DC 110 Foundations of Cinema
Fall 2015
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:10AM - 11:40AM
243 S Wabash Room 708

Instructor: Andy Hoffman
ahoffma7@cdm.depaul.edu
Office: CDM429
Office Hours: T Th 9:20 - 10:10am

Summary of the Course
This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. Drawing
heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many
expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms:
image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and
performance. An emphasis will be placed on story and storytelling. In addition to
analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects putting
theory into practice. Please Note: This course teaches concepts rather than technology.
Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in DC 110 to better communicate their ideas
in Digital Cinema Production I (DC 210) and beyond.

Learning Outcomes
The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end
of the course students should understand cinematic language and be able to
incorporate structure, the framed image, sound, and editing into their own creative work.
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

·   analyze how cinematic techniques function to tell a story or convey a theme

·   synthesize cinematic techniques in the production of their own creative work

·   identify how techniques function in multiple genres and forms

·   create a project from concept to exhibition

·   utilize basic film production language

Textbooks and Readings

Film Art: An Introduction (10th Edition)
by David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson.

Additional assigned readings provided by the instructor

September 8, 2015

Grading

Late work will not be accepted for grading. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless noted otherwise.

Grade Breakdown:
Attendance and Participation 15%
Fave Film 5%
Silent Shorts 10%
Narrative Structure 5%
Mise-en-scene 5%
Still Photo 15%
City Symphony 15%
Scene Analysis 5%
Final Project 25%

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.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Week by Week Outline

WEEK 1	TH 9/10	Introduction & Syllabus What is Cinema? Thinking about movies differently
	TU 9/15	Film Form Read: B & T, Chs.1 & 2
WEEK 2	TH 9/17	IN-CLASS TRAINING
	TU 9/22	Basic Concepts and terminology InClass: Silent Short Projects
WEEK 3	TH 9/24	Narrative: Plot, Story, Character Read: B & T, Ch. 3
	TU 9/29	Mise-en-scéne Juxtaposition Read: B & T, Ch. 4

WEEK 4	TH 10/1	Screen: Fargo (Coen Brothers 1996)
	TU 10/6	Cinematography Read: B & T, Ch. 5
WEEK 5	TH 10/8	Screen: Visions of Light (McCarthy, 1992)
	TU 10/13	Editing Read: B & T, Ch. 6
WEEK 6	TH 10/15	Sound Read: B & T, Ch. 7
	TU 10/20	Style as Formal System Screen: Citizen Kane (Welles, 1941)
WEEK 7	TH 10/22	Citizen Kane (cont.)
	TU 10/27	Screen: Class Projects
WEEK 8	TH 10/29	Concept & Pitches for Final Projects
	TU 11/3	Screen: Halloween (Carpenter, 1979)
WEEK 9	TH 11/5	Genre, Ideology, & Other Ways of Understanding
	TU 11/10	Challenging Classical Cinema: Neorealism, New Wave & Beyond Project Updates
WEEK 10	TH 11/12	Documentary Read: B & T: Chapter 10, pgs 350-371
	T 11/17	Experimental & AvantGarde Read: B & T: Chapter 10, pgs 369-395
WEEK 11	TH 11/19	FINAL EXAM: Project Screenings (TimeTBD) Recap: What is Cinema? 21st Century Edition

September 8, 2015

Assignment #1: Intro & Fav Film response (5 pts). Due 9/15.

Project #1: Silent Shorts (5 pts). Due 9/22.

Assignment #2: Narrative Structure (5 pts). Due 9/29.

Assignment #3: Mise-en-scéne analysis (5 pts). Due 10/6.

Project #2: Still Photo Project (15 pts). Due 10/13.

Project #3: City Symphony Project (15 pts). Due 10/20.

Assignment #4: Scene Analysis (5 pts). Due 10/27.

Concept & Pitches for Final Projects. Due 10/29.

PreProduction/Storyboards for Final Project. Due 11/10.

Project #4: Final Project (25 pts). Due 11/19.

Course Policies:
In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies also apply:

Attendance
Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

D2L
You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to: https://login.depaul.edu/cas/login?service=https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/orgtools/CAS/ Default.aspx and enter using your campus connect logon and password. Once you are logged on, click on the course number link and you will find links to the syllabus and any course related material.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

September 8, 2015

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 do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. 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.

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

Class Discussion

Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

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.

Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such 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 without disrupting class. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is **never** allowed in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course/class.

September 8, 2015