

SCWR 346 Filmmaker Seminar

Winter 2020
T 6:30-9:30pm
Office Hours: T 2:00pm-5:00pm

Instructor: Daniel Klein
Sunset Gower Studios
Email: daniel.klein@depaul.edu

Course Description

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the Hollywood film industry through in-class meetings with industry professionals from various disciplines. These industry professionals will help to illuminate, through personal accounts, the expectations and responsibilities of a variety of jobs throughout the industry. Note: Students must be participating in the DePaul LA program to be eligible to enroll.

Course Goals

- Expose students to professionals from different disciplines to help illuminate the expectations of those roles.
- Illustrate for students numerous inroads to employment in the film industry.
- Expose students to various successful methodologies in the same fields or disciplines.
- Empower students to be brave and focused by demystifying barriers to entry.

Learning Outcomes

(Upon successful completion of this course:)

- Students will be able to identify and understand the responsibilities of various jobs/roles in the film industry as well as the expectations of people successful in those roles.
- Students will develop a better understanding of the relationship between filmmakers, production companies, and studios.
- Students will gain a deeper understanding of how films are pitched, developed, green-lit, and released.

Class Schedule

NOTE: Due to the unique nature of the LA Quarter, this schedule is subject to change. Please consult professor emails for the most up-to-date schedule for readings, assignments, and all-due dates.

Textbooks and Printed Resources (Recommended)

“The Mailroom: Hollywood History from the Bottom Up” by David Rensin

Additional Web Content (Required)

Assignments

- Guest write-ups (brief write-ups following select in-class visits)
- Midterm Paper (3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced). Name someone currently working in the industry who you most admire the career of (and who potentially holds the job you eventually aspire to)? Track this person’s career back to the beginning and identify key steps and junctures along the way. What can be learned from this person.
- Final Paper (3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced). Which two (or more) guests most affected you and why? What have you learned from them about the industry?

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance

Each week’s class consists of lectures, discussions and screenings; attendance/participation is critical and mandatory and constitutes 50% of your grade. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or arriving more than 15 minutes late, or missing any 15 minute period during class time. I take attendance every class. If you arrive less than 15 minutes late, and do not hear your name called, make sure you let me know you are present so I don’t mark you absent. Absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade. **Anyone with 4 absences will automatically fail the class.** However, if you’re legitimately sick, please email me BEFORE class.

Class Participation

In addition to being present, you are expected to participate in class discussions. Your participation is required.

Assignments

Reading or writing assignments must be completed by the date to which they are assigned. Reasonable deadlines are given for completion for each assignment. Consequently late assignments will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

Content Changes

Depending on time factors, I reserved the right to change any screening schedules or assignments projected for the quarter.

Food Policy

No food or beverages are allowed in the lecture room.*

Sexual Harassment

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

Grading

Midterm Paper	25%
Final Paper	25%
Class attendance and participation	50%

Grading Scale

A indicates excellence

B indicates good work

C indicates satisfactory work

D work is unsatisfactory in some respect F is substantially unsatisfactory work

93-100: A 90-92: A- 87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80- 82: B- 77-79: C+ 73-76: C 70-72: C- 60-66:

D 67-69: D+ 65-0: F [**LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**]

Software/Hardware

- Word processing software
- PDF software
- Access to the internet

Screens

The use of screens; phones, laptops, tablets etc, are not allowed in class.

Online Instructor Evaluation

Evaluations are a means for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback enables instructors 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 two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>.

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.

Academic Integrity Policy

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

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the 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.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

DePaul University's College of Computing and Digital Media
243 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago IL 60604
(312) 362-8381