

DC 210-801 Digital Cinema Production 1  
Winter 2015 - 2016  
Mondays 5:45 - 9:00pm  
14 East Jackson 214

**Instructor: Andy Hoffman**  
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**Office: CDM429**

**Office Hours: M 8:45 - 9:30pm T 5:30 - 6:15pm (or by appointment)**

### **Summary of the Course**

This course is a beginning workshop in narrative film production. This course will explore the fundamentals of production including: organization and preparation, camera and lens technology, composition, lighting, cinematography, sound recording and directing. Utilizing digital technology, students will work together to produce several films with an emphasis on visual storytelling and personal expression.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- Describe the roles, responsibilities, and hierarchy of a working film production.
- Explain the language of film and video
- Employ basic shooting and editing techniques to express a story visually.
- Create a finished short film using video cameras, lights, sound equipment, and non-linear editing programs

### **Textbooks and Readings**

*On Directing Film* David Mamet  
*Adobe Premiere Pro CC Classroom in a Book*  
*The Filmmaker's Handbook* Ascher and Pincus

Additional assigned readings provided by the instructor

### **Course Materials to be Obtained by the Student**

- Reliable internet access
- portable FIREWIRE or equivalent drive for editing

## 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 20%

Portrait of an Apartment 10%

Lighting Assignment 10%

Documentary 15%

48 Hour Midterm 15%

Casting Video 5%

Pre-Production Packet Narrative Project 5%

Distribution Plan 5%

Final Project 15%

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 (any assignment that is underlined is GRADED)

**Week 1**      **1/4**      Introductions, syllabus & course goals.

Composition

Camera Functions: Assembling tripod, white balance, focus, iris shutter speed, basic camera moves

**ASSIGNMENT:** Portrait of an Apartment

Read Ascher and Pincus Ch 4, 6

**Week 2**      **1/11**      **DUE:** Portrait of an Apartment

Film Roles: Who Does What?

Discuss Narrative Project

Select Groups for Narrative Project

Lighting: Types of lights, controlling light, basic electricity, safety, setting lights for a mood

**ASSIGNMENTS:**    Lighting Project  
                             Logline Narrative Project  
                             Scripts Narrative Project  
Read Ascher and Pincus Ch 9, 12

**Week 3**        **1/18**    **NO CLASS MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

**Week 4**        **1/25**    **DUE:** Lighting Project  
**DUE:** Logline Narrative Project

Pre Production: Script Breakdown, Storyboards, Overheads, Shot Lists, Locations, etc.

Sound: Recording sound, different microphones, using sound to tell story

**Assignment:**        Schedule Casting Session  
**Assignment:**        Pre-Production Packet Narrative Project  
**Assignment:**        The Documentary  
Read Mamet Ch 1, 2  
Read Ascher Ch 15

**Week 5**        **2/1**        **DUE:** The Documentary  
Screen Documentaries

Directing: Casting, Working with Actors, Rehearsals  
In Class Demo: Breakdown Express

Coverage - shooting for the edit. 180 Degree Principle, Shot Types, etc.

**Week 6**        **2/8**        **DUE:** Scripts Narrative Project  
**MIDTERM 48 Hour Film Project**  
**No formal class.**

**2/10 DUE: MIDTERM**

**Week 7**        **2/15**    Screen Midterm projects

Group work on Pre Production Packet

Feedback on Scripts

- Week 8**      **2/22**    **DUE:** Pre Production Packets Narrative Project
- BLRTS - in class workshop
- Special Guest: Roy Brown, Hollywood Writer
- Advanced camera and lighting techniques
- Week 9**      **2/29**    **DUE:** Casting Session Videos
- Read Ascher and Pincus Ch 17
- Post Production Workflow, Film Festivals, Digital Platforms, Distribution
- Behind the Scenes Videos: How the Greats Do It
- Fincher Analysis Video
- ASSIGNMENT:** Develop Distribution Plan for Narrative Project
- Week 10**    **3/7**      **DUE:** Distribution Plan for Narrative Project
- Screen Rough Cuts
- In Class Screening: *Living in Oblivion*
- Week 11**    **3/14**    **DUE:** NARRATIVE PROJECT FINAL CUTS.  
**ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** Missing final class will result in a grade of "F" on Narrative Project.

## Assignments and Due Dates

Assignment	Date Assigned	Date Due	Graded
Portrait of an Apartment	1/4	1/11	Y
Logline Narrative Project	1/11	1/25	N
Lighting Assignment	1/11	1/25	Y
Scripts Narrative Project	1/11	2/8	N
Pre-Pro Packet Narrative Project	1/25	2/22	Y
The Documentary	1/25	2/1	Y
Casting Session	1/25	2/29	Y
48 Hour Midterm	2/8	2/10	Y
Distribution Plan Narrative Project	2/29	3/7	Y
Narrative Project	1/11	3/14	Y

### 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. 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.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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.