

DC 110 FOUNDATION OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

Section 405; Fall 2015-2016

Lecture Location: CDM, Loop Campus, #708
Day/Time: Mon/Wed, 11:50 – 1:20 PM

Instructor: B. Rich
E-mail: brich3@cdm.depaul.edu
Office Hours: Refer to Faculty [Page](#) for current schedule

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

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.

Course objectives:

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.

The following topics will be covered:

- The importance of story and expressing ideas;
- Storytelling with images;
- Basics of image composition and editing;
- The basics of lighting and sound design
- Narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches and their intersections.

Learning Outcomes:

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

Required Texts, Software, Hardware:

- Course Management System – D2L
- Hand-outs (electronic via D2L) as supplied by instructor
- Required Textbook:
Film Art, 10th edition
 Bordwell & Thompson
 McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences
 ISBN: 978-0073-535104
- Still and Video Camera, Audio Recording Equipment (available for check-out from Cage)
- Editing Software
- CDM [Computer Labs](#) are available for software use outside of class
- CDM labs offer Adobe Creative Cloud on PC and Mac operating systems. Information about acquiring Adobe Creative Cloud and other software is available [here](#).
- Supplemental instruction at LYNDAL.COM may be helpful. It is available at the library and by (free) [subscription](#). Make sure you're logged into Campus Connect before clicking on the Log into Lynda.com link on the page.

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 and posted in D2L.

Grading:

Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time (all deadlines are on the syllabus and on D2L). Late work will receive zero points for grading. Quizzes will not be accepted after the due date. All assignments are due the date they are assigned. Assignments may not be resubmitted for new grades. If you anticipate you will miss class, the assignment must be submitted the day it is due, unless the absence for the class is excused (documented illness, death in the family, etc.). Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

Creative Exercises 40%

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|----|
| • Self-Portrait | 3 Images that tell part of your story | 15 |
| • Midterm | Photo Roman (Mise-en-Scene, Editing + Sound Design) | 30 |
| • Soundscape | Thematic (Pairs, Audio only) | 15 |
| • Final | Short film (Storyboards, No Dialogue, Available Lighting, Open Ending) | 40 |

Responses 30%

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Response papers to 2 different films (TBA) | Equal Weight |
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Quizzes 10%

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| • 3 throughout the quarter | Equal Weight |
|----------------------------|--------------|

Attendance 10%**Participation 10%****Total 100%**

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|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Scale – A: 100-94 | A-: 93-90 | B+: 89-88 | B: 87-83 | B-: 82-80, |
| C+: 79-78 | C: 77-73 | C-: 72-70, | | |
| D+: 69-68 | D: 67-60 | F: 59-0 | | |

Weekly Schedule (subject to change):

Readings for a particular class are to be read in preparation for that class.

Additional readings, exercises and projects will be assigned throughout the quarter.

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|---------------|-------------|---|
| WEEK 1 | | |
| 9/9 | Topic: | Introductions, Syllabus The filmmaking process Basic film terminology |
| | Reading: | B&T Chapter 1 (Bordwell & Thompson, <i>Film Art</i>) |
| | Screen: | Shorts (various) |
| | Assign: | Short Film / Clip Schedule |
| WEEK 2 | | |
| 9/14 | Topic: | Cage & Equipment Introduction |
| 9/16 | Topic: | Narrative Structure Film Terminology (cont) |
| | Read: | B&T Chapter 3 |
| | Screen: | Shorts (various) |
| | Assign: | Film Structure breakdown (films on D2L) |
| WEEK 3 | | |
| 9/21 | Topic: | Narrative Structure (cont) Photo Roman |
| | Read: | B&T Chapter 2 |
| | Screen: | <i>La Jeteé</i> (Chris Marker), others |
| | Assign: | Response #1 Quiz #1 (D2L) |
| 9/23 | Topic: | Mise-en-scene |
| | Read: | B&T Chapter 4 |
| | Screen: | Various |
| | DUE: | Film Structure breakdown |
| WEEK 4 | | |
| 9/28 | Topic: | Mise-en-scene (cont) |
| | Screen: | <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> |
| | Assign: | Self-Portrait |
| | DUE: | Quiz #1 (D2L) Response #1 |
| 9/30 | Topic: | Cinematography |
| | Read: | B&T Chapter 5 |
| | Screen: | Various |
| WEEK 5 | | |
| 10/5 | Topic: | Cinematography (cont) |
| | Assign: | MIDTERM Project (Mise-en-scene, Sound design) |
| 10/7 | Screen: | Self-Portraits |
| | DUE: | Self-Portraits |

Weekly Schedule (cont)

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|--------------------|---|--|
| WEEK 6 | | |
| 10/12 | Topic: | Self-Portraits (cont) |
| 10/14 | Topic: Assign: Assign: | Editing – Continuity, Discontinuity, Montage, etc. <i>Run Lola Run</i> (watch outside of class) Quiz #2 (D2L) |
| WEEK 7 | | |
| 10/19 | Topic: DUE: | Midterm Screenings Midterm Projects |
| 10/21 | Topic: Read: Assign: DUE: | Sound B&T Chapter 7 Soundscapes Quiz #2 (D2L) |
| WEEK 8 | | |
| 10/26 | Topic: Read: Screen: Assign: | Final Projects B&T Chapters 8,9 Various Final Projects |
| 10/28 | Topic: Read: | Documentary Approaches B&T Chapter 10, pp 350-371 |
| WEEK 9 | | |
| 11/2 | Topic: Screen: Assign: DUE: | Documentary <i>Gimme Shelter</i> or TBD Response #3 Quiz #3 (D2L) Storyboards for Final Project |
| 11/4 | Topic: Read: Listen: DUE: | Avant-garde & other 'non-narrative' approaches B&T Chapter 10, pp 369-395 Soundscapes Soundscapes |
| WEEK 10 | | |
| 11/9 | Topic: Screen: DUE: | Avant-garde, etc. (cont) TBA Response #3 Quiz #3 (D2L) |
| 11/11 | Screen: | <i>In The Mood for Love</i> or TBD |
| WEEK 10.5 | | |
| 11/16 | Topic: DUE: | Final Projects Final Projects – Group 1 Attendance for ALL screenings is mandatory to receive credit for Final Project |
| FINALS WEEK | | |
| Date TBD | Topic: DUE: | Final Projects Final Projects – Group 2 Attendance for ALL screenings is mandatory to receive credit for Final Project |

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

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. Some guidelines for your emails:

- Always include the course # in your subject line: DC274-301
- Be clear and concise in your subject line; ex: "DC274-301– question about assignment X"
- Don't reply to class-wide email unless it pertains specifically to the subject of that email
- To that end, begin a new email thread for any new question, notification, etc.
- If you don't get a response within 1 business day, please resend as there may be an email issue

Attendance: Classes will consist of lectures, screenings, discussion, and creative exercises. Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or showing up after class has started. Any absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade. Three absences can result in an automatic F for the course.

Assignments and Exercises: See criteria under Grading.

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.

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. Exams/Quizzes will cover both lecture and reading materials as specified by the instructor.

Class Participation: Student participation will be measured in several ways. Students are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the class topics. Questions will be posed to the class; students are encouraged to offer answers, insights and best guesses.

Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include: talking to others when someone is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing/vibrating, emailing, etc. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting and other forms of technological socializing is not allowable in class. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom.

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, leave the room in an undistruptive manner. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

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.

DePaul University Policies:

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 under [Enrollment Policies](#).

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.

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