

INSTRUCTOR

B. Rich

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COURSE INFORMATION

DMA 495 / VFX 390/490 Section 901

Time: Thursday 6:00 – 9:15

Location: Cinespace Room 201 + Stage 15

Course page: [D2L](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

DMA 495: Specific topics selected by the instructor. Topic varies with each offering. Credit counts towards DMA Advanced Workshop requirement. May be repeated

VFX 390/490: Advanced study in visual effects focusing on a specific area each quarter. May be repeated for credit.

This class will focus on the development, production and post-production of 360 video.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Develop and produce live-action 360 and VR video content.
2. Understand current trends and methods of VR film production
3. Develop skills in critical analysis and feedback.

CLASS FORMAT

Lectures, discussions, workshops and class viewings.

RECOMMENDED READING

- *Virtual Reality Filmmaking: Techniques & Best Practices* for VR Filmmakers by Celine Tricart
ISBN-13: 978-1138233966

REQUIRED SOFTWARE AND DEVICES

- Google Cardboard or equivalent phone VR headset
 - These can be checked out of the Camera Vault
- 360 Cameras (available from the Camera Vault)
- Software: Adobe Premiere, Autopano, Nuke, Insta360 Stitcher + Player
- CDM [Computer Labs](#) are available for software use outside of class
- CDM labs offer Adobe Creative Cloud on PC and Mac operating systems. Information about acquiring Adobe Creative Cloud and other software is available [here](#).
- Supplemental instruction at LYNDIA.COM is available. It is available at the library and by (free) [subscription](#). Make sure you're logged into Campus Connect before clicking on the Log into Lynda.com link on the page.

EVALUATION & GRADING

Attendance / Participation	10
Project 1: 360 Video Experience	20
Project 2: Explorations of VR Concepts	20
Final Project: VR Experience	50

Attendance: Points for every class attended

Participation: Contributions to class discussions and activities; presentations

Projects: There will be 2 major projects that explore some of the affordances of 360 Video/VR

Final Project: A final project will allow you to create a more substantial story or experience.

GRADING SCALE

Letter grades will be based on the minimum percentages of total points earned	A	90%
	B+	87%
	B	80%
	C+	77%
	C	70%
	D	60%
	F	50%-

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (subject to change, and probably will)*

WEEK 1 April 4	TOPIC	Syllabus Course Overview Class Introductions Brief History of New Media Principles of VR
	Suggested Reading:	Tricart – Introduction + Chapters 1, 2, 5
	ASSIGNMENT	Screen the following VR films for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Google Stories (Download Google Stories App): <i>Duet</i> (Glen Keane) <i>Help</i> (Justin Lin) On YouTube: <i>Swimming with Dolphins</i> <i>ReFrame Iran</i> 2 more 360 videos of your choosing
WEEK 2 April 11	TOPIC	VR Experience Discussion
	WORKSHOP	VR Cameras
	Suggested Reading:	Tricart – Chapter 4
	DUE	Share and discuss the viewed videos
	ASSIGNMENT	Project 1
WEEK 3 April 18	TOPIC	Stitching Basics Editing VR content 360 Film Screenings
	DUE	Project 1 Pre-production
	ASSIGNMENT	Project 1 Production
WEEK 4 April 25	TOPIC	Audio in VR
	Suggested Reading	Tricart – Chapter 6
	DUE	Project 1
	ASSIGNMENT	Critique Project 1 on Slack
WEEK 5 May 2	TOPIC	Stereographic 3D 360 Film Screenings Project 2
	Suggested Reading	Tricart -Chapter 7
	ASSIGNMENT	Project 2 Production
WEEK 6 May 9	TOPIC	Critique Project 2
	DUE	Project 2
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Project

WEEK 7 May 16	TOPIC	Advanced stitching, fixes and compositing in VR Final Project Pitches
	DUE	Final Project Pitch
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Project Pre-Production
WEEK 8 May 23	TOPIC	Guest Lecture Final Project Progress Review 1
	Suggested Reading	Tricart -Chapter 3
	DUE	Final Project Pre-Production
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Project Production
WEEK 9 May 30	TOPIC	360 Video in Game Engines Final Project Progress Review
	Suggested Reading	Tricart – Future of VR / Conclusion
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Project Production (cont)
WEEK 10 June 6	TOPIC	Final Project Critique Peer Review
	ASSIGNMENT	Updates/changes to Final Project based on class feedback
WEEK 11 June 13	TOPIC	No Class Final Project resubmissions due.

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

Course Policies: In addition to [CDM Academic Policies](#) and [DePaul University Policies](#), the following policies will apply to this course:

Email: Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Some guidelines for your emails:

- Be clear and concise in your subject line; ex: "VR Class – question about assignment X"
- Don't reply to class-wide email unless it pertains specifically to the subject of that email
- Begin a new email thread for any new question, notification, etc.
- Expect a reply within 24 hours during the week. If you don't get a response within 1 business day, please resend. Expect a delayed response on weekends.

Course Lectures/Reading Assignments: The assigned and recommended readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class.

Resubmissions: Revisions are highly encouraged based off of feedback from the class. Resubmitted files should be submitted to the original D2L folder. Late work penalties cannot be made up by resubmissions.

Late Assignments: In order to receive any credit for an assignment, you must communicate with me at least 24 hours before the due date/time regarding it being late. Late assignments will have points reduced. No assignment will be accepted more than 7 days late without a medical excuse.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, arriving 30 minutes late or leaving 30 minutes early. All absences will result in a reduction of the attendance / participation grade. 3 absences, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course. 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](#)

Class Participation: Student participation is crucial to this class. You are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the class topics, as well as offer answers, insights and best guesses to questions

posed in class. Having your files and devices, making the most of class time and being fully present and engaged add towards the class experience and your participation points. Productive critiques of your own and everyone else's work is critical. For group projects, each individual is expected to contribute according to the needs of the group/project. Private peer evaluations will afford each group the opportunity to measure the contributions of each individual.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you expect to need to answer a call during class, tell the instructor before class and leave the room in an undistruptive manner. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please communicate this at the start of the course.

Behavior & Attitude: Food and drink are fine as long as they do not disrupt the class or bother other students. A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Maintain a positive and open-minded attitude in class discussions. Strive to achieve your highest standards of quality for all projects. Respect everyone. No texting, social media or other forms of technological socializing are allowed in class. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom and/or lose their tech privileges.

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 everyone.

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun if you advise me of this preference. Students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and update their gender. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the [Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy](#).

DePaul University Policies:

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 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 under [Enrollment Policies](#).

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.

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