

DC100-302/DC100-311: Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Spring 2019: March 30 – June 14
Wednesdays, 09:35am – 12:50pm
Lincoln Park Campus, LEVAN 00305

Instructor: Nick Schmidt

Office Hours: Daley Building LL103B, Wednesdays 04:00pm – 05:30pm or by appt.

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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 intend to major or minor in Digital Cinema.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: 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

Learning Domain Description: DC100 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 particular 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, through the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take courses in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater.

Text: There is no required textbook for this course. Required materials will be provided and shared with you on D2L or email.

D2L: The course material for this course, such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Please make sure to have access to D2L. You should be able to log into with your Campus Connect credentials.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation and Movie Screening/Reading Responses: 50%

Paper 1: 10% (10 points)

Midterm: 20% (20 points)

Final Paper: 20% (30 points)

100 Points total

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.

Class Schedule and Course Outline:

Week (1)

4/3 – Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema Production

Screen In Class: Living In Oblivion (Tom DiCillo, 1995)

Homework:

Reading: Kevin Smith: Clerks, My First Movie, 20 Celebrated Directors Talk about Their First Film, Edited by Stephen Lowenstein (2000)

Watch: Clerks (Kevin Smith, 1994)

Due: Response #1 uploaded to D2L by 4/10/19 9:35am

Week (2)

4/10 – Story Structure/Screenplays

Screen In Class: Thelma & Louise (Ridley Scott, 1991)

Homework:

Reading: Let's Beat It Out, Save the Cat! The Last Book On Screenwriting That You'll Ever Need, Blake Snyder (2005) and Thelma & Louise Screenplay

Paper 1: uploaded to D2L by 4/17/19 9:35am

Week (3)

4/17 – Editing and Sound

Screen In Class: Do The Right Thing (Spike Lee, 1989)

Reading: Film Criticism – Do The Right Thing, Bordwell, Thompson

Homework:TBD

Week (4)

4/24 – Photography/Cinematography

Screen In Class: The Host, (Bong Joon-Ho, 2006)

Reading: Understanding Movies – Louis Giannetti – Photography

Homework: TBD

Week (5)

5/1 – Production Design

Screen In Class: TBD

Homework: TBD

Week (6)

5/8 – MIDTERM

Week (7)

5/15 – Documentary

Screen In Class: TBD

Homework: TBD

Week (8)

5/22 – Short Films

Screen In Class: TBD

Homework: TBD

Week (9)

5/29 – Directing/Producing

Screen In Class: TBD

Homework: TBD

Week (10)

6/5 – Independent Micro/Budget

Screen In Class: TDB

Homework: TBD

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

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

Attendance/Participation/Class Discussion:

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 in participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure of the course.

Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic.

Participation allows the instructor to “hear” the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

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 phone 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 instance 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 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.

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.

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 – 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 Campus Connect.