

DC100 Intro to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Winter Quarter 2019

Mondays 1:00-4:30 pm, Student Center 330

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office: Student Center 332

Office hours: 5:00-6:30pm Mondays, BlueStar appointments please

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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.

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 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:

- Understand and discuss film as an artistic medium
- Analyze and discuss the craft and technique of specific members of the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze and discuss visual communication and storytelling as used by filmmakers

Learning outcomes will be achieved through in-class discussions and exercises as well as writing assignments that will require students to think critically and analyze a specific aspect of filmmaking in a given film. Students are expected to write 6 pages this quarter in accordance with the Arts and Literature domain requirement.

Textbook — There is no required textbook for this class. Reading assignments will be made available through D2L.

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 will be able to watch the films through the links on the Content page of D2L. You will need to log into Panopto with your CampusConnect credentials. You are free to find the films at the library, on streaming services, or elsewhere online if desired.

Please note that Panopto may not work with certain browser extensions or certain browser settings. I recommend you use Google Chrome as your browser with no extensions turned on. If you cannot get the films to play, it is your responsibility to contact me or Panopto support at <panoptoadmin@depaul.edu> to ensure you stay current with the screenings.

Grading:

Attendance and participation: 15%

Homework assignments: 30%

Quizzes: 35%

Comprehensive quiz: 20%

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.

Homework — There will be three, two-page response papers throughout the quarter. All homework must be submitted via D2L on the Submissions page. The folders where you submit your assignments close automatically so *no late work will be accepted*. Technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses for not turning in your assignments on time.

You may also pitch me a video essay or another alternative assignment that I will accept in lieu of paper(s) on a case-by-case basis. You must get pre-approval to turn in something other than a paper.

Quizzes — There will be six quizzes throughout the quarter, the lowest of which will be automatically dropped at the end of the quarter. There will be a comprehensive quiz at the end of the quarter that is not eligible to be dropped. All quizzes will be administered through D2L. They will close promptly at the appointed time. You will not be able to access or submit quizzes that are in progress once the deadline passes.

You must finish the film screenings and the readings **before** doing the quizzes.

All homeworks and quizzes are due 15 minutes before the start of class.

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>

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.

-All readings will be available on D2L on the Content page under the week they are assigned.

Last day to withdraw (without penalty): 1/18

Last day to withdraw (with penalty): 2/22

Weekly schedule

Week 1

1/7 – Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema overview

Screen: *Living in Oblivion* (Tom DiCillo, 1995, 90 minutes)

Reading: *Story* introduction by Robert McKee (**DUE 1/14**)

Reading: *The Script* by Sidney Lumet (**DUE 1/14**)

Week 2

1/14 – Screenwriting

Screen: *Vertigo* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1960, 128 minutes)

Reading: *Best Job in the World* by Sidney Lumet (**Due 1/21**)

Reading: *A Free Replay* by Chris Marker (**DUE 1/21**)

Quiz 1 covers cinema overview lecture, screenwriting lecture, *Living in Oblivion*, *Vertigo*, *Story* intro, and *The Script* (**Due 1/21**)

Homework 1: *Vertigo* or *Living in Oblivion* (**DUE 1/28**)

****NO CLASS 1/21 -- MLK DAY****

Week 3

1/28 – Directing

Screen: *The Fall* (Tarsem Singh, 2006, 117 minutes)

Reading: *The Camera* by Sydney Lumet (**Due 2/4**)

Week 4

2/4 – Cinematography

Screen: *Ida* (Pawel Pawlikowski, 2013, 82 minutes)

Reading: *Art Direction and Clothes* by Sidney Lumet (**DUE 2/11**)

Quiz 2 covers cinematography lecture, *The Fall*, *Ida*, Cinematography reading (**Due 2/11**)

Week 5

2/11 – Mise-en-scène/Production design

Screen: *Mad Max: Fury Road* (George Miller, 2015, 120 minutes)

Reading: *In the Blink of an Eye* excerpts by Walter Murch (**DUE 2/18**)

Quiz 3 covers production design/mise-en-scène lecture, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, Art Direction and Clothes reading (**Due 2/18**)

Homework 2: Directing, Cinematography, Mise-en-scène, Editing, *Ida*, *The Fall*, *Mad Max* (**DUE 2/18**)

Week 6

2/18 – Editing

Screen: *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (Lynne Ramsay, 2011, 112 minutes)

Reading: Sound of Music by Sidney Lumet (**Due 2/25**)

Quiz 4 covers editing lecture, *In the Blink of an Eye* reading, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (**Due 2/25**)

Week 7

2/25 – Sound design and music

Screen: *WALL-E* (Andrew Stanton, 2008, 98 minutes)

Reading: Intro excerpt from *New History of Documentary* (**DUE 3/4**)

Quiz 5 covers sound design and music lecture, *Wall-E*, and Sound of Music reading (**Due 3/4**)

Week 8

3/4 – Documentary

Screen: *The Act of Killing* (Joshua Oppenheimer, 2012, 115 minutes)

Quiz 6 covers Documentary lecture, *The Act of Killing*, and Intro excerpt from *New History of Documentary* (**Due 3/11**)

Homework 3: Editing, Sound, Documentary, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, *Wall-E*, *The Act of Killing* (**DUE 3/11**)

Week 9

3/11 – Visual Effects? Experimental cinema? Independent cinema? New waves?

Screen: ??? TBD

Comprehensive final quiz (DUE March 18th at 11:59pm)

Quiz will be open on D2L from Friday *March 15th at 8:00am to Monday March 18th 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 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.

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 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.

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 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>