

# DC 488 Filmmakers Seminar

---

**When:** Wednesdays · 6:30pm-9pm  
**Instructor:** Erin Rodman · [erod917@gmail.com](mailto:erod917@gmail.com) · (310) 927-2525  
**Office hours:** I'm around and available to meet. Email me to set a time.

## → Course Description

Each week, students will be given the rare opportunity to speak directly with industry professionals from all walks of Hollywood life. Directors, writers, cinematographers, editors, producers, agents, managers, entertainment lawyers, development executives and others will come to class, discuss their journeys, offer advice, and answer questions. The class will culminate with an industry mixer, where these professionals, along with dozens more, will join the students for a relaxed evening of networking. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to begin to form meaningful relationships that can help them as they transition from student to filmmaker.

## → Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to introduce the student to working professionals in the Hollywood entertainment industry in a classroom environment, focusing on the following key objectives for the quarter:

- Students will research the guest speakers' career for the purpose of asking meaningful questions on their profession during the classroom interviews.
- Students will gain a solid understanding of each guest speakers' particular profession, and how they function in the entertainment industry.
- Students will network and develop meaningful work relationships with industry professionals, both in the classroom and outside such as the industry mixer and class trips and events.

## → Required Texts and Suggested Resources

Websites: Deadline · The Wrap · Hollywood Reporter

Films: [AFI Top 100 Movies](#)

## ➔ Class Schedule

*Note: This schedule is subject to change. Please consult class calendar and professor emails for the most up to date schedule for student postings, readings, assignments and all due dates. Weekly reading, screenings & class events to be assigned by the instructor class by class.*

### Week 1

Introduction to LA Quarter courses and each other. Review syllabus and class requirements.  
Discuss internships, outside events and speakers for the quarter.

### Week 2 - 9

Classroom discussions. Interviews with industry professionals and student-driven Q&A's.

### Week 10

Individual or small group presentation. Industry network party (date TBD).

## ➔ Assignment Details

### Attendance (25% of final grade)

### Participation (25% of final grade)

Industry professionals will visit the class to discuss their experiences in the entertainment industry. Students should prepare by becoming familiar with the guests' background (we will send an IMDB link or lists of credits), **be present in class and prepared to ask at least one question.**

### Mentor Interview (25% of final grade)

Students will conduct and transcribe an interview with an industry professional in their proposed field. Students should provide a minimum of 5 questions and maximum of 10 questions.

### Video Project (25% of final grade)

During their stay in Los Angeles, students will make a short video (no more than **5 minutes**) of their experiences and impressions of Los Angeles. The video can be made individually, or with a small group (three students or less) and will be presented to the class on the final night of class. Cameras and equipment will be supplied to the students by DePaul University.

## ➔ Grading

Attendance	25%
Participation	25%
Mentor Interview	25%
Video Project	25%

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.

## → Course / School Policies

**Attendance:** Classroom attendance is MANDATORY. More than one “excused” absence (doctor’s note, Dodgers game, etc) will result in a lowering of grade per each absence.

**Deadlines:** Strict Adherence to deadlines is expected. Materials presented or posted late will result in a negative grade for the particular assignment.

**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.

**Online Instructor Evaluation** - 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 two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>

**Email** - Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at CampusConnect is correct.

**Academic Integrity Policy** - This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

**Plagiarism** - The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

**Incomplete** - An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

**Resources for 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: Student Center, LPC, Suite #370 Phone number: (773)325.1677 Fax: (773)325.3720 TTY: (773)325.7296