

DC 420 Editing – SECTION 801

Instructor: [Melissa Lawrenz](#)

Quarter: WINTER 2019

WED 5:45-9pm

CDM Center 632 - Loop Campus

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Office hours: WED 9-10:30PM in classroom CDM 632

Summary of Course:

Emphasis is on developing the student's understanding of the art of cinematic storytelling and montage. Work on more advanced projects is integrated into the class as a means of mastering advanced editing tools and techniques.

PREREQUISITE(S): DC 220 or DC 460 or DC 409

Learning Outcomes: In DC 420, students will:

1. Learn the “rules” of editing (i.e. when to cut and when not to cut) and when to break them.
2. Learn how to control story and character development through editing.
3. Learn how to apply these techniques in NLE software.
4. Gain an understanding of techniques editors use in experimental film, dialogue, documentary, animation, television, etc.
5. Be able to effectively understand the technical ins and outs of Post-Production as it applies to workflows and delivery.

Required Text:

DC 420: *In the Blink of an Eye*, Walter Murch, Silman-James press. 2nd Edition. 2001. ISBN-10: 1879505622 / ISBN-13: 978-1879505629

Lynda.com: Premiere Pro CC 2019 Essential Training: The Basics with Ashley Kennedy

For Lynda.com, you can use your student account for free access:

<https://offices.depaul.edu/information-services/services/technology-training/Pages/online-training.aspx>

Recommended Texts:

Make the Cut: A Guide to Becoming a Successful Assistant Editor in Film & TV, Lori Coleman & Diana Friedberg, Focal Press, 2010.

Cut by Cut: Editing Your Film or Video, 2nd Ed., Gael Chandler, Michael Wiese Productions, 2012.

Required Supplies:

All our class exercises and home assignments deal with projects and media. It is the responsibility of the student to back up all projects & media. Do not leave your projects on the lab computers. Please note: hardware problems are not acceptable as an excuse for late submissions.

You must have your own external drive for your project work. A USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt is recommended and ideally your drive should run 7200 rpm or be a solid state drive. Some of the new computers no longer support Firewire. If you have a Firewire drive, you will need a Thunderbolt adapter.

A USB flash drive is also recommended for project back ups. Do not use flash drives as your main media drive.

To be able to work on both Mac and PC with your external drives, I highly recommend formatting your external drive to ExFAT. If you will only be using the drive on Macs then Mac OS Extended (Journaled) is fine.

Grading Scale:

A 100-93	C- 72-70
A- 92-90	D+ 69-67
B+ 89-87	D 66-63
B 86-83,	D- 62-60
B- 82- 80	F 59-0
C+ 79-77	

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

Grading:

Project 1	20%
Project 2	20%
Project 3	15%
Article Responses	10%
<i>In the Blink of an Eye</i> Questions	20%
Final Exam	15%

Student responsibilities:

Each student is responsible for their time management and for meeting the expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines in class. In the event of an absence, you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

Deadlines:

Cinema 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.

Attendance & Participation:

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. If you are absent from class regardless of reason, 5 points per absence will be

deducted from your final grade. For example, if you miss five classes, 25 points will be deducted from your final grade. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving early constitutes half an absence. For example, if you are late two times, 5 points will be deducted from your final grade.

Article Responses, Class Discussion:

There will be five reading assignments from articles that I assign. You will read the article and write a one to two page response highlighting the most interesting points of the articles and what you thought about what was discussed. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion. Students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic.

The written response is graded so proofread the article before turning it in. Please double space and follow MLA general guidelines for formatting. Upload these assignments to the D2L Dropbox for that particular article assignment.

Walter Murch textbook & Questions:

You will read the Walter Murch book, *In the Blink of an Eye*, and you will answer questions regarding specific chapters in Murch's book. The assignments are split up into 6 sections. You may submit the answers before the due dates.

Questions are in Word Document format and are available for download on D2L. Upload these assignments to the D2L Dropbox for each assignment.

Editing Assignments:

Footage for the editing assignments is available via a link on D2L. You will be editing the footage in Adobe Premiere.

You will be turning in Premiere Project Files and exported movie files. Project Files can be uploaded to D2L. Please submit exported movie files via **wetransfer.com**. WeTransfer sends you a receipt when the file has uploaded successfully and when I have downloaded it. Always bring a back-up copy to class on a drive. If possible, create a free account on Frame.io and send me a link to your cut. I will be able to leave timecode based feedback on your edit. I'll explain the process in class.

Due dates are firm. I will not accept late assignments.

Final Exam:

The Final will consist of multiple choice, short answers, and an essay based on class lectures and the Walter Murch book.

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. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://offices.depaul.edu/oa/faculty-resources/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

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.

Computers/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.

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.

Students with Disabilities:

DePaul University is committed to ensuring equal access to its educational and extracurricular opportunities for students with disabilities. The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) offers reasonable academic accommodations and services to support our students. We also serve as a resource to the many university departments that have a responsibility to accommodate students. Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

IMPORTANT DATES WINTER QUARTER 2018-2019

Saturday January 5, 2019	Begin WQ2019 classes
Friday January 11, 2019	11:59 PM Deadline to add classes to WQ2019 schedule
Friday January 18, 2019	Last day to drop WQ2019 classes with no penalty (100% refund of tuition if applicable and no grade on transcript)
Friday January 18, 2019	Last day to select pass/fail option for WQ2019 classes
Saturday January 19, 2019	Grades of "W" assigned for WQ2019 classes dropped on or after this day
Monday January 21, 2019	Martin Luther King Day - University officially closed
Friday January 25, 2019	Last day to select auditor status for WQ2019 classes
Saturday February 2, 2019	Begin WQ2019 optional mid-term exam week
Friday February 8, 2019	End WQ2019 optional mid-term exam week
Friday February 22, 2019	Last day to withdraw from WQ2019 classes
Friday March 15, 2019	End WQ2019 Day & Evening Classes
Saturday March 16, 2019	Begin WQ2019 Day & Evening Final Exams
Friday March 22, 2019	END WINTER QUARTER 2019

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week 1: 1/9

Review Syllabus, The Editing Process

Premiere LAB #1- Intro/Review, Project Organization

Homework:

1. **Article Response #1**
2. Read *Grammar of the Edit*- document on D2L
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 2, 3
4. Download media for Project 1: Lavinia's Heist - Media is located on D2L for this class. Go to PROJECT MEDIA. **Bring media to next week's class.**
5. Purchase Walter Murch's book *In the Blink of an Eye*

Week 2: 1/16

Analyzing the Script, Shaping Story & Performance

Premiere LAB #2- Set up Project 1-*Lavinia's Heist*, Syncing Video w/ Audio completed in class

Homework:

1. **Project 1**- Complete a Script Breakdown for entire *Lavinia's Heist* script
2. **Article Response #2**
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 4, 5

Week 3: 1/23

Editing Dialogue

Premiere LAB #3- Basic Editing, Using the Trim Tool & Trim Mode for dialogue

Homework:

1. **Project 1**- Full Assembly edit, upload Project file to D2L
2. **Article Response #3**
3. Watch Lynda.com- Ch. 7, 14- Exporting your project

Week 4: 1/30

Importance of the Soundtrack

Premiere LAB #4- Review Trim Tool, Audio Editing, Transitions, Exporting movie files, using Frame.io

Homework:

1. **Project 1**- Rough Cut, Send an MP4 to mlawrenz@gmail.com via wetransfer.com or Frame.io, upload Premiere Project file to D2L
2. **Murch Questions #1**- Read pgs. 1-20 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions

Week 5: 2/6

Project 1 RC Screening for feedback, POV and Narrative Stance, Cutting Animated Films

Premiere LAB #5- Review concepts covered- bring in questions, Editing Tips

Homework:

1. **Project 1-** Fine Cut: Send an MP4 to mlawrenz@gmail.com via wetransfer.com or Frame.io, upload Premiere Project file to D2L
2. **Article Response #4**
3. **Murch Questions #2-** Read pgs. 21-51 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
4. Download media for Project 2: *Come and Get It* >PROJECT MEDIA on D2L

Week 6: 2/13

Open time to screen Fine Cuts, Cutting Action, Comedy, Horror and Suspense

Premiere LAB #5- Start Project 2- *Come and Get It*- review footage

Homework:

1. **Project 2-** Organize project, Full Assembly edit using the script as your guide, Search for music and SFX, upload Project file to D2L
2. **Murch Questions #3-** Read pgs. 52-72 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
3. Watch Lynda.com: Ch. 10, 11

Week 7: 2/20

Cutting Documentaries, Working with and Prepping for VFX

Premiere LAB #6- Working with Effects and how to use them in Project 2

Homework:

1. **Project 2-** Rough Cut: Refine your edit while trying to create an engaging and informative action sequence. Start adding SFX and music. Send MP4 to mlawrenz@gmail.com via wetransfer.com or Frame.io, upload Premiere Project file to D2L
2. **Murch Questions #4-** Read pgs. 75-107 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions

Week 8: 2/27

Project 2 RC Screening, Using Experimental Techniques in Narrative films

Homework:

1. **Project 2-** Fine Cut: Utilize RC feedback for the final cut. Finish sound design and VFX work. Send an MP4 to mlawrenz@gmail.com via wetransfer.com or Frame.io, upload Premiere Project file to D2L
2. **Article Response #5**
3. **Murch Questions #5-** Read pgs. 107-129 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
4. **Project 3-** Download media from D2L

Week 9: 3/6

Project 2 Fine Cut Screenings, Cutting for TV, Prepping for Sound Design/Mix

Premiere LAB #7- Exporting for Sound Design, Setup Project 3

Homework:

1. **Project 3-** Organize footage and create a Rough Cut, Send an MP4 to mlawrenz@gmail.com via wetransfer.com or Frame.io, upload Premiere Project file to D2L.
2. **Murch Questions #6-** Read pgs. 129-146 from *In the Blink of an Eye* and answer questions
3. Watch Lynda.com: Ch. 12 or Watch "A Crash Course in Color Correction Using Premiere"- link on D2L

Week 10: 3/13

Project 3 RC Screening for feedback, Picture Finishing & Delivery

Premiere LAB #8: Prepping and Exporting for Picture Finishing, Lumetri Color Correction, Final Timeline setup

Homework:

Project 3- Fine Cut is due at 5:45pm on March 20th. Send MP4 to mlawrenz@gmail.com via wetransfer.com or Frame.io, upload Premiere Project file to D2L

Final Exam: March 20, 5:45-8pm in CDM 632.