

DC100 Intro to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Spring Quarter 2016

Section 301: Tuesdays, 1:00-4:15pm, Student Center 330

Section 310: Online only

Section 311: Online only

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office: JTR209

Office hours: Weds. 5:00-6:30pm and by appointment

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Course Description — This lecture-based course will introduce students to the art of cinema from the point of view of the filmmaker. Through screenings of contemporary and classic films, students will gain an appreciation of the various crafts involved in the making of movies, such as: acting, directing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, production design, editing, sound, or visual effects. This course is not intended for students who plan to major or minor in Digital Cinema. No prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes — After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss film as an artistic medium
- Analyze and discuss the craft and technique of specific members of the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze and discuss visual communication and storytelling as used by filmmakers

Learning outcomes will be achieved through in-class discussions and exercises as well as eight different writing assignments, each of which will require students to think critically and analyze a specific aspect of filmmaking in a given film.

Learning Domain Description — DC 100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts while developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning, and through critical and/or creative activity, come to better understand the original audience that witnessed a work of art and how its meaning and significance changes over time. These courses focus on works of art or literature, however the process of analysis may include social, cultural, and historical issues. Genres covered in this domain include literature, the visual arts, media arts, the performing arts, music, and theater.

Textbook — There is no required textbook for this class. Reading assignments will be made available through D2L.

Online Course Management System — We will use D2L as our online course management system. You can log in at <<https://d2l.depaul.edu>>. Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, and important information and news will be posted there.

Film screenings

All films that we screen will be posted on ColTube, DePaul's video management system at <coltube.cdm.depaul.edu>. You may watch the films in their entirety there after logging in with your CampusConnect credentials.

Grading:

Attendance and participation: 10%

Homework assignments: 70%

Final quiz: 20%

Grade scale:

93 - 100: A

90 - 92: A -

87 - 89: B +

83 - 86: B

80 - 82: B -

77 - 79: C +

73 - 76: C

70 - 72: C -

67 - 69: D +

60 - 66: D

Homework — All homework must be submitted via D2L on the Dropbox page. The dropboxes where you submit your assignments close automatically so *no late work will be accepted*. Because you all have access to 100% reliable internet and computers on campus, technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses for not turning in your assignments on time.

-Homework assignments will be one page response papers on the lecture topic and screening of that week. The goal of the response is for you to *demonstrate that you understand the topics covered in class and can apply them to the film we watched*. This means you should use vocabulary/ideas/points from the lecture and/or reading in your responses.

-Every week, 2-3 suggested response topics will be posted in the dropbox and emailed to you. You are free to come up with your own prompt if the suggested

ones don't appeal to you, as long as you write about the lecture topic and screening being covered that week.

- Your assignments should be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, and preferably Georgia or Times New Roman typeface.

- They should be one *full* page (not ¾ of a page and not 1½ pages).

- You *must* submit your assignments as Word Docs or PDFs. No other file types can be processed by D2L. Do NOT submit .pages documents.

- While your assignments don't need to have a formal thesis statement, they should follow formal writing conventions. You will lose points for spelling and grammar mistakes. Your paragraphs should be cohesive and focused.

- Do NOT simply summarize the plot of the film or of a given scene.

- You are *forbidden* from using the following words in your homeworks: interesting, literally, and actually. These meaningless words are weeds in the English language. See my in-class rant for more details.

Writing Help— Because the majority of your final grade comes from writing assignments, I *strongly* encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-based Learning (aka The Writing Center). It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your assignments are of the highest quality. To learn more about what they offer, visit their website: <http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/what/Writing%20Center/wc.html>

Notes:

- Everyone's lowest homework grade will be dropped.* Since this is the case, please do not email me asking for an extension on your homework.

- All lectures will be recorded and available on D2L. They should be posted about two hours after the class period ends on Tuesdays, i.e. 6pm-ish.

- *****Online students** have three discussion post assignments that will make up the participation portion of their grade.*** See the weekly schedule below.

- All lecture slides will be posted to D2L as PDFs. Clips and other media files used in class will be made available for download on D2L as well.

- All readings will be available on D2L.

Weekly schedule

Week 1

03/29 — Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema overview

Screen: *American Movie* (Chris Smith, 1999, 107 minutes)

Reading: *Story* introduction by Robert McKee (**DUE 04/05**)

Homework 1: What is Cinema and *American Movie* response (**DUE 04/05**)

Week 2

04/05 — Screenwriting

04/10 — *Last day to drop without penalty*

Screen: *Vertigo* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1960, 128 minutes)

Reading: *A Free Replay* by Chris Marker (**DUE 04/12**)

Reading: Cinematography excerpt by Sydney Lumet (**Due 04/12**)

Homework 2: Screenwriting and *Vertigo* response (**DUE 04/12**)

Online students: Discussion post and replies about reading (**DUE 04/12**)

Week 3

04/12 — Cinematography

Screen: *The Fall* (Tarsem Singh, 2006, 117 minutes)

Reading: “Art Direction and Clothes” excerpt by Sidney Lumet (**DUE 04/19**)

Homework 3: Cinematography and *The Fall* response (**DUE 04/19**)

Week 4

04/19 — Mise-en-scène/Production design

Screen: *Mad Max: Fury Road* (George Miller, 2015, 120 minutes)

Reading: *In the Blink of an Eye* excerpts by Walter Murch (**DUE 04/26**)

Homework 4: Mise-en-scène and *Mad Max* response (**DUE 04/26**)

Online students: Discussion post and replies about the reading (**DUE 04/26**)

Week 5

04/26 — Editing

Screen: *The Limey* (Steven Soderbergh, 1999, 89 minutes) (or TBD)

Reading: “Sound of Music” excerpt by Sidney Lumet (**Due 05/03**)

No homework

Week 6

05/03 — Sound design and music

Screen: WALL-E (Andrew Stanton, 2008, 98 minutes) (or TBD)

Reading: “Best Job in the World” excerpt by Sidney Lumet (**Due 05/10**)

Homework 5: Editing or Sound response (**Due 05/10**)

Online students: Discussion post and replies about the reading (**DUE 05/10**)

Week 7

05/10 — Directing

05/15 — *Last day to withdraw from classes (with penalty)*

Screen: TBD

Reading: Intro excerpt from *New History of Documentary* (**DUE 05/17**)

Homework 6: Directing response (**DUE 05/17**)

Week 8

05/17 — Documentary

Screen: *The Act of Killing* (Joshua Oppenheimer, 2012, 115 minutes)

Reading: New Wave excerpt by David Cook (**DUE 05/24**)

Homework 7: Documentary and *The Act of Killing* response (**DUE 05/24**)

Week 9

05/24 — New Wave and Independent cinema

Screen: *The 400 Blows* (François Truffaut, 1959, 99 minutes)

No Reading

Homework 8: New Wave and *400 Blows* response (**DUE 05/31**)

Week 10

05/31 — Experimental, nontraditional, and art cinema

Screen: *Chungking Express* (Wong Kar-Wai, 1994, 102 minutes)

Final Quiz

More details will be provided during class later in the quarter.

****Note**:** Course content, assignments, screenings, and due dates are subject to change at any time. Any changes will be communicated clearly in class and by email. As such, it is important for you to read emails and come to class to stay apprised of any changes to the syllabus.

My policies

Attendance — *For in class students:* Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Unexcused absences will reduce your final grade by one half letter.

If you are more than 15 minutes late or if you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will be considered absent.

*****Online students** are required to view recordings of *all lectures*. You can watch the films directly on ColTube.***

Sleeping — Do not sleep in class. Just don't do it. If you sleep for more than 15 minutes you will be considered absent.

Participation — Do participate in class. Just do it. We'll all have more fun if everyone contributes to the conversations.

Respect — Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs. We do not have to agree on everything but we should be able to discuss anything civilly. This is not the comments section on YouTube.

Please respect the films we'll watch, some of which have mature themes and situations.

Email — The best way to contact me is through email. Unless otherwise noted, I will respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. Emails received Saturdays and Sundays may not be seen until Monday.

Computer and cell phone use — Computers, cell phones, and tablets may not be used during class. If you have a documented learning need or disability that requires you to use a laptop, exceptions will be made. Otherwise, no screens in class. Computer or cell phone use will affect your participation grade.

All phones must be kept *silent*. Please do not have a phone that is constantly buzzing.

I understand that emergencies happen and you may need to be available by phone. If that's the case, please tell me at the start of class if you know you may need to take a call. In any event, if you do need to use your phone during class please step outside quietly and answer your phone in the hallway. *There is no such thing as a text message emergency.*

Grades — Unless otherwise noted, I will have weekly assignments graded and returned to you by the following class period.

Grade disputes — Any disputes or challenges to an assignment's grade must be made in writing (email is fine) within 36 hours of receiving your grade. You must state why you are challenging the grade and provide evidence to support your claim. Challenges to your final grade should follow the University's policy on grade challenges, which can be found in the student handbook:
<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/Pages/challenges-to-grades.aspx>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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.

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 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
TTY: (773)325.7296

Incompletes — Students can read about requesting or receiving an incomplete grade at
<http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

Excused absences — Students can read about the procedures for getting an excused absence at
<http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>