



<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Depaul Cinespace, Rm201 and Stage 17
<b>Day/Time:</b>	Thurs 1:15–4:30PM
<b>Instructor:</b>	John Klein
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:jklein38@depaul.edu">jklein38@depaul.edu</a>
<b>Office Location:</b>	Cinespace Camera Vault Lobby, STDCT 332
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<i>Cinespace:</i> Thurs 10:30AM–12NOON <i>Student Center LP:</i> Tues 10:30AM–12NOON Or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course about directing actors in motion pictures. Topics include casting, rehearsals, the basic relationship between the director, actor, and script, script breakdown, camera placement, and shooting for continuity editing. This course will be challenging, fun, and somewhat intimidating at times, but the student should come to gain new found skill and confidence in the directing of actors, and ultimately an appreciation for the collaborative process necessary to achieve provocative and powerful performances on screen.

**Prerequisites:** DC310 – Production II. *In addition, you should have enough editing experience to deliver polished, properly exported content that you direct.*

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- » Craft a scene analysis and beat breakdown of a script
- » Identify the spine, objective, obstacle and subtext of a scene
- » Demonstrate the importance of casting as “the first direction”
- » Communicate effectively with actors
- » Prepare for and carry out rehearsals
- » Articulate the relationship between camera and performance

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- ❖ **DIRECTING ACTORS** by Judith Weston. This will serve as the major reference for the class, and there will be assignments based on this reading.
- ❖ **DESIRE2LEARN** (D2L): Additional readings and weblinks will be posted on D2L.  
**A note:** *I use D2L like a bible of sorts for the course; please consult it regularly, as all your assignments will also be submitted through here!*

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

You must have an **EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE** with enough space to back up your files. I would recommend a minimum of 100GB of free space. *Remember: you are responsible for backing up your work!*

## PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- ❖ **FreePlayMusic.com** is a great place to obtain ROYALTY FREE MUSIC for student work. Simply put your selected music in the shopping cart and select STUDENT or YOUTUBE project and it's FREE! (I will post other royalty-free music sources on D2L.)
- ❖ **SCA's ACTOR DATABASE** is a great casting resource. Simply go here: [http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current Students/Pages/Production-Resources.aspx](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Production-Resources.aspx) - under CASTING & CREW.
- ❖ **BreakdownExpress.com** is an interactive on-line casting tool that enables you to send out a casting notice to regional Chicagoland actors and set-up/manage audition appointments on-line. See the production office staff for help setting this up.
- ❖ **LYNDA.com** is a useful collection of video tutorials specially for learning various software programs. All DePaul students have free access to Lynda. If you find yourself lacking in specific technical experience on the editing front, this should be your go-to resource!

## ASSIGNMENTS BREAKDOWN

Details for these assignments are included in the rubrics for each assignment on D2L, and will be reviewed in class when assigned.

- ❖ **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:** 15% (INDIVIDUAL)  
You are required to attend class and participate in the day's activities. This active engagement will ensure you get the most from the course. Each class is vital to your early artistic development! (An absence will deduct one point from this grade; a tardy will deduct half a point.)
- ❖ **DISCUSSION POSTS AND HOMEWORK:** 15% (INDIVIDUAL)  
These posts on D2L and other assignments will consist of prompts based on the reading that you must respond to in detail, or will help reinforce the key elements presented in the lectures and texts. (If you miss three assignments, you will receive a zero for this part of your grade.)
- ❖ **"LIVING" MONOLOGUE:** 10% (INDIVIDUAL)  
In groups of two, each of you must perform a 1-minute assigned monologue and film it in a single static shot. Submit the film and filled-out analysis/grade sheet.
- ❖ **SCENE 1:** 15% (GROUP)  
In groups of three, direct an assigned scene in a single static camera shot. Submit the film, script analysis and filled-out analysis/grade sheet.
- ❖ **SCENE 2:** 15% (GROUP)  
In groups of three, direct an assigned scene in multiple shots with actors not in your group. Submit the edited film, script analysis and filled-out analysis/grade sheet.
- ❖ **FINAL SCENE:** 30% (GROUP)  
This project has two parts – Pre-Production and Production. Pre-production consists of character descriptions, sides, casting call, and video of your best 4 auditions. Production consists of shooting and editing a scene that is 2-3 pages long, and includes 2 characters that have dialogue. Submit the pre-production elements, the edited film and filled out analysis/grade sheet.

A = 100-93, A- = 92.9-90, B+ = 89.9-87, B = 86.9-83, B- = 82.9-80, C+ = 79.9-77, C = 76.9-73, C- = 72.9-70, D+ = 69.9-67, D = 66.9-63, D- = 62.9-60, F = 59.9+Below.

"A" indicates Excellence, "B" indicates Very Good, "C" indicates Satisfactory, "D" indicates Poor, "F" indicates the student has NOT accomplished the objectives of the course.

## GRADING POLICY

Professional filmmakers must adhere to strict deadlines. Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the established deadlines. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. I will not

accept the excuse of technological failure or absent-mindedness (you all have phones...set alarms for due dates). *Back up your work and do not leave your work until the last second!* This is your warning. All grades will be kept current on D2L and written feedback will be given for each assignment.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to be on time, and if you plan on missing or being late to a class are expected to e-mail the instructor BEFORE that particular class. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether an absence or tardy is “excused.” ***Unexcused absences or tardiness will negatively affect your grade.*** Please see ***Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office*** at the end of the syllabus to see how your grade will be affected. Attendance will be kept current on D2L. If you want to question a recorded absence or tardiness, it must be done within a week of the recorded occurrence.

## COMPUTER/CELLPHONE/I-PAD ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

This class especially relies on your presence, attentiveness, and engagement with the material, lectures, and exercises. If you are using any personal or school electronic equipment during class for anything other than class-related work, *you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that class.* I encourage you to take notes by hand rather than typing on your computer, or put the notebook down altogether and simply listen; trust me, you’ll learn better!

In addition, there will be a number of film screenings during class time. I expect you to adhere to the same policy during these screenings; if I see a phone out (barring an emergency), I will ask you to leave the classroom.

## E-MAIL POLICY

You are expected to read all e-mails from the class instructor, and you are responsible for knowing the information they contain. *So, you should check your e-mail at least once every 24 hours!* Type **DC390** in the subject of all e-mails to the instructor about this class. Please **DO NOT JUST REPLY** to my all-class e-mails because your response might get lost in the shuffle—*Send me an individual e-mail! I will do my best to get back to you in short order, but please allow up to 24hrs for the instructor to respond.*

## PROJECT FILE LABELING + FORMAT POLICY

Label all Files as such (ex. Student is STEVEN SPIELBERG and he is submitting the “RESEARCH PAPER”): **Spielberg\_ResearchPaper.**

Submit all papers as DOC, DOCX or PDF files. All papers must be double-spaced, Times or Arial 12pt font, typical 1” margins. Details on word count or format for each assignment will be given out on the assignment sheets.

Submit all video files as H.264 exports, 1920x1080/24p, and include a password-protected YouTube or Vimeo link (and password) with your submission, either on D2L or via email.

## ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY

All work submitted for this class should be original work made specifically for this class. If you are found to be submitting work you have made for another class, you will receive zero credit for

that particular assignment.

**I will grade the first project file that is submitted.** Check and double-check the work you are submitting. Do not submit the wrong file, an incomplete file, a corrupted file, etc. Submit the correct project file *by each deadline* – we’re filmmakers, and we adhere to very strict deadlines and delivery requirements in the real world. Most work will be submitted through D2L Dropbox. Do not leave this until the last second—upload several hours before the deadline to be safe! *Again, no late work is accepted! AND you should always double-check that your file has been successfully uploaded to D2L!*

## FILM + VIDEO CONTENT WARNING:

A full spectrum of award-winning film and video content will be shown in class with the hope that it will enlighten and inspire you. There are times where the subject matter may be disturbing to some viewers; I will do my best to supply detailed content or trigger warnings for each film. If you are highly sensitive to any particular cinematic content, please inform the instructor and you will be excused from watching said content.

## EXCUSES (i.e. LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM)

My courses are designed to teach professional conduct and particular skill-sets. Time management skills are essential for all endeavors. Modern technology makes it easy to stay organized, on time and on task. Please remember, an excuse is just that—an *excuse*. Here are just a few examples of excuses for not meeting class obligations that I won’t accept:

- ❖ I have a life...
- ❖ I forgot...
- ❖ I didn’t realize...
- ❖ I mixed up the dates...
- ❖ I don’t “do” books...
- ❖ My alarm didn’t go off...
- ❖ I live out of town so I can’t...
- ❖ I was busy working on other projects so I didn’t...
- ❖ My job called me in so I had to work and couldn’t do my assignment...
- ❖ I would have made the deadline if the deadline wasn’t when it was...
- ❖ It’s just easier to do it my way, so I did it my way...
- ❖ Other classes don’t have me do it this way, so I did it their way...
- ❖ I was not aware of class policy...
- ❖ I didn’t read the e-mail you sent out, so I didn’t know...
- ❖ My hard-drive crashed and I didn’t back up my work...
- ❖ The internet was slow when I tried to turn in my project...
- ❖ I accidentally submitted the wrong project file, but it was on time...
- ❖ I have to pick my friend up at the airport so I can’t...
- ❖ I have to go on vacation so I can’t...
- ❖ I was at a bar and...
- ❖ I scheduled an appointment during class time so I can’t...
- ❖ I don’t want to do this for my career, so I don’t need to know how to do this so I didn’t...
- ❖ I haven’t been meeting class expectations, but I’m on scholarship and need an “A” so...
- ❖ I thought I turned in my project, but I didn’t...
- ❖ I didn’t look on the syllabus...

# COURSE SCHEDULE

## Week 1

**4/4** **Lecture:** Syllabus, Introductions, Assignments, Class Approach, The Role of the Director  
**Screening:** *The Lunch Date*  
**Assignments:** Read Directing Actors pp1-76 and "EF's Visit to a Small Planet," Discussion Post #1

## Week 2

**4/11** **Lecture:** Subtext; Beats, Spines, and Objectives; Crutch Dialogue  
**Screening:** *Get Out* – Hypnosis Scene  
**Assignments:** Read Directing Actors pp77-130, Discussion Post #2, Monologue Performance due 4/16

## Week 3

**4/18** **Lecture:** Critique and Discussion; Interpretation and Blocking  
**Screening:** Monologue Performances  
**Assignments:** Read Directing Actors pp131-162, Discussion Post #3, read the screenplay for *Separation Anxiety*

## Week 4

**4/25** **Lecture:** Analyzing the Script and Building Character Life; Creating The World  
**Workshop:** Biographies, Questions, Facts – *Separation Anxiety*  
**Assignments:** Read Directing Actors pp163-234, Discussion Post #4, Scene 1 Performance due 5/2

## Week 5

**5/2** **Lecture:** Critique and Discussion; Auditions and the Casting Process  
**Screening:** Scene 1 Performances  
**Workshop:** Mock Auditions (using our class scene from *Separation Anxiety*)  
**Assignments:** Read Directing Actors pp235-302, Discussion Post #5, Pick your script and final scenes!

## Week 6

**5/9** **Lecture:** Directing Tips I: The Rehearsal Process and Developing Trust with Actors  
**Workshop:** Meisner Exercise  
**Screening:** *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* – Behind The Scenes  
**Assignments:** Week of Journals, Scene 2 Performance due 5/16

## Week 7

**5/16** **Lecture:** Directing Tips II: On Set – Blocking, Action Verbs, Images, Pratfalls  
**Screening:** Scene 2 Performances  
**Assignments:** Discussion Post #6, Pre-Production Materials for Final Scene due 5/30

## Week 8

**5/23** **Lecture:** Directing for the Camera: Master Scene Method, Set Etiquette  
**Screening:** The Spielberg Oner, *Game Of Thrones*  
**Workshop:** Shot List and Visual Ideas for class scene  
**Assignment:** Shoot Your Projects!

## **Week 9**

**5/30**

**Lecture:** Unique Situations: Non-Actors, Child Actors, Animals, Stunts, Sex, VFX

**Screening:** *Bubble, E.T., Don't Look Now*

**Assignments:** Rough Cut of Final Scenes due

## **Week 10**

**6/6**

**Lecture:** Rough Cuts – Critique and Discussion; Directing on Reshoots

**Screening:** Rough Cuts of Final Scenes

**Assignments:** Final Cuts and Group Evaluations due 6/12 by 11:59pm

## **Week 11 - Finals**

**6/13**

**Final Screenings in Class! Time TBD (most likely 2:30-4:45pm)**

Attendance at this class for your screening is mandatory; if you do not attend, you will receive a zero on the production portion of the final project.

## **OTHER SYLLABUS ITEMS:**

### **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 all students know what is expected of them, and so all students are treated equally by being held to the same standards.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Preferred Name and 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. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

### **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. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

### **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 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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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