



DePaul University | School of Cinematic Arts

Thesis I | DC 565

Instructor:	James Choi	Quarter:	Spring 2017
Office Hour:	TUE 11:30-130/WED 1:30-3:30 THUR 3:30-5:30	Section:	901
Office Location:	CDM 515	Class#:	33527
Email:	jchoi26@depaul.edu	Class Time:	THURS from 5:45-9pm
Phone:	(312) 362-1329	Class Location:	14EAS RM507 Loop Campus

Course Description

DC 565 is a weekly workshop-style course designed to help the graduate filmmaker have a script “green lighted” for production by their thesis committee by the end of the quarter. Group-oriented critique will be a centerpiece of this course in a concerted effort to strengthen and further projects in a short amount of time. So, in addition to your project work, there will be some reading and written work throughout the quarter that’s for the betterment of you and your peers. Please savor this opportunity to have a powerful and positive group interaction.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.” –African Proverb

The Instructor’s Role + Your Project

Unquestionably, the most rewarding part of teaching is seeing student success. I help guide your vision to successful completion. BUT, this class is quite unique in that it involves several multi-faceted projects at different stages of development. At this point in your academic and film careers, you should have the drive, knowledge and wherewithal to devote yourself to your script’s successful and timely completion. Please don’t forget about the sage advice and creative insight from your thesis committee who are there to assist you on your journey. High-level filmmaking requires true process oriented dedication—but it all starts with a good story. Bottom line, this is your project and its success is ultimately determined by the effort you put into it.

Learning Outcomes

- CREATE an original script to be “green lighted” for thesis film production.
- CRITIQUE fellow classmates’ work in order to help their project progress.
- APPRAISE your work based upon classroom critique.
- APPLY cinematic storytelling concepts and feedback to improve your projects.

Texts

DESIRE2LEARN (D2L): Some additional readings and web links will be posted on D2L.

Assignment and Grading Opportunities

- **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:** 15%
Unless excused, you are expected to be in class and actively engaged. You and your various skillsets, ideals, and diversity of backgrounds can contribute valuable insight to help your cinematic cohorts along. A different perspective never hurts, especially when presented with limited time to pull off a project!
- **WRITTEN CRITIQUES OF CLASSMATE'S WORK:** 30%
In the interest of class time and production efficiency, written critique of your classmate's projects will be due periodically (you will be notified in class and via e-mail). We will figure out a process so you aren't too overburdened. Feedback is valuable in discerning patterns of strength and weaknesses in creative work.
- **ONE SHEET:** 10%
This is a one sheet that includes: Title, Genre, Logline and Outline.
- **GREEN LIGHTED SCRIPT:** 45%
By the final class, you should have a script "green-lighted" by your thesis committee.

A = 100-93, A- = 92.9-90, B+ = 89.9-87, B = 86.9-83, B- = 82.9-80, C+ = 79.9-77, C = 76.9-73, C- = 72.9-70, D+ = 69.9-67, D = 66.9-63, D- = 62.9-60, F = 59.9+Below.

"A" indicates Excellence, "B" indicates Very Good, "C" indicates Satisfactory, "D" indicates Poor, "F" indicates the student has NOT accomplished the objectives of the course.

Attendance Policy

If we are holding a class, you should try to be on time. If you plan on missing or being late to a class, please notify the instructor BEFORE that particular class starts. I follow the Attendance Policy set forth by The Dean of Students, so your Attendance & Participation Grade will drop if you continually skip class.

E-Mail Policy

You should read all e-mails from the class instructor because you are responsible to know the information they contain. I will do my best to get back to you in short order, but please allow up to 24hrs for the instructor to respond.

Receiving Scripts for Written Critique

Due to class time constraints, especially for longer scripts, you will be required to do some written critiques of said materials. The instructor will e-mail a PDF of the script (or scripts) along with critique requirements to the class for critique.

Preparing Scripts for Class Table Reads

Table Reads are an essential component to this class and are highly beneficial to writers who are able to hear their words come to life. In order for this to be successful and we get the most out of the class time, you should bring in printed copies of your scripts (to have ready at the beginning of class) if they are designated for the week's table read. You should have 11 to 22 copies of the script to disperse throughout the class and one PDF backup file.

Course Schedule

CLASS 01 - March 30

IN-CLASS TASKS: Intro and assign orders

CLASS 02 - April 6

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 1 Influences/Critique One Sheets / Table Reads (3 people)

T Will, Chris Merbler, Jesus Feliciano

CLASS 03 - April 13

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 2 Influences /Critique One Sheets / Table Reads (3 people)

Akil Buggs, Ben Rejzer, Brady Findell

CLASS 04 - April 20

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 3 Influences /Critique One Sheets / Table Reads (3 people)

Harsha Gullapalli, Iah Bearden-Vrai, Justin Jones

CLASS 05 - April 27

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 4 Influences /Critique One Sheets / Table Reads (3 people)

Chanel Williams, Deisy Gomez, James Austen

CLASS 06 - May 4

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 5 Influences /Critique One Sheets / Table Reads (3 people)

Syd O'Haire, Ryan Wilson, Julio Padilla

CLASS 07 - May 11

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 6 Influences /Critique One Sheets / Table Reads (3 people)

John Leach, Jerry Fan, Zhao Lingfei

CLASS 08- May 18

IN-CLASS TASKS: Group 6 Influences /Critique One Sheets / Table Read

Jeremy Sklar

CLASS 09 - MAY 25

IN-CLASS TASKS: Scene Rewrites

CLASS 10 - JUNE 1

IN-CLASS TASKS: Scene Rewrites

FINALS - JUNE 8 6-8:15PM***

DUE: FINAL SCRIPTS

Note on Requirements (and the Syllabus in General)

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, and posted on D2L. AS A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ON THE TOTALITY OF THIS SYLLABUS. These guidelines are established to ensure all students know what is expected of them, and so all students are treated equally by being held to the same standards.

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 .

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