

DC206-401/410
HISTORY OF CINEMA PRODUCTION
DePaul University
Autumn Quarter 2017-2018

Lecture: Thursdays, 1:30PM - 4:45PM (Loop, CDM Center, Rm 708)

Lab screening: Fridays, 9:40AM - 11:10AM (Loop, Daley Building, Rm 214)

Instructor: Eric Marsh

Contact: marsh@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, 12PM - 5PM, Loop, CDM Center, Rm. 522 - by appointment only

COURSE DESCRIPTION – This course explores the origins, evolutions, and revolutions of cinema production from the perspective of a filmmaker. We will examine a diverse range of critical historical events and theories that have impacted the industry and the craft of filmmaking: the emergence of the studio system, the coming of sound, the auteur theory, genre, ideology, audience shifts, as well as the emergence of other media and the rise of digital technology. Students will acquire a broad understanding of the aesthetic, economic, social, and technological forces that have shaped and continue to influence the development of cinema. In addition to weekly MANDATORY lab screenings of relevant films, students will be assigned readings on various historical, critical, and theoretical topics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify major historical shifts in the production of motion pictures.
- Analyze the historical and creative context of films and their relationship to – and role in – society.
- Recognize the importance of global perspectives throughout the history of cinema production.
- Evaluate the continuing evolution of the cinematic process throughout qualitative movements in culture, technology, economics, and audience appreciation.
- Synthesize their understanding of the course materials through written analyses of feature films, readings, and class lectures.

TEXTBOOK – A Short History of the Movies, 11th Abridged Edition by Gerald Mast & Bruce Kavin, Pearson, 2011. Supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor on D2L.

D2L & COLTUBE - The course materials for this course such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Please make sure you have access to D2L. Films screened in the lab section will be made available to stream afterwards on <http://coltube.cdm.depaul.edu/> for online students (and in-class students as a resource for your writing).

EVALUATION

Weekly Responses (9)	30%
Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	15%
Final Research Paper	20%

Attendance & Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

A = 100 – 94, A- = 93 – 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE & COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1	TH	9/7	Introduction, Early Cinema (1985-1913)
WEEK 2	F	9/8	Screening: <i>The Gold Rush</i> (Charlie Chaplin, 1925)
	TH	9/14	Silent-Era Cinema Across the Globe (1913-1928)
WEEK 3	F	9/15	Screening: <i>Stagecoach</i> (John Ford, 1939)
	TH	9/21	Early Sound & Hollywood Studio System (1927-1948)
WEEK 4	F	9/22	Screening: <i>Bigger Than Life</i> (Nicholas Ray, 1956)
	TH	9/28	After the War: Hollywood in Transition (1948-1960s)
WEEK 5	F	9/29	Screening: <i>8 ½</i> (Federico Fellini, 1963)
	TH	10/5	Post-War International Cinema (1945-1968)
WEEK 6	F	10/6	Screening: <i>Cleo from 5 to 7</i> (Agnes Varda, 1961)
	TH	10/12	The French New Wave, Authorship, Film Culture (1954-1968)
WEEK 7	F	10/13	Screening: <i>McCabe & Mrs. Miller</i> (Robert Altman, 1971)
	TH	10/19	The “New Hollywood” (1964-1980)
WEEK 8	F	10/20	Screening: <i>Die Hard</i> (John McTiernan, 1988)
	TH	10/26	American Cinema & The Entertainment Economy (1980-2000)
WEEK 9	F	10/27	Screening: <i>Mulholland Drive</i> (David Lynch, 2001)
	TH	11/2	International & Independents (1968-2000)
WEEK 10	F	11/3	Screening: <i>TBA</i>
	TH	11/9	21st Century Cinema (2000-2017)
WEEK 11	***NO CLASS*** FINAL PAPER DUE 11/21		

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN & DUE DATES

Response #1 (The Gold Rush). Due 9/14. (3pts)
Response #2 (Stagecoach). Due 9/21. (3pts)
Response #3 (Bigger Than Life). Due 9/28. (3pts)
Paper #1 (Studio System). Due 9/28. (15pts)
Response #4 (8 ½ & Art Cinema). Due 10/5. (6pts)
Response #5 (Cleo From 5 to 7). Due 10/12. (3pts)
Response #6 (McCabe & Mrs. Miller). Due 10/19 (3pts)

Paper #2 (International Explorations). Due 10/19 (15pts)
Response #7 (Die Hard). Due 10/26 (3pts)
Response #8 (Mulholland Drive). 11/2 (3pts)
Response #9 (TBA). Due 11/9. (3pts)
Final Paper (21st Century Cinema). Due 11/21. (20pts)

CONTENT & SCHEDULE CHANGES – The syllabus is subject to change depending on class progress, time constraints, or material availability. This goes for the screenings as well. The overall workload, however, will not change. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly. You will be notified of any changes in the syllabus in a timely fashion.

WEEKLY RESPONSES – Each week you will write a short response (500+ words) corresponding to that week's film screening, readings, and lecture material. The responses provide *you* an opportunity to explore the film's historical and creative context, in addition to your own reactions and observations. The general prompt & guidelines for weekly responses is on D2L ('Content' -> 'Assignment Prompts'). This prompt will remain unchanged week-to-week unless notified otherwise. Additionally, each week after the screening I will post a 'Notes on (film we watch)' document on D2L which will contain contextual quotes, notes, and links to readings about that week's film to guide you in your writing and reflecting.

WEEKLY E-MAIL – Within 24-48 hours after each lecture period I will send an email detailing the class business for the week: assignments, readings, screenings, etc. It will also include a list of possible screenings to attend for extra credit. If you want to keep up with the course, you *must* read these e-mails and make sure you're on track. No excuses.

ATTENDANCE [IN-CLASS STUDENTS] – Students are expected to attend each class and remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. Class time is most productive when everyone arrives promptly and comes prepared to discuss that week's reading and film screening. Clips and short films shown in class may not be available outside of class, and you are responsible for all of the class material. ANY Absences will result in a major reduction of the attendance & participation grade. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION [ONLINE STUDENTS] – As an online student you are required to view EVERY class lecture & discussion unless I instruct otherwise. In order to receive attendance & participation credit, you must turn in notes from your viewing/listening to the lectures, discussions, and screenings. Your notes are due on D2L dropbox every Thursday (this gives you a full week) and may be typed or handwritten (and scanned/uploaded).

There is no strict criteria for the notes -- as long as you prove to me you are watching the lectures and engaging with the material you will receive credit. Failure to submit notes will hurt your grade tremendously.

LAB SCREENINGS - The assigned films are required "texts" for the course, thus attendance at the screenings is mandatory and count towards your attendance & participation grade. Students MUST come to class every week prepared to discuss that week's film (or films). For online students, the lab screenings will be available to stream on COLTube (coltube.cdm.depaul.edu), but I suggest you attempt to find better copies/streaming versions if you can.

READING ASSIGNMENTS - Reading assignments are *mandatory* and will be assigned weekly. The textbook readings supplement and inform the lectures and discussions and will be crucial in a broad understanding of cinema history as well as writing your weekly responses and papers. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class. *Supplemental readings will also be assigned & discussed in-class.* They will be available on D2L.

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.

GRADING - Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time. *Late work will receive zero points for grading.* An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

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 (<http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/student-life/leadership-opportunities/Pages/socially-responsible-leadership.aspx>). 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.

COMPUTER / SMART PHONE USE - This course involves a mixture of lecture, discussion, as well as screenings and as such, it requires your full attention (we watch movies with our eyes, ears, and minds!). *There will be no phones or computers allowed during class.* Exceptions will be made on an individual basis. If you bring a phone to class it *must* be on silent mode or turned off. 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 using your phone during a discussion, screening, or lecture, you will be marked absent for the day.

ACADEMIC INTERGRITY - Plagiarism is dishonest behavior and therefore violates collegiality as well as University policy. Any cases of plagiarism will automatically receive a zero and be reported to departmental and University officials for disciplinary action. You should familiarize yourself with behavior that constitutes plagiarism by reviewing the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty at: <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/Resources/Students/index.html>

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: www.cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment

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.

SPECIAL NEEDS - 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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