

DC 420 Editing – SECTION 801

Instructor: [Melissa Lawrenz](#)

Quarter: Winter 2015

W 5:45PM - 9:00PM

CDM 632 Loop Campus

Email: mlawrenz@cdm.depaul.edu or mlawrenz@gmail.com

Phone: (312) 371-8471

Office hours: W 9:00 – 10:30 PM – CDM Loop Room 632

Summary of Course:

Emphasis is on developing the student's understanding of the art of cinematic storytelling and montage. Work on more advanced projects is integrated into the class as a means of mastering advanced editing tools and techniques.

* If you have no previous editing experience prior to this course, you will struggle. Avid has a steep learning curve and prior editing experience is a must in order to keep up with this class. Building upon previous training in Adobe Premiere, DC 420 will expand that knowledge base in Avid Media Composer, the industry standard for feature film, TV, documentary and advertising. As such, it is imperative for cinema editors to be adept at multiple applications.

PREREQUISITE(S): DC 220 or DC 460 or DC 409

Learning Outcomes: In DC 420, students will:

1. Study the “rules” of editing (i.e. when to cut and when not to cut).
2. To understand numerous styles of editing- the history and skills needed
3. Gain a good foundation of editing in Avid Media Composer.
4. Learn advanced editing concepts
5. Be able to effectively understand the technical ins and outs of Post-Production as it applies to workflows and delivery.

Required Text:

In the Blink of an Eye, Walter Murch, Silman-James press. 2nd Edition. 2001.

ISBN-10: 1879505622 / ISBN-13: 978-1879505629

Lynda.com: Avid Media Composer 8 Essential Training with Ashley Kennedy

Recommended Texts:

Avid Editing: A Guide for Beginning and Intermediate Users, 5th Ed., Sam Kauffmann & Ashley Kennedy, Focal Press, 2012

Lynda.com – online tutorials

Avid Agility, 3rd Ed., Steve Cohen, Createspace, 2012.

Make the Cut: A Guide to Becoming a Successful Assistant Editor in Film & TV, Lori Coleman & Diana Friedberg, Focal Press, 2010.

Cut by Cut: Editing Your Film or Video, 2nd Ed., Gael Chandler, Michael Wiese Productions, 2012.

Required Supplies:

You must have your own external drive for your project work for this and other DC classes. A USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt is recommended. The new computers no longer support Firewire. If you have a Firewire drive, you will need a Thunderbolt adapter.

A USB flash drive is also recommended for project back ups. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained.

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

Grading:

Attendance & Participation 5%

Avid Quizzes 10%

Article Reviews 10%

Project 1 15%

Project 2 20%

Project 3 20%

Midterm 10%

Final Exam 10%

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:

Cinema 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 & 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. You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized.

Quizzes:

There are five Avid Quizzes testing on your ability to retain information taught in class and learned through weekly usage of the application.

Article Reviews, Class Discussion:

There will be five reading assignments from articles that I assign. You will read and write a one to two page review highlighting the most interesting points of the articles and what you thought about what was discussed. We will discuss the articles in class so you can use your review for the discussion. Students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. The written review is graded so proofread the article before turning it in.

Midterm:

The Midterm will consist of multiple choice, T/F questions, short answer and an essay based on class presentations and homework.

Final Exam:

The Final will consist of multiple choice, T/F questions, and short answers based on class presentations from the last half of the quarter and Avid ideas presented throughout the quarter.

Online Course Evaluations:

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 three weeks. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Attitude:

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting, or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise, a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

Cell Phones/On Call:

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect for fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

Academic Policies:

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

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 the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312) 362.8002

Fax: (312) 362.6544 TTY: (773) 325.7296

Content Changes:

Depending on time factors, equipment, software and infrastructure issues, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling

CLASS SCHEDULE:**Week 1: 1/7**

Introductions, Syllabus, The Editing Process, AVID LAB #1- Intro

Homework:

1. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 1, 2- through *Performing basic edits...*, Ch. 3- *Linking to media using AMA and Consolidating and Transcoding AMA media*, Ch. 7- *Syncing video to high quality audio*

2. Download media for Project 1 at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y2dza0jw6f696wd/AACcQeMdm9VZ27EM0gs3NtNPa?dl=0>

Week 2: 1/14

Avid Quiz #1, Post Production Workflow, Assign Project 1, AVID LAB #2- Starting a project, AMA & Transcoding, Syncing Audio with Video, Project Organization, User Profiles & Settings, Basic Editing

Homework:

1. **Read Article #1 Anne Coates**- Write up review
2. **Project 1**- Sync, organize project, full assembly edit, upload Project File to Dropbox
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 2- *Using the Smart Tool* through to the end of the chapter, Ch. 4

Week 3: 1/21

Avid Quiz #2, Editing Dialogue, Adding the Soundtrack as an Editor, AVID LAB #3- More Basic Editing, The Smart Tool, Audio Editing, Titles, Exporting a QT

Homework:

1. **Read Article #2 Mark Livolsi**- Write up review
2. **Project 1**- Rough Cut, export QT and upload to Dropbox
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 5, 8

Week 4: 1/28

Avid Quiz #3, Project 1 Screening for feedback, Cutting Action, Comedy, Horror and Suspense, AVID LAB #4- Trimming, Transitions and Effects

Homework:

1. Project 1- Fine Cut, Export QT and upload with Project File to Dropbox
2. Download media for Project 2 at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/daxnlf0d06tzoaj/AADTdjS1Nc0iFewECMYf2vfxa?dl=0>
3. Study for Midterm

Week 5: 2/4

MIDTERM Exam, Assign Project 2- Set up in class

Homework:

1. **Read Article #3 Animation Editors**- Write up review
2. Project 2- Assembly, Export QT and upload with Project File to Dropbox
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 7, 14

Week 6: 2/11

Cutting Animation & Docs, Dealing with VFX, AVID LAB #5- Review Audio Editing, Managing Media

Homework:

1. Project 2- Rough Cut, Export QT upload to Dropbox

Week 7: 2/18

Avid Quiz #4, Project 2 Screening for Feedback, Working with File Based Media vs. Film, AVID LAB #6

Homework:

1. Project 2- Fine Cut, Export QT upload to Dropbox
2. Download media from Project 3 – location information to come

Week 8: 2/25

Avid Quiz #5, Assign Project 3, Analyzing a Script, Using Experimental Techniques in Narrative

Homework:

1. **Read Article #4 Music Editors-** Write up review
2. Project 3- Assembly, Export QT and upload with Project File to Dropbox
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 11 Basic Color Correction

Week 9: 3/4

Prepping for Sound Design & Mix, Finishing & Delivery, AVID LAB #7- Prepping sequence for sound design and finishing, Color Correction

Homework:

1. **Read Article #5 Balancing Act-** Write up review
2. Project 3- Rough Cut, Export QT upload to Dropbox

Week 10: 3/11

Working in Post Production, Project 3 Screening for feedback, Avid Review

Homework:

1. Project 3- **Fine Cut is due at 5:45pm on March 18th.** Upload QT and Project File to Dropbox.

Final Exam: March 18, 2015 at 5:45pm in CDM 632

IMPORTANT DATES: WINTER QUARTER 2015

January 05, 2015	Begin WQ2015 Day & Evening Classes	Winter Term
January 07, 2015	DQ/GI 2014 GRADES DUE	December Term/Graduate Intercession
January 09, 2015	Last day to add classes to WQ2015 schedule	Winter Term
January 16, 2015	Last day to drop classes with no penalty, Last day to select pass/fail option	Winter Term
January 17, 2015	Grades of “W” assigned for classes dropped on or after this day	Winter Term
January 23, 2015	Last day to select auditor status	Winter Term
January 31, 2015	Begin optional mid-term exam week	Winter Term
February 06, 2015	End optional mid-term exam week	Winter Term
February 20, 2015	Last day to withdraw from WQ2015 classes	Winter Term
February 20, 2015	Last day to withdraw from WQ2015 classes	Winter Term
March 13, 2015	End WQ2015 Day & Evening Classes	Winter Term
March 13, 2015	TUITION DUE: SPRING QUARTER 2015	Spring Term
March 14, 2015	Begin WQ2015 Day & Evening Final Exams	Winter Term
March 20, 2015	End WQ2015 Day & Evening Final Exams	Winter Term