

## **DC 420 Editing – SECTION 801**

Instructor: [Melissa Lawrenz](#)

Quarter: WINTER 2017

TH 5:45PM – 9PM

CDM 632 Loop Campus

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Office hours: TH 9-10:30PM in classroom CDM 632

### **Summary of Course:**

Emphasis is on developing the student's understanding of the art of cinematic storytelling and montage. Work on more advanced projects is integrated into the class as a means of mastering advanced editing tools and techniques.

PREREQUISITE(S): DC 460 or DC 409

Learning Outcomes: In DC 420, students will:

1. Learn the “rules” of editing (i.e. when to cut and when not to cut) and when to break them.
2. Learn how to control story and character development through editing.
3. Learn how to apply editing techniques in NLE software.
4. Gain an understanding of techniques editors use in experimental film, dialogue, documentary, animation, television, etc.
5. Be able to effectively understand the technical ins and outs of Post-Production as it applies to workflows and delivery.

### **Required Text:**

*In the Blink of an Eye*, Walter Murch, Silman-James press. 2nd Edition. 2001.

ISBN-10: 1879505622 / ISBN-13: 978-1879505629

Lynda.com: Premiere Pro CC Essential Training (2015) with Ashley Kennedy

For Lynda.com, you can use your student account for free access:

<http://offices.depaul.edu/is/services/technology-training/Pages/online-training.aspx>

### **Recommended Texts:**

*Make the Cut: A Guide to Becoming a Successful Assistant Editor in Film & TV*, Lori Coleman & Diana Friedberg, Focal Press, 2010.

*Cut by Cut: Editing Your Film or Video*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Gael Chandler, Michael Wiese Productions, 2012.

### **Required Supplies:**

All our class exercises and home assignments deal with projects and media. It is the responsibility of the student to back up all projects & media. Do not leave your projects on the lab computers. Please note: hardware problems are not acceptable as an excuse for late submissions.

You must have your own external drive for your project work. A USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt is recommended and ideally your drive should run 7200 rpm if it is not an SSD drive. Some of the new computers no longer support Firewire. If you have a Firewire drive, you will need a Thunderbolt adapter.

A USB flash drive is also recommended for project back ups. Do not use flash drives as your main media drive.

To be able to work on both Mac and PC with your external drives, I highly recommend formatting your external drive to ExFAT. If you will only be using the drive on Macs then Mac OS Extended (Journaled) is fine.

### **Grading Scale**

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82- 80, C+ = 79-77, C = 76-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-67, D = 66-63, 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

### **Grading:**

Project 1 20%

Project 2 20%

Project 3 10%

Article Reviews 10%

Walter Murch *In the Blink of an Eye* Questions 20%

Midterm 10%

Final Exam 10%

### **Student responsibilities:**

Each student is responsible for their time management and for 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, you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

### **Deadlines:**

Cinema 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.

### **Attendance & Participation:**

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. If you are absent from class, 5 points per absence will be deducted from your final grade. For example, if you miss five classes, 25 points will be deducted from your final grade. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving early constitutes half an absence. For example, if you are late two times, 5 points will be deducted from your final grade.

**Article Reviews, Class Discussion:**

There will be five reading assignments from articles that I assign. You will read the article and write a one to two page review highlighting the most interesting points of the articles and what you thought about what was discussed. We will discuss the articles in class so you can use your review for the discussion. Students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. The written review is graded so proofread the article before turning it in.

Please double space and follow MLA general guidelines for formatting. Upload these assignments to the D2L Dropbox for that particular article.

**420 - Walter Murch textbook & Questions:**

You will read the Walter Murch book, *In the Blink of an Eye*, and you will answer questions regarding specific chapters in Murch's book. The assignments are split up into 6 sections. You may submit the answers before the due dates.

Questions are in Word Document format and are available for download on D2L. Upload these assignments to the D2L Dropbox for this class.

**Editing Assignments:**

Footage for the first and third assignments is available via a link on D2L. For the second project, you will need to get the footage from me. You will be editing the footage in Adobe Premiere. You may also use Avid Media Composer, if you prefer. Please discuss this with me before you begin editing.

You will be turning in Premiere Project Files and QuickTime files. Project Files can be uploaded to D2L. Please submit QTs via **wetransfer.com**. WeTransfer sends you a receipt when the file has uploaded successfully and when I have downloaded it. I will have a Dropbox link on D2L to upload QTs as well, but please use this as a last resort. QTs have to be under 1gb for D2L and under 2gb for WeTransfer. Always bring a back-up copy to class on a drive.

Due dates are firm. You cannot turn in a Rough Cut along with the Fine Cut.

**Midterm:**

The Midterm will consist of short answers and an essay based on class presentations and homework.

**Final Exam:**

The Final will consist short answers, and an essay based on class presentations from the last half of the quarter and ideas presented throughout the quarter.

**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 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.

**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.

**Computers/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.

**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](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).  
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd. Phone number: (312) 362.8002  
Fax: (312) 362.6544 TTY: (773) 325.7296

**Content Changes:**

Depending on time factors, equipment, software and infrastructure issues, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

## CLASS SCHEDULE:

### **Week 1: 1/4**

Introductions, Syllabus, The Editing Process, Analyzing the Script

Premiere LAB #1- Intro & Review

#### **Homework:**

1. **Project 1**- Complete Script Breakdown for entire *Lavinia's Heist* script
2. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 1, 2, 8 Ch. 8- *Syncing video to high quality audio*
3. Download media for Project 1: Lavinia's Heist - Media is located on D2L for this class. Go to DOWNLOAD PROJECT MEDIA VIA DROPBOX. I will also have the media in class for you to copy.
4. Purchase Walter Murch's book *In the Blink of an Eye*

### **Week 2: 1/11**

Grammar of the Edit, Shaping Story & Performance

Premiere LAB #2- Set up Project 1-*Lavinia's Heist*, Customizing keyboard- Using shortcuts, Project Organization, Syncing Video w/ Audio

#### **Homework:**

1. **Read Article #1 Anne Coates**- Write up review
2. **Project 1**- Sync, organize project, Full Assembly edit, upload Project file to D2L
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 3, 4, 15- *Exporting your project*

### **Week 3: 1/18**

Editing Dialogue

Premiere LAB #3- Editing Techniques for dialogue, Using the Trim Tool & Trim Mode, Exporting options, Naming protocol for QTs and how to deliver them

#### **Homework:**

1. **Project 1**- Rough Cut, Send QT to [mlawrenz@gmail.com](mailto:mlawrenz@gmail.com) via wetransfer.com, upload Project file to D2L
2. **Read Article #2 SFX & Scoring** - Write up review
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 5, 6, 8

**Week 4: 1/25**

Project 1 Screening for feedback (If you want to screen your cut to the class, please bring a copy of your QT with you.), Adding the Soundtrack as an Editor

Premiere LAB #4- Review the Trim Tool, Audio Editing, Transitions

**Homework:**

1. **Project 1-** Fine Cut: Send QT to [mlawrenz@gmail.com](mailto:mlawrenz@gmail.com) via wetransfer.com, upload Project file to D2L
2. **Murch Questions #1-** Read pgs. 1-20 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
3. Study for Midterm
4. Please bring a hard drive to class so that I can copy the footage for Project 2 onto your drive.

**Week 5: 2/1**

Open time to screen Fine Cuts (Please bring a QT with you if you would like to screen your cut.)

**MIDTERM Exam**

Please bring a hard drive to class so that I can copy the footage for Project 2 onto your drive. This is the only way to get the media to work on the next editing project unless you work with another classmate to get the media.

**Homework:**

1. **Read Article #3 Mark Livolsi-** Write up review
2. **Murch Questions #2-** Read pgs. 21-51 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
2. Watch Lynda.com: Ch. 9

**Week 6: 2/8**

POV and Narrative Stance, Cutting Action, Comedy, Horror and Suspense

Premiere LAB #5- Set up Project 2- *Come and Get It*

**Homework:**

1. **Project 2-** Organize project, Full Assembly edit, upload Project file to D2L
2. **Read Article #4 Animation Editors-** Write up review
3. **Murch Questions #3-** Read pgs. 52-72 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
4. Watch Lynda.com: Ch. 10

**Week 7: 2/15**

Cutting Animation & Documentaries

Premiere LAB #6- Working with Effects and how to use them in Project 2

**Homework:**

1. **Project 2**- Rough Cut, Export QT- Send QT to [mlawrenz@gmail.com](mailto:mlawrenz@gmail.com) via wetransfer.com, upload Project file to D2L
2. **Murch Questions #4**- Read pgs.75-107 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
3. **Project 3**- Download media from D2L

**Week 8: 2/22**

Project 2 Screening for feedback, Using Experimental Techniques in Narrative

Premiere LAB #7- Review

**Homework:**

1. **Read Article #5 'Mr. Robot'** - Write up review
2. **Project 2**- Fine Cut, Export QT- Send QT to [mlawrenz@gmail.com](mailto:mlawrenz@gmail.com) via wetransfer.com, upload Project file to D2L
3. **Murch Questions #5**- Read pgs. 107-129 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
4. **Project 3**- Download media from D2L or get a copy of the media from the Instructor

**Week 9: 3/1**

Project 2 Fine Cut Screenings, Cutting for TV, Prepping for Sound Design & Mix, Finishing & Delivery

Premiere LAB #8- Exporting for Sound Design & Online, Setup Project 3

**Homework:**

1. **Project 3**- Organize project and create a Rough Cut, Send QT to [mlawrenz@gmail.com](mailto:mlawrenz@gmail.com) via wetransfer.com, upload Project file to D2L.
2. **Murch Questions #6**- Read pgs. 129-146 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 11 Basic Color Correction

**Week 10: 3/8**

Project 3 Screening for feedback, Working in Post Production, Color Correction Concepts

Premiere Lab #9: Final Timeline Setup for Broadcast export, Color Correction

**Homework:**

**Project 3- Fine Cut is due at 6pm on March 15th.** Send QT to [mlawrenz@gmail.com](mailto:mlawrenz@gmail.com) via wetransfer.com and Project file to D2L.

**FINAL EXAM: March 15, 6-8:15pm in classroom**