

**DePaul University**  
**School of Cinematic Arts**  
**Fall Quarter – 2018-2019**  
**DC 110 – Foundations of Cinema for Majors**  
**Section: 407**  
**Class Location: 14 E. Jackson, Room 214**  
**Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:50am - 1:20pm**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Firas Aladai  
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Office Location: CDM, Room 522  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 8:30am – 11:30am

**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 produce their own projects, putting theory into practice.

Prerequisite(s): None

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end of the course, students should form some understanding of 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:

- The importance of story and expressing ideas;
- Storytelling with images;
- Basics of image composition and editing;
- Basics of lighting and sound design; and
- Narrative, documentary, and experimental approaches and their intersections.

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.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the function of cinematic techniques in the art of storytelling.
- Examine the relationship between theory and practice in the filmmaking process.

- Integrate the aesthetic principles of visual design, style, and film form in the creation of multiple projects.
- Utilize film language in the analysis of short and feature-length media.
- Create a short film of approximately 5 minutes in length demonstrating the aesthetic, critical, and practical material of the course.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

*Film Art: An Introduction* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.) by David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, & Jeff Smith  
(ISBN 978-1-259-53495-9)

### **GRADING**

Late work will not be accepted for grading. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless noted otherwise.

### **GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Reading Quizzes	15%
Silent Shorts Project	10%
Narrative Structure Assignment	10%
Still Photo Project	10%
City Symphony Project	10%
Scene Analysis Assignment	10%
Making the Scene	15%
Final Project	20%

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, 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.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, and F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

### **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, 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>

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

For class days with assigned reading from the textbook, students will be asked to write an answer to a question about the reading at the beginning of the class.

<b>WEEK 1</b>	9/6	Introductions, Review of Syllabus & Cage Equipment Assign Groups; Explain Project # 1 (Due 9/13) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 1 (“Film as Art”)</b>
<b>WEEK 2</b>	9/11	<u>Brief History of Cinema</u> Screening: TBD
	9/13	<b>PROJECT #1 DUE IN CLASS</b> <u>Basic Concepts and Terminologies</u>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	9/18	<u>Narrative Form</u> Screening: <i>History of Violence</i> (Cronenberg, 2005) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 3 (“Narrative Form”), pp. 72-99 only</b>
	9/20	<u>Narrative Form</u> Explain Assignment# 1 (Due 9/25) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 4 (“The Shot: Mise-en-Scene”)</b>
<b>WEEK 4</b>	9/25	<b>ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE ON D2L</b> <u>Mise-en-Scene</u>
	9/27	Screening: <i>Fargo</i> (Coen brothers, 1996) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 5 (“The Shot: Cinematography”)</b>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	10/2	<u>Cinematography</u> Screening: <i>La Jetee</i> (Marker, 1962) Explain Project #2 (Due 10/11)
	10/4	Screening: <i>Visions of Light</i> (McCarthy, 1992) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 6 (“The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing”)</b>
<b>WEEK 6</b>	10/9	<u>Editing</u> Explain Concepts & Pitches for Final Projects (Due 11/1)
	10/11	<b>PROJECT #2 DUE IN CLASS</b>
<b>WEEK 7</b>	10/16	Screening: <i>A Man Escaped</i> (Bresson, 1956) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 7 (“Sound in the Cinema”)</b>

	10/18	<u>Sound in the Cinema</u> Explain Project# 3 (Due 10/30) <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch. 3 (pp. 99-109)</b>
<b>WEEK 8</b>	10/23	Screening: <i>Citizen Kane</i> (Welles, 1941) Explain Project# 4 (Due 11/8)
	10/25	<i>Citizen Kane</i> (cont.) Explain Assignment #2 (Due 11/6)
<b>WEEK 9</b>	10/30	<b>PROJECT #3 DUE IN CLASS</b>
	11/1	<b>CONCEPTS &amp; PITCHES FOR FINAL PROJECTS DUE</b>
<b>WEEK 10</b>	11/6	<b>ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE ON D2L</b> <u>Influential Cinematic Waves:</u> <u>Neo-Realism in Italy &amp; The New Wave in France</u>
	11/8	<b>PROJECT #4 DUE IN CLASS</b> <b>For next class: Read <i>Film Art</i>, Ch.10 (pp. 350-396)</b> <b>(“Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films”),</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b>	11/13	<u>Avant-Garde Cinema</u>
	11/20	<b>PROJECT #5 (FINAL PROJECT) DUE IN CLASS at 11:30am</b>

**Assignment #1:** Narrative Structure (10 pts)

**Assignment #2:** Scene Analysis (10 pts)

**Project #1:** Silent Shorts (10 pts)

**Project #2:** Still Photo Project (10 pts)

**Project #3:** City Symphony Project (10 pts)

**Project #4:** Making the Scene (15 pts)

**Project #5:** Final Project (20 pts)  
(Includes Concept & Pitches for Final Projects,  
Pre-Production Notes, and Storyboards)

### **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 that all students know what is expected of them and that 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.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. *Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student.*  
***The overall grade for Attendance & Participation drops one-third after any absence. Four absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.***

**Participation:** Student participation in this class will be measured in two ways. First, students will write an answer to a question based on the assigned reading from the textbook at the beginning of class (see grading system). Second, students will receive points for actively contributing to class discussions. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussions.

5 points – Excellent answer, with details from the assigned reading

3 points – Acceptable answer

1 point – Inaccurate/unclear answer

0 points – Absent or no answer

**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. 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.

**Cell Phones/On Call:** If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. 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 required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.