

DePaul University
Winter Quarter 2018 - 2019
DC 100 - Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies
Section: 501
Class Location: 14 E. Jackson, Room LL105
Class Times: Mondays, 10:00AM - 1:15PM

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Firas Aladai
Email: faladai@cdm.depaul.edu
Office Location: 14 E. Jackson, Room 200B
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30PM-5:00PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This lecture-based course will introduce students to the art of cinema from the point of view of the filmmaker. Through screenings of contemporary and classic films, students will gain an appreciation of the various crafts involved in the making of movies, such as: acting, directing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, production design, editing, sound, or visual effects. This course is not intended for students who plan to major or minor in Digital Cinema. No prerequisites.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize film as an artistic medium.
- Identify the craft and techniques of specific roles in the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze visual communication as used by filmmakers.
- Discuss the methods, forms and styles in a wide array of feature film examples.

HOW COURSE OBJECTIVES WILL BE MET:

- Through weekly lectures, readings, discussions, and the screening of variety of American and international films, students will **recognize film as an artistic medium.**
- Through lectures, film screenings, readings, and response papers, students will gain insight into the essential collaborative element of filmmaking and **identify the specific roles in the filmmaking process (i.e. director, cinematographer, editor, sound designer, writer, etc.)**
- Through lectures, film screenings, readings, and weekly response papers, students will analyze the main conceptual and technical elements of filmmaking from writing to post-production and **analyze visual communication as used by filmmakers.**

LEARNING DOMAIN DESCRIPTION:

DC 100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies 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 by developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze creative works, investigate the

relations of form and meaning and through critical and/or creative activity to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, though the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take course in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater. No more than two courses can be chosen from one department or program.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

A minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for courses in the Arts and Literature domain (including studio courses) is required.

TEXTBOOK:

Making Movies by Sidney Lumet is the required textbook for this course.
<https://www.amazon.com/Making-Movies-Sidney-Lumet/dp/0679756604>.

GRADE BREAKDOWN (IN-CLASS STUDENTS)

Weekly Response Papers: 50%
Final Exam: 30%
Reading Quizzes: 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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

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| WEEK 1 (1/7) | <u>Introduction and Review of Syllabus</u> Screening: <i>Hearts of Darkness</i> (Eleanor Coppola, 1991) |
| WEEK 2 (1/14) | <u>Narrative Structure</u> Screening: <i>Winter's Bone</i> (Debra Granik, 2010) |
| WEEK 3 (1/21) | Martin Luther King Day. University officially closed |
| WEEK 4 (1/28) | <u>Cinematography</u> Screening: <i>Moonlight</i> (Barry Jenkins, 2016) |
| WEEK 5 (2/4) | <u>Editing</u> Screening: <i>Run Lola Run</i> (Tom Tykwer, 1999) |

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| WEEK 6 (2/11) | <u>Sound in the Cinema</u> Screening: <i>The Mirror</i> (Andrie Tarkovsky, 1975) |
| WEEK 7 (2/18) | <u>Directing</u> Screening: <i>Blue Valentine</i> (Derek Cianfrance, 2010) |
| WEEK 8 (2/25) | <u>Neo-Realism in Italy & The New Wave in France</u> Screening: <i>Bicycle Thieves</i> (Vittorio De Sica ,1949) |
| WEEK 9 (3/4) | <u>Experimental Film</u> Screening: TBD |
| WEEK 10 (3/11) | <u>Documentary</u> Screening: <i>Baraka</i> (Ron Fricke, 1992) |
| WEEK 11 (3/18) | <u>Final Exam</u> 8:30AM-11:45AM* |

*Note: The final exam is scheduled for a different time than the regular class time.

FILM RESPONSE PAPERS

There will be a total of 5 film response papers due during the quarter. A prompt will be posted on D2L. Submit to the Submissions on D2L as a .doc or .pdf. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

GUIDELINES FOR FILM RESPONSE PAPERS

1. 500 words (minimum)
2. Double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point font, Times New Roman or Cambria
3. Heading containing your name, the assignment, and the due date
4. Creative title – encouraged but not required
5. Formal academic style (i.e., using academic language, not in a conversational style; no contractions, informal language, or slang)
6. In paragraph form – 2-3 paragraphs, each starting with a topic sentence
7. Thesis statement at the end of the introduction paragraph

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 will be posted 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.

Participation (In-class students only): 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 at the beginning of class. 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/no answer

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.

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.

Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

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 instructor 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.

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
25 E. Jackson Blvd. (1420)
Phone: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296

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.

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.