (In Class)**</b>	<b>50 (5%)</b>	Week 9 – 11/11	
<b>EXAM &amp; Quiz</b>	<b>150 (15%)</b>		
Quiz Online	75	Various / online. Check D2L	
Final	75	Week 8 – 11/4	
<b>ATTENDANCE &amp; PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>100 (10%)</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>		
<b>EXTRA CREDIT</b>	<b>20 (2%)</b>	Announced in class	

\*\* This is an extra in class shoot that will be scheduled if all the other exercises have been completed.

## WEEK 1

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
9/11	Course Introduction Syllabus, Assignments	<b>Shoot Scavenger Hunt.</b> 8-10 still images from list provided. (Teams)	
<b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	Visualizing the film - Shot selection (shot sizes, angles, 180, continuity) Storyboards	3 Ideas for Character Study. One paragraph each. (Individual).	
9/16	Basic Principles of Cinematography.		3 <u>Ideas</u> for Character Study. One paragraph each. (Individual).
<b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	Camera functions (Set-up, White Balance, Focus, Iris, Depth of Field Sound Recording.)		

## WEEK 2

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
9/18	<a href="#">Screen: Scavenger Hunt images.</a>	Storyboards for Chase Sequence (One per production team).	Scavenger Hunt images. (One submission per team). Zip file.
<b>Read</b> Mamet 1 & 2 + Handouts	Principles of Cinematography – Composition & Framing Depth of Field.		
9/23	Visualizing on paper – Treatment writing Visual characters Story, Plot – Review	<b>Shoot Chase Sequence</b> (Teams) Due: 9/30	Storyboards for Chase Sequence (One per production team).
<b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	Character Study samples.	One Character Study <u>treatment</u> . 1-2 pages.	

## WEEK 3

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
9/25	Pitch Character Study.  5 ideas from class chosen. Students apply for crew positions.	Storyboards and revised treatment for Character Study  (In groups)	One Character Study <u>treatment</u> . 1-2 pages
9/30	<b>SCREEN Chase Sequences.</b>		Chase Sequence final edits.

### WEEK 4

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
10/2	Production Meetings for Character Study Shoot (In production teams).	<b>Shoot Character Study.</b> Rough cuts due 10/14	Storyboards and Final treatment for Character Study
10/7 <b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	Lighting aesthetics – Character, environment and mood.	Choose 2 images posted on D2L under <i>lighting setups</i> , bring props, 10/9.  3 Final Film ideas – One paragraph each.	

### WEEK 5

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
10/9	Lighting setups.		Props for lighting setup. (Groups)  3 Final Film ideas – One paragraph each.
10/14	<b>SCREEN: Character Study Rough Cuts</b>	Group Evaluations (D2L) 1 Final Film treatment	Rough Cuts – QuickTime file

### WEEK 6

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
10/16	Pitch Final Film	Complete Character Study.	1 Final Film treatment
10/21	<b>MIDTERM SCREENING– Character Study Fine</b>  Pre-production package	Preproduction Packages – Final Film.	Group Evaluations (D2L)

### WEEK 7

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
10/23 <b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	Shooting for the edit.  Prep for In Class Shoot. Set etiquette. Core production roles.	Bring Props on 11/6	
10/28	Pre-production meetings with groups	<b>Shoot Final Film.</b>	Preproduction packages for Final Film

## WEEK 8

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
10/30	Pre-production meetings with groups	Shoot Final Film.	Preproduction packages for Final Film
11/4	Exam		Screen - Rushes/Assembly

## WEEK 9

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
11/6	In Class Shoot – Short script. Set etiquette.		Props for shoot.
11/11	Screen : Rough cuts & feedback.	Pickups, if needed.	Rough Cuts

## WEEK 10

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
11/13	Screen : Rough cuts & feedback.	Pickups, if needed.	Rough cuts.
11/18	Screen: Rough cut revisions or Fine Cuts.	Self evaluation & peer review	Rough cuts revisions or Fine Cuts.

## WEEK 11 - FINALS WEEK

**11/25 8:45 – 11:00am.**  
**FINAL FILM SCREENING**

Due : Self Evaluations

Screen fine cuts of final films. Attendance is mandatory.

Missing this class will result in a grade of 'F' for the final film.

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**Equipment checklist for DC 210:**

**Camera & Basic Equipment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Canon XF 100      \* Ask for the camera by model number, not brand.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tripod

\_\_\_\_\_ Headphones

- Battery, 2 CF card,s AC adapter and charger included. Check battery charge before shooting.

**Sound Equipment (ask for each separately or make sure your kit has all)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Unidirectional Microphone(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Boom Pole

\_\_\_\_\_ Shock mount

\_\_\_\_\_ XLR cable

**Lighting kit (choice of the following):**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lowell mix: 2x 250 watt & 1x 500 watt

\_\_\_\_\_ Mini omni: 2x 500 watt & 1x 800 watt

\_\_\_\_\_ Omni 2: 2x 500 & 2x 800 watt

\_\_\_\_\_ VIP: 1x 500 & 2 (250)

Check kit contents against list on side.

Check operation of stands, plug in all fixtures to check operation.

**Lighting extras:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Stingers

\_\_\_\_\_ C-stands and flags

\_\_\_\_\_ Reflectors or bounce cards