

## DC205 Foundations of Cinema

Fall Quarter 2018

M/W 9:40-11:10 am, STDC 330

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office: STDC332

Office hours: 8:00-9:30pm Tuesdays (BlueStar appointments)

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**Course Description** — This course will examine the craft, technology, and aesthetic principles of media production. Drawing heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: the importance of story and controlling ideas, storytelling with images, the basics of composition and editing, and an examination of narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects thus, putting theory into practice.

**Learning Domain Description** — DC 205 Foundations of Cinema is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts while developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning, and through critical and/or creative activity, come to better understand the original audience that witnessed a work of art and how its meaning and significance changes over time. These courses focus on works of art or literature, however the process of analysis may include social, cultural, and historical issues. Genres covered in this domain include literature, the visual arts, media arts, the performing arts, music, and theater.

**Learning Outcomes** — After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Explain what a work of film art is about and/or how it was produced (i.e. they should be able to articulate and explain the “content” of that work and/or its methodology of production).
- Comment on the relationship between form and content in a work of film art. E.g. What are the generic expectations of a particular form? How does an artist complicate, enrich, or subvert such expectations?
- Assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Contextualize a work of film art. They will be able to do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. They will also be able to contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the

work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

Learning outcomes will be achieved through in-class discussions and exercises. Outcomes will also be achieved by writing assignments that will require students to think critically and analyze a film as well as creative assignments that will enable students to put theory into practice. Students are expected to write 6 pages this quarter in accordance with the Arts and Literature domain requirement.

**Textbook** — Film Art: An Introduction by Bordwell & Thompson, 11th edition  
ISBN # 978-1259534959

Please feel free to get this book from the library, through I-share, from CPL, or rented via Amazon etc.

**Online Course Management System** — We will use D2L as our online course management system. You can log in at <<https://d2l.depaul.edu>>. Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, important information, and news will be posted there. Please check D2L regularly.

If you do not turn something in through D2L, *you will not get credit*. \*\*\*Do not email me any homework assignments or other course documents.\*\*\*

### **Film screenings**

All films that we screen will be posted on Panopto, DePaul's video management system. You can access Panopto via the link on the Content page of D2L. You may watch the films in their entirety there after logging in with your CampusConnect credentials. You are welcome to find the films at the library, streaming services, or elsewhere if desired.

If you are having trouble viewing the films on Panopto, it is your responsibility to reach out to me or DePaul's tech support <[panoptoadmin@depaul.edu](mailto:panoptoadmin@depaul.edu)>.

### **Grading**

Attendance and Participation 15%

Film analyses (3) 40% (10+15+15)

Photo story 15%

Final project 30%

### **Grade scale:**

93 - 100: A

90 - 92: A -

87 - 89: B +

83 - 86: B

80 - 82: B -

77 - 79: C +  
73 - 76: C  
70 - 72: C -  
67 - 69: D +  
60 - 66: D

#### Standards for Achievement:

##### Grade A:

Student performs in an outstanding way. Student exhibits achievement and craftsmanship in all work. Criteria are exceeded and student challenges him/herself in project development. Student exhibits commitment to expanding ideas, vocabulary, and performance.

##### Grade B:

Student performs beyond the requirement of the project. Student exhibits above average progress and craftsmanship. A criterion is exceeded. Student exhibits above average interest in expanding ideas, vocabulary, and performance.

##### Grade C:

Criteria of assignment are met, and all requirements are fulfilled. Student shows average quality work and minimum time and effort on projects. Student shows moderate interest.

##### Grade D:

Student performance is uneven and below average. Requirements for projects are only partially fulfilled. Minimal interest is shown and attendance, participation and involvement are inadequate.

##### Grade F

Student fails to meet minimum course requirements and shows no interest. Levels of participation and craftsmanship are extremely poor. Student's attendance is inadequate.

**Writing Help** – I *strongly* encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-based Learning (aka The Writing Center). It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your assignments are of the highest quality. To learn more about the services they offer, visit their website:

<http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/index.html>

**Assignments and Exercises** – Class work and assignments must be handed in on time. I will not accept late work. All assignments are due **15 minutes before the beginning of class**; if you come in late with an assignment it will not be accepted. Submission folders on D2L close automatically so you will not be able to turn work in late.

I do not accept any assignments by email. Submitting to D2L is the only way to get credit for your work.

**General Notes:**

- All lecture slides will be posted to D2L as PDFs on the Content page. Clips and other media files used in class will be made available for download there too.
- Any supplemental readings will be available on D2L on the Content page under the week they are assigned.

Last day to withdraw (without penalty): 9/18

Last day to withdraw (with penalty): 10/23

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Introductions, Syllabus, Cinema as an art form

Screening: *Living in Oblivion*

Reading: Ch. 1 (to page 24)

**Week 2**

The production process

Screening: *Adaptation* or *Barton Fink*

Reading: Ch. 1 (finish)

**Film analysis 1 DUE 9/25**

**Week 3**

Narrative form/screenwriting

Screening: *A Separation*

Reading: Ch. 3

**Week 4**

Mise-en-scène

Screening: *The Conformist?* *There Will Be Blood?* *Heavenly Creatures?*

Reading: Ch. 4

**Film analysis 2 DUE 10/9**

**Week 5**

Cinematography

Screening: *The American Friend*

Reading: Ch. 5

## **Photo story DUE 10/16**

### **Week 6**

Directing/acting

Screening: *Sweetie*

Reading: "Best Job in the World" excerpt on D2L

### **Final project concepts DUE 10/23**

### **Week 7**

Editing

Screening: *Morvern Callar*

Reading: Ch. 6

### **Film analysis 3 DUE 10/30**

### **Week 8**

Sound

Screening: The Florida Project? The Conversation?

Reading: Ch. 7

### **Week 9**

Film genres

Screening: Near Dark? Clueless? When Harry Met Sally? Drop Dead Gorgeous?

Reading: Ch. 9

### **Week 10**

Documentary form

Screening: *Stories We Tell*

Reading: Ch. 10

### **Final project DUE Friday 11/16 at 11:59 pm**

**\*\*Note\*\*:** Course content, assignments, screenings, and due dates are subject to change at any time. Any changes will be communicated clearly in class, on D2L, or by email. As such, it is important for you to read emails and come to class to stay apprised of any changes to the syllabus. The most current version of the syllabus will always be available via D2L.

### **My policies**

**Attendance** — Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Anyone who misses 3 classes will automatically drop a whole letter grade. Anyone who misses 4 classes will automatically fail.

If you are more than 15 minutes late or if you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will be considered absent. I take attendance at the beginning of every class, **so if you come in late**, please let me know after class otherwise you will be accidentally marked absent.

### **Attendance FAQ examples**

- I got scheduled at work unexpectedly, can I leave early?
- I have a job interview, can I miss class?
- My mom is in town, can I hang out with her instead of coming to class?
- I didn't sleep last night, can I watch the film at home?
- I need to go look at an apartment so I'm leaving early.

The answer to all of these questions is “yes, of course you can do that” because you're adults and I will treat you as such. You know the penalty for unexcused absences and can make whatever decisions you want.

If you are legitimately sick however, I mean really sick, please stay home. We don't want your evil germs. Please email me at [kendres@depaul.edu](mailto:kendres@depaul.edu) if you are going to miss class and make arrangements to have the absence documented by the Dean of Students Office.

**Sleeping** — Do not sleep in class. Just don't do it. If you sleep for more than 15 minutes you will be considered absent.

**Participation** — Do participate in class. Just do it. We'll all have more fun if everyone contributes to the conversations.

In addition to joining in discussions, you will be expected to critique other people's work on the photo story and final film concept. My intention is not to embarrass anyone, but rather to have a fostering and openly creative environment where people are comfortable sharing their work. We are a community. We're all here to support each other. Remember, this is your class, you will get out of it what you put into it.

**Respect** — Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs. We do not have to agree on everything but we should be able to discuss anything civilly. This is not the comments section of YouTube.

Please also respect the films we'll watch, many of which have mature themes and situations. During screenings, please do not talk and keep all comments/observations to yourself.

**Email** — The best way to contact me is through email. I usually respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. Emails received Saturdays and Sundays may not be returned until Monday.

**Computer and cell phone use** — Computers, cell phones, and tablets may NOT be used during class. If you have a documented learning need or disability that requires you to use a laptop, exceptions will be made. Otherwise, no screens in class. Computer or cell phone use will affect your participation grade.

All phones must be kept *silent*. Please do not have a phone that is constantly buzzing in your backpack.

I understand that emergencies happen and you may need to be available by phone. If that's the case, please tell me at the start of class if you know you may need to take a call. In any event, if you do need to use your phone during class please step outside quietly and answer your phone in the hallway. *There is no such thing as a text message emergency.*

**Grade disputes** — Any disputes or challenges to an assignment's grade must be made in writing (email is fine) within 48 hours of receiving your grade. You must state why you are challenging the grade and provide evidence to support your claim. Challenges to your final grade should follow the University's policy on grade challenges, which can be found in the student handbook:

<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/Pages/challenges-to-grades.aspx>

**Expectations** — Yes, this is an intro level course for non-majors. That does not mean it should be easy. I expect the same high quality writing and work befitting DePaul's standards of excellence that all the professors in your major/program expect.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**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 me.

You will get caught. Don't do it.

**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 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: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment).

**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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).  
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.  
Phone number: (312)362-8002

**Incompletes** — Students can read about requesting or receiving an incomplete grade at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

**Excused absences** — Students can read about the procedures for getting an excused absence at <http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>