Course: FILM 101, Foundations of Cinema For Majors,

Fall 2019

Tues/Thurs. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, CDM 924

Lecture-Discussion

Instructor: Dan Pal

Email: dpal@cdm.depaul.edu

Office: Classroom

Office hours: Tue/Thurs 12:30-1:30, Thurs 3:00-3:30

**Course Summary**

This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. Drawing heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on story and storytelling. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects - putting theory into practice.

**Learning Outcomes**

The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end

of the course students should understand cinematic language and be able to

incorporate structure, the framed image, sound, and editing into their own creative work.

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

* Examine cinematic techniques in the art of storytelling.
* Identify the relationship between theory and practice in the filmmaking process.
* Integrate the aesthetic principles of visual design, style, and film form in the  creation of multiple projects.
* Employ film language in the analysis of short and feature length cinema

**Text**

REQUIRED: Film Art: An Introduction by Bordwell & Thompson,

ISBN # 978-0-07-353510-4

**Grading**

Class Attendance 20 pts.

Participation 10 pts.

Discussion Questions 50 pts. (10 x 5pts. each)

Screen Story Outline 10 pts.

Digital Still Assignment 10 pts.

Final Digital Project 30 pts.

Course grades will be calculated as follows: 117-130 = A, 104-116 = B, 91-103 = C, 78-90 = D, 77 and below = F

**Classroom Attendance & Policies**

Attendance 20 pts.  
Each student is expected to attend regularly for each full class period. **One point is given for attending each class session. Missing more than 3 classes will result in automatic failure in the course. Every absence will be recorded regardless of reason for absence. Arriving late or leaving early, which is extremely disruptive, will also be counted as an absence.**

Participation 10 pts.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Only students that regularly contribute to discussions will earn the maximum participation points. Essentially one point can be earned per week. Without contributions, students will not earn these points.

Other Classroom policies:

1. **Important Note! No late assignments will be accepted! If you are experiencing a medical issue, please let me know prior to the due date/time of an assignment. Late assignments can only be accepted with official documentation from a doctor’s office/hospital.**

2. Student plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a sanction ranging from a loss in points, to failure for the assignment, up to failure in the course.

3. A student who does not withdraw officially from a course may receive a grade of 'F', depending on course progress or course attendance, which will become a part of the student's permanent record.

4. **This is an ELECTRONICS FREE Class. All cell phones and computers must be turned off during class sessions. Failure to do so will be considered an absence. Text messaging and listening to earphones or earbuds will not be tolerated and will also be considered an absence.**

Assignments

Discussion Questions

Pertaining to films to be seen in or out of class

Writing Exercise - Screen Story: Students will outline a screen story, using Classical Hollywood narrative structure.

Digital Still/Storyboard Assignment: Shoot the still pictures or create a storyboard for **one** scene of your film story.

Final Digital Project: Incorporate course concepts to digitally tell a screen story. The final project can be in the form of a short 5-10 minute film or a series of digital stills that tell your whole story using Classical Hollywood narrative structure. You must use a minimum of 10 different camera angles/points of view. You must also apply art direction concepts (lighting, color, design, etc.) covered in class. You must also use appropriate sounds and music.

Week 1- Sept. 12, 17

Course Introduction

Getting Films Made; Producers vs. Directors

Screen: *Living in Oblivion*  (Tom DeCillo, 1995)

Read Ch. 1

Week 2 - Sept. 19, 24

Phases of Production, Screenwriters

Narrative Form

Read Ch. 3

**By Sept. 24 view out of class:** *Adaptation* (Spike Jonze, 2002)

Week 3 - Sept. 26, Oct 1

Screen: *Fargo* (Joel Coen, 1996)

Narrative Form, Mis-en-Scene, Acting

Read Ch. 4

Week 4 - Oct 3, Oct. 8

Screen: *Bullets Over Broadway* (Woody Allen, 1994)

Cinematography

Read Ch. 5

**Screen Story Outlines Due**

**By Oct 10 view out of class:** *The Graduate* (Mike Nichols, 1967)

Week 5 - Oct. 10, 15

Discuss *The Graduate*

Editing

Read Ch. 6

**By Oct 17 view out of class:** *Whiplash* (Damien Chazelle, 2014)

Week 6 - Oct. 17, 22

Screen: **Student projects (Digital Stills/Storyboards)**

Sound & Music

Read Ch. 7

Week 7-Oct. 24, 29

Screening: *Score: A Film Music Documentary* (Matt Schrader, 2016)

Film Genres

Read Ch. 9

Week 8 - Oct. 31, Nov. 5

Screening: *What We Do in the Shadows* (Jemaine Clement, Taika Waititi, 2014)

Challenging Classical Cinema: Neorealism, New Wave & Beyond

Read Ch. 12

Week 9-Nov. 7, 12

Screen: *Run Lola Run* (Tom Tykwer, 1998)

Independent Films

Read Ch. 10

Week 10-Nov. 14, 19

Screen: *Eighth Grade* (Bo Burnham, 2018)

**Digital Projects Due**

**Changes to 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**

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](https://campusconnect.depaul.edu/).

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

***Student plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a sanction ranging from a loss in***

***points, to failure for the assignment, up to failure in the course.***

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](http://oaa.depaul.edu/what/calendar.jsp).  Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.   
Phone number: (312)362-8002  
Fax: (312)362-6544   
TTY: (773)325.7296