FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS
DC110-406
DePaul University
Autumn Quarter 2018-2019

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:10AM - 11:50AM
Daley Building, 14 E. Jackson, Rm. 214

Instructor: Eric Marsh
Email: marsh@cdm.depaul.edu
Office Hours: Fridays, 8AM - 1PM, CDM Center, Rm. 522, by appointment only

Course Description - This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. 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: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on story and storytelling. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects - putting theory into practice. Please Note: This course teaches concepts rather than technology. Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in DC 110 to better communicate their ideas in Digital Cinema Production I (DC 210) and beyond.

Course Objectives - The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end of the course students should understand cinematic language and be able to incorporate structure, the framed image, sound, and editing into their own creative work.

The following topics will be covered:
- Analyze how cinematic techniques function to tell a story or convey a theme
- Synthesize cinematic techniques in the production of their own creative work
- Identify how techniques function in multiple genres and forms
- Create a project from concept to exhibition
- Utilize basic film production language

Required Text - *Film Art: An Introduction (11th Edition)* by David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson. Supplemental readings will be provided and shared on D2L.

Required Software/Hardware -

- Still and Video Camera, Audio Recording Equipment (available for check-out from CDM Equipment Center):
- Editing Software: CDM Computer Labs are available for software use outside of class
  - CDM labs offer Adobe Creative Cloud on PC and Mac operating systems.
  - Supplemental instruction at LYNDA.COM may be helpful. 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.

Information on rooms, production equipment, rules & guidelines, etc:
http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Production-Resources.aspx

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.

Basis for Evaluation

Responses (6) …………………….. 20%
Projects (4) ………………………… 50%
Attendance & Participation ……..... 10%
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	9/6	TH	Intro, Syllabus. What is Cinema?
WEEK 2	9/11	TU	Basic Concepts: Film & Reality In-class: Silent Short Projects
	9/13	TH	A Brief History of Cinema In-class: Screen Silent Short Projects
WEEK 3	9/18	TU	The Filmmaking Process: Industry & Terminology
	9/20	TH	Film Form
WEEK 4	9/25	TU	Mise-en-scene
	9/27	TH	Cinematography
WEEK 5	10/2	TU	Cinematography, cont...
	10/4	TH	Editing & Sound
WEEK 6	10/9	TU	In-class screening: *Citizen Kane*
	10/11	TH	*Citizen Kane,* cont… + discussion
WEEK 7	10/16	TU	Directing & Directions
	10/18	TH	Narrative: Story, Plot, & Character
WEEK 8	10/23	TU	Documentary
	10/25	TH	Pitch: Final Projects
WEEK 9	10/30	TU	In-class screening: *Halloween*
	11/1	TH	Genre
WEEK 10	11/6	TU	Challenging Classical Cinema
	11/8	TH	Project Updates & Workshop
WEEK 11	11/13	TU	What is Cinema? 21st Century Edition
FINALS	11/15	TH	FINAL PROJECTS DUE & SCREENING (8AM-10:30AM)

SCREENINGS - In addition to in-class screenings, you will be assigned films to watch at home and we will use them for your responses and our discussions. All films will be made available to stream on D2L. Here is the (subject-to-change) list of what we will be watching:

The Fits, 2015, Holmer, USA
Haywire, 2011, Steven Soderbergh, USA
Modern Romance, 1981, Brooks, USA
Citizen Kane, 1941, Welles, USA
Minding the Gap, 2018, Liu, USA
Halloween, 1978, Carpenter, USA
Hill of Freedom, 2014, Hong, Korea
 + More!

Assignment Breakdown & Due Dates

Specific parameters for the assignments and due dates will be given in class and posted to D2L.

RESPONSES
Intro response (5pts). Due 9/11.
Classic Film Response (5pts). Due 9/18.
Form & Meaning response (5pts). Due 9/25.
Cinematography Response (5pts). Due 10/2.
Scene analysis (10pts). Due 10/16.
Challenging Classical Cinema Response (5pts). Due 11/6.

PROJECTS
Silent Short Projects (5pts). Due 9/11 (will be completed in-class).
Photomontage Project (10pts). Due 10/4.
City Symphony Project (15pts). Due 10/11.
Final Short Film Project (25pts)
      1- Concepts/pitches. Due 10/25.
      2- Pre-Production materials. Due 11/8.
      3- Completed short film. Due 11/15.

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 (all deadlines are on the syllabus and on D2L). 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.

Course Policies - In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

Attendance - Each class consists of lecture, screenings, and discussion. 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. Therefore it is important for you to attend the class sessions and screenings regularly. Absences will result in a major reduction of the participation grade.

Deadlines - Media production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an 'A' in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

Illness - If you are sick, please contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, absences may be excused and extensions may be granted. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion. Absolutely no consideration will be given for those who request special treatment without advanced notice, even with a doctor's note.

D2L - 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.

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.

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 undisruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is *never* allowable in class.

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. 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.

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

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 - 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

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.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd. Phone number: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296