

DC 370 Advanced Topics in Cinema

When: Wednesdays · 6:30pm-9pm
Where: The Lot in Hollywood · 1041 N. Formosa Ave West Hollywood, CA 90046

Instructor: Erin Rodman · erod917@gmail.com · (310) 927-2525
Office hours: I'm around and available. Email me to set a time.

Course Description

This class will be an in-depth examination of a filmmaker, film genre, or film movement that has had a significant influence on the development of cinematic storytelling and expression. Through lectures, screenings, readings, discussions, and critical writing assignments, students will analyze the distinctive traits of the selected topic within the broader context of cinema history and culture.

Specific topics will be selected by the instructor and will vary with each quarter.

Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to provide reflection of the students' digital cinema coursework and practical experience in their chosen field of study in preparation for their intended profession through the following key objectives:

- Students will observe real-world applications of their studies and skills, seek to establish mentors and explore ways of "getting their foot in the door."
- Students will process on their experiences with an eye to future employment and to clarify the connection between course studies, critical and creative thinking, and life applications.
- Students will research and interview an individual working in their chosen field, discuss the significance of the resulting advice and information, and share methods to put it to use.

Grading

Mentor interview: 30%
Event summary: 30%
Resume: 40%

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.

Assignment Details

Mentor Interview (30% of final grade)

Students will conduct an interview with an industry professional in their proposed field and write a **1-2 page summary** of the discussion, which includes the questions the student asked (minimum of 5).

Event Summary (30% of final grade)

Students must find and attend a special screening, panel discussion, lecture or Q&A related to the entertainment industry, and write a **1 page summary and review**. Did the speaker give you helpful insights about the industry or a particular profession? Did you see or hear anything that you had not previously been aware of? Did the point of view of the speaker surprise or puzzle you? What did you learn?

Suggested venues: American Cinematheque (Egyptian Theater and Aero Theater), Cinefamily, Arclight Hollywood, Sundance Cinema, Nerdist panels at Meltdown Comics, The Landmark Theater (on Pico), LACMA, Director's Guild (DGA), Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)

Resume (40% of final grade)

Students will prepare and **submit a professional resume** which includes experiences and internships from the Spring LAQ.

Required Texts and Suggested Resources

Websites: Deadline · The Wrap · Hollywood Reporter

Films: [AFI Top 100 Movies](#)

Course Policies

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

Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office

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.

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 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.