

DC 321 - Production Design Winter Term 2016

Instructor Prof. John Corba

Class Room: Loop Campus, Daley Building (14 E. Jackson) Room 503

Class Time: Mondays, 5:45-9:00pm

Course Web: <https://d2l.depaul.edu>

Email: jcorba@cdm.depaul.edu

My Website: www.jcorba.com

Office hours: Loop Campus, Daley Building (14 E. Jackson) Room 503
Mondays / 5:00-5:45pm and after class
Or by emailed appointment at DePaul Cinespace Studios

Summary of Course:

Cinematic Production Design and its affiliated departments are responsible for creating the settings, atmospheres, and characters that establish a film's look or "feel". Design can also comment on the action, help move the plot, and add symbolic content. Art directors, scenic designers, draftsmen, set decorators, scenic painters, prop-masters, costume designers, stylists, and hair/make-up personnel are just a few of the many craftspeople that work under the title, "Production Design" and are members of the Art Department. In this course, we will analyze the production design of a number of visual media through screenings, readings and lecture. Students will also work on projects and be required to go through all stages of preproduction with regard to production design. This may include but is not limited to: architectural, decorative, costume, and cultural research, location scouting, budgeting, drawing/drafting, color theory, prop making, and costume and make-up choices.

Textbooks & Materials:

What an Art Director Does: An Introduction to Motion Picture Production Design

By Ward Preston

ISBN 978-1879505186

Filmcraft: Production Design

By Fionnuala Halligan

ISBN-13: 978-0240823751

All other reading materials will be handed out in class or on the Desire2Learn site.

Objective and Learning Outcomes of the course:

In this course students will analyze the collaborative relationship of the Art Department as it relates to the role of production design being a narrative art form. By the end of the term students will be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the production designer's role, critique the synthesis of stagecraft, set decoration, prop, costume, and make-up choices as narrative tools, and evaluate existing works including their own. More specifically students will be able to:

- Describe and analyze the role of production design and its affiliated crafts.
- Demonstrate effective research and preproduction planning.
- Produce a production design strategy and presentation.
- Synthesize, present, and critique stagecraft, set decoration prop, costume, and make-up choices as narrative tools.

Course Breakdown:

There are two major projects for this course in addition to the other assignments. Assessment measures include a series of progressive assignments with in each project: a written script or treatment with visual aids summarizing a chosen aesthetic, a breakdown identifying production design needs, concept art and/or models, and a budget breakdown. Each assignment will build on the previous one and will culminate with a presented production design strategy.

<u>Visual Journal -</u>	10 points	10.0%
<u>PD paper –</u>	10 points	10.0%
<u>Project 1 - Music Video</u> (4 parts) (Treatment, Breakdown, Concept Art, Budget)	25 points	25.0%
<u>Project 2– Short Film</u> (4 parts) (Treatment, Breakdown, Concept Art, Budget)	25 points	25.0%
<u>Attendance and Class Participation</u>	30 points	30.0%
<hr/>		
Total	100 points	100%

An expanded description of each follows:

Visual Journal - Inspiration can come at any time and in a variety of forms. You will be required to keep a journal of all things visual. Photos, tear sheets, artwork, sketches, anything is game. It can be a hard copy, blog, or online pegboard (while I'm not a huge fan of Pinterest, it works)

PD Paper – Pick a production designer whose work interests you and write a paper on them. 5-6 pages, images are allowed.

Project 1 – Music Video – Working in groups, you will pick a song, (I highly encourage a local band or someone you know) and design a music video for them. You will need to submit the following:

- 1) A written treatment stating the idea for the song and a chosen aesthetic.
- 2) A written breakdown identifying all production design needs (locations, props, costumes, materials, etc.)
- 3) Concept art and image “bible” reflecting visual ideas.
- 4) And a “visual slide show”, storyboard and/or animatic with audio track.

Project 2 – Short Film – Again working in groups, you will be assigned a short script for which you will create a production design strategy. You will need to submit the following:

- 1) A written treatment describing the story and aesthetic choices.
- 2) A written script/treatment breakdown identifying all production design needs.
- 3) Concept Art, an image “bible” reflecting visual ideas and model of at least on set.
- 4) A comprehensive budget reflecting all costs (materials, labor, rentals, etc.)

Attendance and Class Participation - Class attendance is mandatory. Film making and particularly production design is a collaborative craft. Class time will be spent on discussing material from the readings, analyzing screenings and working in groups on the assigned projects. Group discussions are a key component to the success of the class. Points will be taken off for a lack of contributing to the discussion.

Class Attendance and Discussion Policy:

Class Attendance: Each class consists of lectures, discussions, and screenings. Your attendance in the course is required. The class is participatory and the instructor's material and concepts are presented during class meetings. 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 after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

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" a student's voice when grading papers. Second, students should expect they will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments, screenings or projects and are expected to participate in the discussion.

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 to 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.

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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

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

Dec 15, 2015

Week	Topic	Reading/Screening Homework	Homework Due	
<u>Week 1</u> Jan. 4	Intro Syllabus Expectations Student Intros	<u>Filmmakers Guide</u> – Chap. 1-4 <u>What an Art Director Does-</u> Chap. 1-6		
<u>Week 2</u> Jan. 11	Assign Groups, The Art Department, Preproduction & Music Videos	<u>Filmmakers Guide</u> – Chap. 6-12 <u>What an Art Director Does-</u> Chap. 7 – 11 The Godfather II		
<u>Week 3</u> Jan. 18	No class	<u>Filmmakers Guide</u> – Chap. 13- 18 <u>What an Art Director Does-</u> Chap. 12 – 16		
<u>Week 4</u> Jan. 25	The Godfather II, Locations, Sourcing, & Collaboration.	Barton Fink		
<u>Week 5</u> Feb. 1	Barton Fink, Music Videos pitches, Assign Project 2		Music Video Presentations	
<u>Week 6</u> Feb. 8	Script Breakdown, Research, Budgets, Paper	Silence of the Lambs		
<u>Week 7</u> Feb. 15	Silence of the Lambs, Symbolism and Allegory			
<u>Week 8</u> Feb. 22	Group work		PD Paper	
<u>Week 9</u> Feb. 29	TBD			
<u>Week 10</u> Mar. 7	TBD		Visual Journals	
<u>Week 11</u> Mar. 14	Final Presentations		***subject to revision	