

**Digital Cinema Production 1**  
**DC 210-501 Winter Quarter 2014**  
**Mon/Wed : 11:50am – 1:20pm**  
**LL107, 14 EAS, Loop**

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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.**

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

<b><u>In-Class Exercises</u></b>	<b>25%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scavenger Hunt (Stills, group)* 5</li> <li>• Group lighting exercise (group) 4</li> <li>• Shoot to script exercise (Class)** 4</li> <li>• Chase Sequence (group): 12</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Films</u></b>	<b>45%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Midterm</b> - Character Study (group): 20</li> <li>• <b>Final</b> - Theme Film (individual): 25</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Quiz/Exams</u></b>	<b>20%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes – 3 (Online, equal weight) 10</li> <li>• Final Exam (In Class) 10</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Other</u></b>	<b>10%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance &amp; Participation: 10</li> </ul>	
<b><u>TOTAL</u></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:**

January 17, 2014	Last day to drop classes with no penalty Last day to select pass/fail option
January 18, 2014	Grades of “W” assigned for WI 2014 classes dropped on or after this day
February 21, 2014	Last day to withdraw from WI 2014 classes

**ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST:**

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE	Complete?
<b>SCAVENGER HUNT</b>	<b>50 (5%)</b>	Week 3 – 1/20	
<b>CHASE SEQUENCE:</b>	<b>120 (12%)</b>		
Storyboards	30	Week 3 – 1/20	
Shoot Participation	30	Week 3	
Screen Fine Cut	60	Week 4 – 1/27	
<b>MIDTERM - CHARACTER STUDY:</b>	<b>200 (20%)</b>		
Treatment draft 1	20	Week 2 – 1/13	
PITCH + Storyboards + Final Treatment	40	Week 4 – 1/27	
Rough Cut	40	Week 5 – 2/5	
Fine Cut	80	Week 6 – 2/12	
Group Evaluation	20	Week 6 – 2/12	
<b>LIGHTING EXERCISE (In Class)</b>	<b>40 (4%)</b>	Week 5 – 10/9	
<b>FINAL – THEME FILM</b>	<b>250 (25%)</b>		
PITCH + Treatment draft 1	20	Week 6 – 2/10	
Preproduction Package & Meeting	70	Week 7 – 2/19	
Rough Cut	40	Week 9 & 10 – 3/5 & 3/10	
Fine Cut	100	Week 10 & 11– 3/12 & 3/19	
Self/Group Evaluation	20	Week 11 –	
<b>Set Etiquette Shoot (In Class)**</b>	<b>40 (4%)</b>	Week 7 – 2/19	
<b>EXAM &amp; Quiz</b>	<b>200 (20%)</b>		
Quiz Online	100	Various / online. Check D2L	
Final	100	Week 9 – 3/3	
<b>ATTENDANCE &amp; PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>100 (10%)</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>		

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

**WEEK 1**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
<b>1/6</b>	Course Introduction Syllabus, Assignments  Stages of Production Roles in production	Production Groups (3 students per group)  <b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	
<b>1/8</b>	Visualizing on paper – treatments, scripts.  Script breakdowns, Locations, casting, releases & permits	One Character Study <u>treatment</u> . 1-2 pages.  <b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	

**WEEK 2**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
<b>1/13</b>	Visualizing the film - Shot selection (shot sizes, angles)  Composition & Framing  Storyboards	<b>Shoot Scavenger Hunt.</b> 6 still images from list provided. (Teams of 3)  <b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	One Character Study visual <u>treatment</u> . 1-2 pages
<b>1/15</b>	Basic Principles of Cinematography.  Lenses Continuity  Intro to Chase Sequence	Storyboards for Chase Sequence (One per production team). Location scout.  <b>Read</b> Mamet 1 & 2 + Handouts	

**WEEK 3**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
<b>1/20</b>	Equipment: Camera functions (Set-up, White Balance, Focus, Iris, Depth of Field Sound Recording.)		<b>Scavenger Hunt.</b> (One submission per team). Zip file uploaded to D2L.  Storyboards for Chase Sequence (One per production team).
<b>1/22</b>	<b>Shoot Chase Sequence</b> (Teams) Due: 1/22	Storyboards and revised treatment for Character Study  (In groups)	

**WEEK 4**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
1/27	<b>SCREEN Chase Sequences.</b> Pitch Character Study.	<b>Shoot Character Study.</b> Rough cuts due 10/14	Chase Sequence final edits. (1 min. max) Storyboards and Final treatment for Character Study
1/29	Lighting aesthetics – Character, environment and mood.	<b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	

**WEEK 5**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
2/3	Lighting Demo		
2/5	<b>SCREEN: Character Study</b> <b>Rough Cuts</b>	Group Evaluations (D2L) 1 Final Film treatment	Rough Cuts – QuickTime file

**WEEK 6**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
2/10	Pitch Final Film	Complete Character Study.	1 Final Film treatment
2/12	<b>MIDTERM SCREENING–</b> <b>Character Study Fine</b>	Pre-production package – Final Film	Group Evaluations (D2L)

**WEEK 7**

	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGN</b>	<b>DUE TODAY</b>
2/17 <b>Read</b> Handouts on D2L	Shooting for the edit. Prep for In Class Shoot. Set etiquette. Choose production roles	Bring Props on 2/19	
2/19	In Class Shoot – Short script. Set etiquette. Blocking.		Preproduction packages for Final Film

**WEEK 8**

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
2/24	Production meetings with groups	Shoot Final Film.	Preproduction packages for Final Film
2/26	Production meetings with groups	Shoot Final Film.	Screen - Rushes/Assembly

#### WEEK 9

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
3/3	Exam	Pickups, if needed.	Rough Cuts
3/5	Post-production and Sound  Screen : Rough cuts & feedback.		

#### WEEK 10

	TOPICS	ASSIGN	DUE TODAY
3/10	Screen : Rough cuts & feedback.	Pickups, if needed.	Rough cuts.
3/12	Screen: Fine Cuts.	Self evaluation & peer review	Rough cuts revisions or Fine Cuts.

#### WEEK 11 - FINALS WEEK

**3/19 11:45 – 2:00pm.**

#### **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