

INSTRUCTOR

B. Rich

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COURSE INFORMATION

DMA 475 Section 901

Time: Wednesday 5:45 – 9:00

Location: DePaul Center, #C-106C (Loop)

Course page: [D2L](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to more sophisticated forms of image/sound manipulation, editing, and theory. Pre-production planning (storyboards, scripting, budgeting), further refinement of digital editing techniques, and basic post-production/visual effects are covered, as well as studio production techniques, such as chroma-keying and work with advanced cameras. Students are expected to achieve a level of technical competence and confidence necessary to undertake more ambitious independent work. The class views and discusses key contemporary works and related critical writings. DMA 525 is recommended

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To demonstrate an understanding of the language of cinema and to employ fundamental production and editing techniques to express a story visually in creative projects.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in operating digital cameras and non-linear editing programs (Adobe Premiere) through production exercises.
3. Demonstrate the ability to produce and pre-visualize a production and to collaborate effectively in small crews to develop creative and compelling cinematic projects.
4. Develop/refine skills in critical analysis and feedback

RECOMMENDED READING

The Filmmaker's Handbook, Ascher & Pincus
(latest edition preferable)

CLASS FORMAT

Classes will consist of lectures, short film and clip screenings, discussions, workshops, in-class shoots and student screenings.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE AND DEVICES

- Video Camera, high quality microphone, sound recorder (available for check-out from Cage)
- A portable FIREWIRE drive or USB 3.0 drive for editing. Bring your drive with you to class.
- Software: Adobe Creative Cloud
- CDM [Computer Labs](#) are available for software use outside of class
- CDM labs offer Adobe Creative Cloud on PC and Mac operating systems. Information about acquiring Adobe Creative Cloud and other software is available [here](#).
- Supplemental instruction at LYNDIA.COM is required. It is available at the library and by (free) [subscription](#). **Make sure you're logged into Campus Connect** before clicking on the Log into Lynda.com link on the page.

- EVALUATION & GRADING

Participation	10
Exercises	20
Chase Sequence	15
3-minute Short film	20
Final Film - Portrait	25
Exam	10

Participation: Attendance and contributions to class discussions and activities

Exercises: There will be 3 Exercises done in-class, one of which will need to be edited outside class.

Chase Sequence: This project will be filmed in-class and edited outside of class.

3-minute Short Film: A 3-minute fiction film.

Final Film - Portrait: This will be a short non-fiction film (approx. 5-8 minutes long) offering a portrait of an organization with a strong central character.

Exam: Comprehensive of all topics covered.

GRADING SCALE

Letter grades will be based on the minimum percentages of total points earned

A	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	73%
C-	70%
D	60%

F	0%
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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 participation grade. They will also affect your film grades.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (subject to change)*

WEEK 1 MAR 29	TOPIC	Syllabus Story Filmmaking Process
WEEK 2 APR 5	TOPIC	Camera + Sound Visual Story
	ASSIGNMENT	Chase Sequence Storyboards + Shotlist
WEEK 3 APR 12	WORKSHOP	Shoot Chase Sequence
	ASSIGNMENT	3-minute short film idea
WEEK 4 APR 19	TOPIC	Editing Film Styles Genres
	PITCH	3-minute short film
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Portrait Film ideas
WEEK 5 APR 26	TOPIC	Pre-production package Treatment, Synopsis, Logline, Script Industrial / Commercial films
	SCREEN	Chase Sequence
	DUE	Chase Sequence
	ASSIGNMENT	3-minute Short Film pre-production package Vox Pop topic + list of questions Final Portrait Film Pitch

WEEK 6 MAY 3	TOPIC	Releases, clearances, permits, budgets, timelines
	WORKSHOP	Shoot Vox-pops
	PITCH	Final Portrait Film
	DUE	Final Portrait Film Pitch 3-minute Short Film pre-production package
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Portrait Film pre-production package Shoot 3-minute Short Film
WEEK 7 MAY 10	TOPIC	Lighting, Greenscreen
	WORKSHOP	Lighting & Greenscreen
WEEK 8 MAY 17	TOPIC	Set etiquette (setiquette), Lighting
	SCREEN	Vox Pops
	WORKSHOP	Setiquette, Lighting set-ups
	DUE	Final Portrait Film pre-production package
	ASSIGNMENT	Shoot Final Portrait Film
WEEK 9 MAY 24	TOPIC	TBD
	ASSIGNMENT	Exam
WEEK 10 MAY 31	SCREEN	3-minute Short Film Final Portrait Film Rough Cut
	DUE	3-minute Short Film
WEEK 11 JUN 7	SCREEN	Final Portrait Film Fine Cut
	DUE	Final Portrait Film

* This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class and sent via email.

Course Policies: In addition to [CDM Academic Policies](#) and [DePaul University Policies](#), the following policies will apply to this course:

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 <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Some guidelines for your emails:

- Be clear and concise in your subject line; ex: **"DMA 475 – question about assignment X"**
- **Don't reply to class-wide email unless it pertains specifically to the subject of that email**
- Begin a new email thread for any new question, notification, etc.
- Expect a reply within 24 hours during the week. Expect a delayed response on weekends. **If you don't get a response within 1 business day, please resend as there may be an email issue**

Course Lectures/Reading Assignments: The assigned and recommended 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.

Late Assignments: In order to receive any credit for an assignment, you must communicate with me at least 24 hours before the due date/time regarding it being late. Late assignments will . No assignment will be accepted more than 7 days late without a medical excuse.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, arriving 30 minutes late or leaving 30 minutes early. All absences will result in a reduction of the attendance / participation grade. 3 absences, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course. In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the [Dean of Students office](#)

Class Participation: Student participation is crucial to this class. You are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the class topics. You

are also encouraged to offer answers, insights and best guesses to questions posed in class. Having your files and devices, making the most of class time and being fully present and engaged add towards the class experience and your participation points. Productive critiques of your **own and everyone else's work is critical**. For group projects, each individual is expected to contribute according to the needs of the group/project. Private peer evaluations will afford each group the opportunity to measure the contributions of each individual.

Behavior & Attitude: Food and drink are fine. A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include: talking to others when someone is speaking, **mocking another's opinion, cell phones** ringing/vibrating, emailing, etc. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting, social media and other forms of technological socializing are not allowable in class. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom and/or lose their tech privileges.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you expect to need to answer a call during class, tell the instructor before class and leave the room in an undistruptive manner. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please communicate this at the start of the course.

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.

DePaul University Policies:

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 under [Enrollment Policies](#).

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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