

DC 206

History of Production

Monday 1:30 – 4:45 pm

14 e. Jackson Room 214

Instructor: Andrew Stasiulis (office: CDM 408)

Email: astasiul@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours: Mondays- 10am-12pm, Wednesdays- 11am-2pm, Thursdays- 10am-12pm

Summary

This course explores the origins, evolutions, and revolutions of cinema production from the perspective of a filmmaker. We will examine a diverse range of critical historical events that have impacted the industry and the craft of filmmaking; the emergence of the studio system, the coming of sound, audience shifts, emergence of other media and the rise of digital technology. Students will acquire a broad understanding of the aesthetic, economic, social, and technological forces that have shaped and continue to influence the development of cinema. In addition to weekly MANDATORY lab screenings of relevant films, students will be assigned readings on various historical, critical, and theoretical topics.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify major historical shifts in the production of motion pictures.
- Analyze the historical and creative context of films and their relationship to – and role in – society.
- Recognize the importance of global perspectives throughout the history of cinema production.
- Evaluate the continuing evolution of the cinematic process through qualitative movements in culture, technology, economics, and audience appreciation.
- Synthesize their understanding of the course materials through written analyses of feature films, readings, and class lectures.

Texts

A Short History of the Movies

11th Abridged Edition

Gerald Mast & Bruce Kavin

2011

Various Supplemental Readings Posted Online

Assignments & Grading

1. Weekly Responses = 20%
2. Midterm Essay = 20%
3. International Explorations Paper = 20%
4. Final Essay = 20%
5. Attendance & Participation = 20%

Week by Week Schedule

Week 1

- 3/28 Intro & Discussion: What is Cinema? Early cinema (1895-1908)
4/1 Lab Screening: *The Gold Rush* (Charles Chaplin, 1925)

Week 2

- 4/4 Silent Era Cinema (1908-1927)
4/8 Lab Screening: *Stagecoach* (John Ford, 1939)

Week 3

- 4/11 Coming of Sound, Golden Age of Hollywood (1927-1948)
4/15 Screening: *Bigger Than Life* (Nicholas Ray, 1956)

Week 4

- 4/18 Decline of Studio Era, Surfaces & Subversion, Total Cinema (1948-1964)
4/22 Lab Screening: *Cleo From 5 to 7* (Agnes Varda, 1962)

Week 5

- 4/25 Neorealism, New Wave, Auteurism (1945-1968)
4/29 Screening: *Yojimbo* (Akira Kurosawa, 1961)

Week 6

- 5/2 International Cinema I (1945-1968)
5/6 Lab Screening: *Electra Glide in Blue* (James William Guercio, 1973)

Week 7

- 5/9 Hollywood Renaissance & New Hollywood (1964-1980)
5/13 Lab Screening: *The American Friend* (Wim Wenders, 1977)

Week 8

5/16 International Cinema II: 1968-
5/20 Screening: *Die Hard* (John McTiernan, 1988)

Week 9

5/23 - High Concept, Globalization, Transnational & Independent Cinema (1980-1999)
5/27 - Screening: *Post Tenebras Lux* (Carlos Reygadas, 2013)

Week 10

5/30 - 21st Century Cinema

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.

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, course outline, video lectures, discussion forums, weekly assignments, etc.

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.

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

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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.