***FILM 357 Cinematic Spaces*** *August 31, 2021*

*Instructor: Pete Biagi (he/him), Cinematographer in Residence*

***Autumn 2021/22****, meets in-person every Thursday evening from 6pm – 9:15pm at Cinespace DePaul Room 101 & Stage - TBD.*

*If any in-person class meeting is cancelled due to health and/or safety concerns, this course will continue to meet synchronously online and/or different arrangements will be made. Instruction consists of lectures, discussions, demonstrations and practical exercises.*

*Office: CDM453 – 4th floor, 243 South Wabash, 312-362-5864 office*

*Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 3pm – 4:30pm via phone, Zoom or in-person at Cinespace DePaul. \*appointment made via email is the preferred method of contact.*

*Email:* [*pbiagi1@depaul.edu*](mailto:pbiagi1@depaul.edu) *- Expect a reply within 24 hours.*

***Course Description -*** *This seminar mixes theory and practice to expose students to an in-depth exploration of different techniques and possibilities concerning cinematic space. Beginning with an introduction to the fundamental differences between montage and mise en scène, the course will teach students the art and craft of designing, blocking and executing plan sequences, starting with static camera shots and ending in complex 3D camera moves.*

***Summary of Course -*** *This course is a practical workshop exploration of the cinematographer’s process - analyzing the script, defining the visual point of view, imagining the visual world and physically shooting the shots. Composition, lighting, blocking and camera movement and the tools to make it all “magic” will be discussed from a cinematographer's point of view. The class will engage in an "inventor’s quest" to match appropriate imagery to the story. Students will walk away from this class with a working knowledge of how to create sequences of narrative imagery that meaningfully enhance their unique stories.*

***Learning Outcomes -*** *Upon completion of Cinematic Spaces, students will be able to –*

*- assess and employ methods to effectively depict a 3D space in 2D medium.*

*- assemble an effective plan in the execution of capturing a scene.*

*- identify and decide when to move the camera.*

*- identify and arrange appropriate blocking of actors and action.*

*- evaluate and judge how visual choices influence the audience.*

***Textbook and Resources –*** *None. Handouts will be given. Use and search “Cinematography Mailing List”* [*https://www.cinematography.net/*](https://www.cinematography.net/) *under Cinematography discussions, “Mentor” forum as a resource for this course.*

***Prerequisites –*** *FILM 110 or 250 are prerequisites for this course. While not required, it is recommended to have taken FILM 355 Lighting for Cinema I prior to this class.*

***Course Management System –*** *Assignments, readings, feedback and grading will be given weekly online using the D2L system -* [*https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home*](https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home)*. Students must check the information provided online each week. Acceptable file formats are .jpg, .mov, .m4v, .cr2, .avi, .pdf & .doc. Larger files should be compressed into a .zip file before uploading to D2L – don’t send anything larger than 100MB. All assignments must be turned into D2L, not emailed.* ***Assignments turned in late are eligible for partial credit.*** *FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS – Students must name all files (word, .pdf, .mov, .m4v, zip or folders) in the following way: lastname\_firstname\_assignment. Example: biagi\_peter\_assign#3.mov. Note: All assigned images are to be composed in a* ***horizontal aspect ratio****, with the subject NOT looking at the lens.*

***Grading Policy -*** *Class attendance/participation 40%, Assignments 40%, Group project 20% A=100-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-87, B=86-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-77, C=76-73, C-=72-70, D+=69-67, D=66-63, D-=62-60, F=below 60.*

*Class attendance/participation are considered to be essential components to student learning in this workshop-style, exercise-driven, hands-on course.*

*Last day to drop this course with no penalty is* ***Tuesday, September 21st****. Visit* [*https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx*](https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx) *for more information.*

***Equipment use –*** *Students enrolled in this course will have an opportunity to have hands-on time with DePaul’s Canon C300 camera packages and the standard lighting packages found on our stages. To complete homework assignments,* ***students have access*** *to reserve and check out Canon C100 camera packages, tungsten, Kino Flo and LED kits and a variety of grip equipment. (Note: The Covid-19 pandemic has altered access to equipment. Please contact Cinespace or the Camera Vault directly for the most up-to-date information).*

***Safety Training –*** *A Safety class is accessible online through each student's D2L homepage. Click the****"SCA Central" tab*** *and then click* ***"Info and Resources."*** *The Orientation to Production and Set Safety (O.P.S.S.) modules will be in the left-hand column of the page. All students should take the three video presentations and accompanying quizzes preferably before coming to Cinespace or at least within the first week of classes. \*\*\*****Important\*\*\**** *Any students who have not taken and passed O.P.S.S. will not be able to make reservations for space or equipment. (This includes camera & lighting equipment allotted for your reservations).*

***Additional Required Supplies:*** *A pair of heat resistant work gloves and a small flashlight – handheld or headband style. Bring these items to our in-person class meetings. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear to work on the stage which is similar to a warehouse or factory type environment****. No open toe shoes are allowed****.*

***Cinespace DePaul Stages –*** *If driving, use this address in any directions or map app for the DePaul parking lot - 2525 W. 15th Street, Chicago, IL 60608. As there are many one-way streets nearby, approach from the north at Ogden Avenue for the most direct access.*

***New Policy at Cinespace -*** *SECURITY GATES. \*\*ALL DEPAUL FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF MUST HAVE A DEPAUL-ISSUED ID ON THEM AT ALL TIMES\*\*. Security gates are in full operation at Cinespace. DePaul personnel should be able to walk on at any of the gates with a DePaul-issued ID card during normal studio business hours (5am-8pm M-F). Please note that the main gate at Rockwell and 15th Street is the only gate that will remain accessible outside of normal studio business hours.*

***DePaul Shuttle info –*** *The DePaul shuttle vehicle* ***will depart*** *from the south side of Jackson Blvd. at 1 E. Jackson (south of the Daley bldg., east of State St. & in front of the Barnes & Noble), approximately 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the class and drop students off at Cinespace DePaul Stages. Soon after the class ends, the shuttle will transport students back to the Loop campus. Visit* [*https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Cinespace-Studios.aspx*](https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Cinespace-Studios.aspx) *for up-to-date shuttle information or email John Corba at JCorba@depaul.edu. The shuttle drop-off and pick up location at Cinespace is in the blue curb area on the east side of Rockwell between 15th Place and 16th Street.*

***Week-by-week schedule*** *(subject to change) –*

***Week 1 –*** *Welcome. Montage vs. Mise en Scène. On set – making a shot work. Exercise: static camera – making the shot work for a series of 3 acting beats. Director’s different approaches, blocking the actor. Assignment - Write 1/2 page script with conflict and emotion.*

***Week 2*** *– Shot language/choosing a perspective. Visual choices. Exercise: Pan & tilt – making the shot work for 5 acting beats. Assignment - Define your script/ visual choices – camera angles/movement and actor blocking.*

***Week 3*** *– Designing visuals, audience story thread and lining the script. Exercise: Camera slider/dana dolly – connecting 7 acting beats from chosen student scripts.*

***Week 4*** *– Interpretating short scene with visiting Director & Actors. Exercise: Groups will approach shooting the same scene with different actor blocking & shot selection.*

***Week 5*** *– Dolly moves. Blocking the actor with camera motion. Exercise: Continuation of visiting Director & Actors.*

***Week 6*** *– Camera operating affects "feel" of a shot/sequence. Exercise: Shoot same scene handheld, smooth dolly/tripod, etc. Assignment - Refine shot list for your scripts with overhead camera diagrams.*

***Week 7*** *– Compound dolly moves. Choose scripts for Final Group projects. Interview for job positions – DP, Director, Editor, etc.*

***Week 8*** *– Creating the art metaphor and/or transition shot for our Group project scenes. Shooting on the creative edge. Bold images get you on the job. Exercise: shoot these in class.*

***Week 9*** *– Shoot Group projects.*

***Week 10*** *– Shoot Group projects.*

***Week 11*** *– View edited Group projects - critique. Defense of visual choices.*

***Final Group project –*** *Working in groups, students will construct a sequence of 5 to 10 shots that accomplish the following criteria -*

*1. Engage the audience*

*2. Contain one transition or art metaphor shot*

*3. Shot sequence contains character blocking that visually tells the story*

*4. Utilizes camera movement that visually tells the story*

*All group projects are to be no longer than 60 seconds in length. Group projects will be graded on their ability to visually engage the audience using camera movement and shot selection. The use of sound will not be graded.*

***Differing levels of student experience –*** *All students arrive to this course with different levels of on-set work experience. It is expected that students with more experience share their expertise and help facilitate and contribute to make the imagery of every classmate better.*

***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/).*

***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/*](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)*.*

***COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions***

*Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to –*

*(1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus,*

*(2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms,*

*(3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions,*

*(4) stay home if sick; (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing,*

*(6) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training,*

*(7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory.*

*The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul’s Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).*

***Students with Disabilities –***

*Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. There are two office locations:*

*Loop Campus - Lewis Center #1420 - (312) 362-8002*

*Lincoln Park Campus - Student Center #370 - (773) 325-1677*

*Students can also email the office at*[*csd@depaul.edu*](mailto:csd@depaul.edu)

*Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.*

***Course Policies -***

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

*Class Discussion: 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 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.*

*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. 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*](http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332)

*Civil Discourse: DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be* [*Socially Responsible Leaders*](http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/sli/about/framework.asp)*. 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.*

*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 undisruptive 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.*