



DePaul University | School of Cinematic Arts

Thesis II | DC 566

Instructor:	James Choi	Quarter:	Fall 2017/2018
Office Hour:	MON 11-130/4:45-5:45 TUES 1- 5:30	Section:	701
Office Location:	CDM 515	Class#:	12884
Email:	jchoi26@depaul.edu	Class Time:	TUES from 5:45-9pm
Phone:	(312) 362-1329	Class Location:	14EAS RM207 Loop Campus

Course Description

DC 566 is a weekly workshop-style meeting designed to help the filmmaker have their thesis film “in the can” by the start of the subsequent quarter (for post-production in Thesis III). Meeting times will be devoted to assorted topical lectures AND using the power of group-think as deemed necessary to help facilitate the creation of quality productions. On any level, filmmaking is about designing strong cinematic “visions,” but at the end of the day it all comes down to problem solving (time, money, resources, etc) ie. making intelligent production decisions—very much what this course will be devoted to. And in theory, your thesis film should be one of the most, if not the most, important and exciting projects in your professional careers. You need passion, dedication, and unyielding devotion toward this effort, after all this is very much your industry “calling card.”

Quite simply, it's time to take the bull by the horns and git'er done.

The Instructor's Role + Your Project

The instructor will present some topical lectures designed to 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 production. At this point in your academic and cinematic careers, you should have the knowledge and wherewithal to devote yourself to your film's progress and its successful and timely completion. Thusly, and realistically, during a substantive amount of class time, the instructor will be serving in an advisory capacity and as a weekly meeting facilitator.

Learning Outcomes

CREATE a clear strategy to produce your 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: 20%**
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 successful project!
- **PITCH PACKET: 10%**
Concise & Compelling Synopsis/(Short) Character Breakdowns, Mission Statement (film's Influence and Style Choices)
- **STORY TREATMENT: 2.5%**
Story treatment broken down into 3-Act Structure.
- **SHOOTING SCRIPT: 5%**
- **BUDGET: 5%**
Budget breakdown with funding source
- **PRODUCTION SCHEDULE: 10%**
(when the following will be completed: Budget, Cast/Crew Lock, Rehearsals, Shoot Dates, Edits Dates, Picture Lock, Color/Sound Mix and Release/Fest strategy)
- **LIST OF CAST AND CREW: 2.5%**
- **PRE-VISUALIZATION PACKET: 20%**
Storyboards, Single Scene Pre-viz Test
- **LOOK BOOK: 20%**
Color Palette, Costume Design/Influence, Make-up, Set Design, Props Location Pictures)

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 (Subject to Change)

CLASS 01 – SEPT 12

IN CLASS TASKS: Production Status Update/Production Status Questionnaire/Pre-Production Checklist

CLASS 02 – SEPT 19

DUE: Pitch Packet: Concise & Compelling Synopsis/(Short) Character Breakdowns, Mission Statement (film's Influence and Style Choices)

CLASS 03 – SEPT 26

DUE: Story Treatment (broken down into 3-Act Structure) + Shooting Script

CLASS 04 – OCT 3

DUE: Budget: Breakdown with funding source)

CLASS 05 – OCT 10

DUE: Production Schedule: Calendar with Budget, Cast/Crew Lock, Rehearsals, Shoot Dates, Edits Dates, Picture Lock, Color/Sound Mix and Release/Fest

CLASS 06 – OCT 17

DUE: List of Cast and Crew

CLASS 07 – OCT 24

DUE: Pre-Visualization Packet: Storyboards, Single Scene Pre-viz Test

CLASS 08- OCT 31

DUE: Look Book: Color Palette, Costume Design/Influence, Make-up, Set Design, Props Location Pictures)

CLASS 09 – NOV 7

IN-CLASS TASKS: Pre-Production in Motion

CLASS 10 – NOV 14

IN-CLASS TASKS: Pre-Production in Motion

FINALS – NOV 21 / 6-8:15PM***

Flex Date – Wrap up loose ends

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 .

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

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