DC 398 Digital Cinema Capstone

When: Monday · 1:15pm – 4:30pm
Where: RM 211 Daley Building Loop Campus

Instructor: Matt Quinn · mquinn@cdm.depaul.edu · 312-362-5807 · CDM 509
Office hours: Monday & Thursday 11:15am – 1:15pm | Tuesday 11:15am – 5:30pm

Summary of Course

This course provides a Digital Cinema-specific capstone experience for the student. Students must have completed at least one of the three Topics in Production courses before they enroll in this course. The capstone course will connect the students' Digital Cinema course work with the University courses s/he has taken through three components: student-generated production packages, class/instructor discussions, and the actual creation/production of the student's proposed project.

The primary focus of the Screenwriting Concentration capstone is the completion of a first draft of a feature length screenplay or an original television series pilot that was outlined in DC 397 Capstone Development.

Learning Domain Description

This course is designed to allow students to reflect on the learning derived from their undergraduate education (liberal studies, major and minor) in order to reach theory-based conclusions about self-identity, social relationships, liberal education, and future directions. They will also gather all production pieces and create a portfolio of their work.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing a Capstone course should be able to:

- Apply one or more theories or concepts from courses within their major to an analysis of a particular issue relevant to the major.
- Identify an idea, method, or concept from a discipline outside their major field of study and be able to apply it within the context of their major field of study.
- Examine how their previous coursework, including Liberal Studies courses, has contributed to their intellectual development and/or their post-graduation plans.

Writing Expectations

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of ten pages of writing for this course.

Prerequisites

DC 397 Capstone Development – BFA Film and Television Screenwriting Concentration Majors

Grading

Attendance & Participation	10%
Screenwriting Research Project	10%
Workshop	10%
Career Plan Portfolio	10%
Capstone Project Submission I	30%
Capstone Project Submission II	40%

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, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Attendance

Attendance and participation are mandatory. An absence, which is defined as not showing up to class, arriving more than 10 minutes late to class or departing before class is formally dismissed will constitute a reduction in your overall grade. Absent students will be required to participate in a D2L lecture discussion forum where they will respond to a specific topic posted by the instructor.

D2L

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to: https://login.depaul.edu/ldap/login?service=https%3a%2f%2fd2l.depaul.edu%2fd2l%2fcustom%2fcas and enter using your campus connect logon and password. Once you are logged on, click on the course number link and you will find links to the syllabus, course outline, video lectures, discussion forums, weekly assignments, etc.

Course Outline

Week 1 – January 7th

Lecture: Course Overview, Project Updates, Resumes
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio, Screenwriting Research Project

Week 2 – January 14th

Lecture: First Half
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio, Screenwriting Research Project

Week 3 – January 21st

No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio, Screenwriting Research Project

Week 4 – January 28th

Lecture: Screenwriting Research Project
Workshop: Group 1
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio

Week 5 – February 4th

Lecture: Screenwriting Research Project
Workshop: Group 2
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio

Week 6 – February 11th

Lecture: Screenwriting Research Project
Workshop: Group 3
Capstone Project First Submission Due
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio

Week 7 – February 18th

Lecture: Screenwriting Research Project
Workshop: Group 4
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio

Week 8 – February 25th

Lecture: Second Half
Workshop: Group 1
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission I, Career Plan Portfolio
Career Plan Portfolio must be submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 3rd

Week 9 – March 4th

Lecture: Endings & Season Arcs
Workshop: Group 2
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission II

Week 10 – March 11th

Lecture: Post Graduation: Los Angeles, Graduate School
Workshop: Group 3
Assignment: Capstone Project Submission II

Week 11 – March 18th

Workshop: Group 4
Capstone Project Submission II Due

Assignments

Screenwriting Research Project (10% of Final Grade)

Your group will present a 30-minute discussion on a screenwriting topic (Ex: dialogue, anti-hero leads, limited series, nonlinear techniques, serialized narratives, etc.). Draw upon your previous coursework, including Liberal Studies courses, and identify an idea, method, or concept from a discipline outside your major field of study to help formulate your position on your group's chosen topic. You may use video clips and script excerpts to illustrate to further illustrate your point. The project will be presented in-class before your first assigned group workshop:

- Group 1 – January 28th
- Group 2 – February 4th
- Group 3 – February 11th
- Group 4 – February 18th

Career Plan Portfolio (10% of Final Grade)

There are two components to the Career Plan Portfolio outlined below. All documents should be saved as PDF files in a zip folder to the corresponding D2L Submission link by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 3rd.

- Statement of Purpose – This document must clearly express your long-term goals in the film and television industry and the steps you plan to take in the next one to two years to accomplish these objectives. The paper must be a minimum of 3 pages.
- Resume – This one-page document should outline your most important experience, training, and accomplishments to date in the film and television industry.

Workshop (10% of Final Grade)

Feedback is an essential part of the writing process. To facilitate this, every student will have two in-class workshop sessions. (each session is worth 5 points). The initial workshop should focus on a 20-page excerpt from the first half of your Capstone Project and the following workshop should focus on a 20-page excerpt from the second half of your Capstone Project. You must send me the pages you would like to cover as a PDF via e-mail by 11:59pm on the Sunday before your assigned session.

- Group 1 – January 28th, February 25th
- Group 2 – February 4th, March 4th
- Group 3 – February 11th, March 11th
- Group 4 – February 18th, March 18th

Capstone Project Submission I (30% of Final Grade)

Capstone Project for students in the BFA in Film and Television Screenwriting Concentration majors consists of an original feature length screenplay or an original television series pilot & series bible. The first submission of this assignment must be uploaded to the corresponding D2L Submission link by 1:15pm on Monday, February 11th. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Feature – A few things to keep in mind:

- You must include a cover page
- Your submission must be at least 50 pages
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count - Proofread your work, proofread it again and then proofread it one more time just to be sure.
- Standard screenwriting formatting is required.
- Don't wait until the last minute. It takes time to develop a solid narrative - You won't be able to do it in one night
- Please make sure the script is saved as a PDF

TV Series – A few things to keep in mind:

Series Bible
- The series bible must be a minimum of 5 pages
- While there is no fixed template for a series bible, it should include sections on the following: Overview, Themes, World, Characters, Season One Breakdown

Pilot
- One-hour pilot should be a minimum of 50 pages
- Half-hour pilot should be a minimum of 30 pages for single camera / 50 for multi-camera
- You must include a cover page
- Pilot must demonstrate the tone and world outlined in your series bible
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count - Proofread your work, proofread it again and then proofread it one more time just to be sure.
- Standard screenwriting formatting is required.
- Don't wait until the last minute. It takes time to develop a solid narrative - You won't be able to do it in one night.
- Please make sure the script is saved as a PDF

Capstone Project Submission II (40% of Final Grade)

Capstone Project for students in the BFA in Film and Television Screenwriting Concentration majors consists of an original feature length screenplay or an original television series pilot & series bible. The final submission of this assignment must be uploaded to the corresponding D2L Submission link by 2:30pm on Monday, March 18th. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Feature – A few things to keep in mind:

- You must include a cover page
- Your submission must be at least 90 pages and should read as a complete screenplay
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count - Proofread your work, proofread it again and then proofread it one more time just to be sure.
- Standard screenwriting formatting is required.
- Don't wait until the last minute. It takes time to develop a solid narrative - You won't be able to do it in one night
- Please make sure the script is saved as a PDF

TV Series – A few things to keep in mind:

Series Bible
- The revised version of your series bible should consider the feedback you received from self-evaluation, instructor, and peers.
- The series bible must be a minimum of 5 pages
- While there is no fixed template for a series bible, it should include sections on the following: Overview, Themes, World, Characters, Season One Breakdown

Pilot

- The revised version of your pilot should consider the feedback you received from self-evaluation, instructor, and peers.
- One-hour pilot should be a minimum of 50 pages
- Half-hour pilot should be a minimum of 30 pages for single camera / 50 for multi-camera
- You must include a cover page
- Pilot must demonstrate the tone and world outlined in your series bible
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count - Proofread your work, proofread it again and then proofread it one more time just to be sure.
- Standard screenwriting formatting is required.
- Don't wait until the last minute. It takes time to develop a solid narrative - You won't be able to do it in one night.
- Please make sure the script is saved as a PDF

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.

Changes to the 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.

Online Course Evaluations

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul.

Changes to the Syllabus

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Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/.

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (http://campusconnect.depaul.edu. Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

Retroactive Withdrawal

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM.
The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter
Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter
Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter
Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

Excused Absence

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html.

Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

Incomplete

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. CDM policy

requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM.

- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.
- If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.
- By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.
- An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

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:
Student Center, LPC, Suite #370
Phone number: (773)325.1677
Fax: (773)325.3720
TTY: (773)325.7296