

DC 210 Production I

Spring 2016

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:10-11:40

14 E. Jackson, LL107

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Email: kendres@cdm.depaul.edu

Office: JTR 209 (or CDM 332 by appointment)

Office hours: Mondays, 5:00-6:30 or by appointment

April 10, 2016 Last day to drop classes without penalty

May 15, 2016 Last day to withdraw from Spring 2016 classes

****This syllabus is subject to change****

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a beginning workshop in narrative film production. The course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of cinema, including camera and lens technology, composition, lighting, directing and sound recording. Utilizing digital technology, students will produce several films with an emphasis on visual storytelling and personal expression.

PREREQUISITE: DC 220 Editing 1 – editing software is not taught in DC 210

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the language of cinema and to employ basic shooting and editing techniques to express a story visually.
- To be able to successfully operate video cameras and non-linear editing programs in order to create a total of three required projects.
- To be able to enter more advanced courses including Digital Cinema Production II with a solid foundation of technical proficiency as well as the development of an individual style and expression.

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

The Filmmaker's Handbook by Ascher and Pincus

On Directing Film by David Mamet

Additional handouts provided by instructor

COURSE MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE STUDENT:

A portable Firewire, USB 3, or Thunderbolt drive for editing

SOFTWARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS:

Word Processing Program for written assignments

Computer/internet access and D2L

Editing software, Premiere preferred, either at home or in a lab at school to edit assignments

GRADING

Grades will be given for each assignment. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. This class requires a time commitment outside of class hours. Please make a note of production weeks and In-class exercises.

Late work will not be accepted.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:**IN-CLASS EXERCISES 15%**

Group lighting exercise (group) 7

Production Roles exercise (Class) 8

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT 5%

Frame It – Still Photo exercise 5

GROUP PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF CLASS 50%

Character Film 20

Final Film 30

QUIZZES/EXAMS 20%

Final Exam (In Class) 20

Attendance and Participation 10%

TOTAL: 100%

GROUP EVALUATIONS:

Most of the assignments in this class will require you to work in a team. Group/Self evaluations are due at the time of the final screening of each project. These evaluations will be HEAVILY factored into your grade for attendance and participation. They will also factor into the percentages of your project grades.

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.

STANDARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT:

Grade A:

Student performs in an outstanding way. Student exhibits achievement and craftsmanship in all work. Design criteria is exceeded and student challenges him/herself in project design. Student exhibits commitment to expanding ideas, vocabulary and performance.

Grade B:

Student performs beyond the requirement of the project. Student exhibits above average progress and craftsmanship. A design criterion is exceeded. Student exhibits above average interest in expanding idea, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade C:

Criteria of assignment is met, and all requirements are fulfilled. Student shows average quality work and minimum time and effort on projects. Student shows moderate interest.

Grade D:

Student performance is uneven and below average. Requirements for projects are only partially fulfilled. Minimal interest is shown and attendance, participation and involvement are inadequate.

Grade F

Student fails to meet minimum course requirements and shows no interest. Levels of participation and craftsmanship are extremely poor. Student's attendance is inadequate.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES – Each student is responsible for their time management and meeting the expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines in class. In the event of an absence it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for details of the homework if 'assignment' is listed on the syllabus – you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

DEADLINES – Media production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an 'A' in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time. Do not use class time to finalize your projects. All assignments are due **BEFORE** the start of class.

Written Assignments: Must be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, serif font. No funny business.

Digital Assignments: All assignments handed in digitally must have a slate with your name and title of assignment.

Special Accommodations: If you have any special needs or require special accommodations please see or contact me during the first week of the quarter.

BACK UP YOUR WORK: Failure of computer software and or hardware will not be accepted as an extenuating circumstance for late projects or incomplete grades so back up your work daily.

WORKING IN GROUPS – For Production Assignments in this course you will be working in groups of three. A major component of film production is teamwork. In this course many of you will be working as a creative team for the first time. Most student teams work very well together. But sometimes personality conflicts or creative conflicts can arise. It is your job as a team to work through these conflicts, because if you don't,

your project will suffer. If things get really difficult you can come to me **as a team** and I will help mediate/resolve the situation.

ATTENDANCE – Attendance and attention in class are mandatory. Any absence (missing more than 15 minutes of class time per session) will impact your grade. Anyone who misses a classes will automatically drop a half letter grade. Anyone who misses 4 classes will automatically fail. Absences will only be excused if I receive an email from the Dean’s office.

ILLNESS – Please do not attend class if you are ill (heavy cough, fever, vomiting). If you show up visibly sick, you may be asked to go home. In order to prevent a consequence with the attendance and deadline policies, contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, absences may be excused and extensions may be granted. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor’s discretion. Absolutely no consideration will be given for those who request special treatment without advanced notice, even with a doctor’s note.

SCREENS – Using computers, tablets or phones during class time is not allowed. Keep your phones in your bags. If I see them out I will ask you to put them away.

READING ASSIGNMENTS – The assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class. The exam will cover both lecture and reading materials. At least one essay question on the required Mamet reading will be on the final exam.

FINAL FILMS & PRESENTATIONS

Students who are not prepared to present during the regularly scheduled time will receive a failing grade for the final unless they have contacted the instructor in advance to arrange to present early. **Students contacting the instructor after the final presentation will not be allowed to make-up the points for any reason.**

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. I 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. I will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues. We don't have to agree on everything, but we should be able to discuss anything with respect and civility. This is not the comments section of YouTube.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY – Please email any time you have a question or concern about the class. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, it means I did not receive your message so please check the address and contact me again. If you are unable to meet during my offices hours, contact me to make other arrangements.

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

WEEK 1

In-Class:

03/28

- Introduction to students, syllabus & course goals
- The filmmaking process
- Core Production Roles
- Group assignments

03/30

- Shot selection (shot sizes, angles)

Assignments:

- Shoot “Frame it” still exercise- (individual)--**Due Sunday 4/3 by 10:00 pm**

Read:

- Crew Position Handout

WEEK 2

DUE:

- “Frame it” still exercise

In-Class:

04/04

- Screen select Frame It Projects and discuss
- Development
 - o Treatment writing
 - o Visual characters
 - o Story/Plot

04/06

- Camera functions (Set-up, White Balance, Focus, Iris, Depth of Field)
- Principles of Cinematography
 - o Lenses / Depth of Field
 - o Camera Movement
 - o Continuity and the 180 degree rule

Assignments:

- “Character Study” treatment (1 per group)--**Due Tuesday 4/12 by 10pm**
- Buy Gloves for Week 4—**Due Wednesday 04/20 in class**

Read:

- Mamet Chapters 1 & 2

WEEK 3

DUE:

- “Character Study” treatment

In-Class:

04/11

- Hands-on camera

04/13

- Pitch Character Study Film
- Pre-production package
 - Breakdowns
 - Scheduling
 - Shot list

Assignments:

- Preproduction Package for Character Study—**Due Wednesday 1/27 by 11pm**
- Buy and bring Gloves to Class next week—**Due Wednesday 04/20 in class**

Read:

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 4

DUE:

- Preproduction Package for Character Study
- Bring Gloves on Wednesday

In-Class:

04/18

- Pre-production wrapup
 - Locations
 - Paperwork
 - Casting lite
- Lighting basics

04/20

- Hands on Lighting
 - Three-Point Lighting set ups
 - Character, Environment and Mood

Assignments:

- Shoot Character Study—**Due SUNDAY 05/01 by 11:00pm**
- Logline for final film—**Due Tuesday 04/26 by 10:00pm**

Read:

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 5 — 04/27

DUE:

- Nothing?!?!

In-Class:

04/25

- Casting

04/27

- Sound Recording
 - o Theory
 - o Practice

Assignments:

- Edit Character Study—**Due Sunday 05/01 by 11:00 pm**
- Final Film Pitch Materials —**Due Tuesday 05/03 by 10:00 pm**

Read:

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 6

DUE:

- Rough Cut of Character Study
- Final Film Pitch Materials

In-Class:

05/02

- Screen Character Study Rough Cuts and Critique

05/04

- Pitch Final Films

Assignments:

- Re-edit and Sound-Design Character Study—**Due Sunday 05/08 by 11:00 pm**
- Self Evaluations and Peer Review on Character Study film—**Due Sunday 05/08 by 11:00 pm**
- Revised Final Film Treatment—**Due Tuesday 05/10 by 10:00pm**

Read:

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 7

DUE:

- Fine cuts of Character Study
- Self Evaluations and Peer Review for Character Study

In-Class:

05/09

- Screen Fine Cuts of Character Study

05/11

- Directing Intro

Assignments:

- Preproduction Packet for Final Film—**Due Sunday 05/15 by 10:00 pm**

Read:

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 8

DUE:

- Preproduction Packet for Final Film

In-Class:

05/16

- Pre-production Meetings with groups

05/18

- Prep for in-class shoot on Monday 05/23
- Final Exam review

Assignments:

- Upload crew position preferences to dropbox by **Sunday 05/22 at noon**
- Bring Props for in-class shoot “production roles” - **Due Monday 05/23** in class
- Shoot Final film—**Due Tuesday 05/31 by 11:00 pm**
- Study for final exam

Read

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 9

DUE:

- Props for in-class shoot
- Crew position preferences

In-Class:

05/23

- In-class shoot: “Production Roles”

05/25

- Final Exam

Assignments:

- Rough Cut of Final film—**Due Tuesday 05/31 by 11:00 pm**
- Edit Production Roles—**Due Tuesday 05/31 by 11:00pm**

Read:

- Posted on D2L

WEEK 10

DUE:

- Rough Cut of Final film
- Production roles screening

In-Class:

06/01

- Screen Rough Cuts
- Production roles

Assignments:

- Re-edit and Sound-design Final films--**Due Tuesday 06/07 by 11:00 pm**
- Self Evaluations and Peer Review--**Due Tuesday 06/07 by 11:00 pm**

WEEK 11—***DIFFERENT TIME*** June 8th 8:30am-10:45am

DUE:

- Fine Cuts of Films
- Self Evaluations and Peer Review

In-Class:

*****06/08 8:30am-10:45am*****

- Screen Final Films-- Attendance is mandatory. **Missing this class will result in a grade of 'F' for the final film.**

Extra credit: watch Living in Oblivion and write 1 page response -- Due by 10th week of class -- details of assignment will be on D2L