***FILM 357 Cinematic Spaces*** *September 4, 2022*

*Instructor: Pete Biagi (he\_him), Cinematographer in Residence*

***Fall 2022****, meets Thursday evenings from 6pm – 9:15pm at Cinespace DePaul Classroom 101 & Stage 21B.*

*If any in-person class meeting is cancelled due to health and 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: Wednesdays & Thursdays from 2pm – 5pm in-person at Cinespace, via Zoom or telephone – email me to set up an appointment. Email:* [*pbiagi1@depaul.edu*](mailto:pbiagi1@depaul.edu) *- expect a reply on the next business day ie. Monday thru Friday.*

***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 including the tools to make it all “seamless magic” will be discussed from the cinematographer's point of view. The class will engage in an "inventor’s quest" to match appropriate imagery to a specific 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 350 Cinematography 2. Or permission from the Instructor. While not required, it is recommended to have taken FILM 356 Lighting for Cinema 2 prior to or concurrently with 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 under “Content”. 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 20th****. 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 a variety of Advanced 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.*

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

***Week-by-week schedule*** *(subject & likely 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.*

***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 8 defined actors beats or 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 45 seconds in length. Group projects will be graded on their ability to visually engage the audience using camera blocking, movement and shot selection. The use of sound will not be graded.*

***Equipment Certification –*** *In this course, students will be instructed on the “safe and proficient” use of a variety of common industry tools for which specific knowledge and skills are necessary to gain certification. Certification is gained with the successful passing of this course and a posted grade of “B+” or better.**Gaining certification enables the student to reserve and utilize any of the items listed below for any approved student production.**Specific to this course, these are the items for which you have the ability to gain certification –*

***None****, though you will have weekly exposure to the advanced camera packages, professional dollies and other specialty lighting equipment.*

*If you receive a grade of “B-“ or lower, you must schedule individual certification sessions with the Cage, Camera Vault or Cinespace for each item covered within the course.  Note that DePaul Staff (or student workers) are present during these certification sessions to ensure that DePaul equipment is handled safely by you.  They are not there to instruct you on how to accomplish the build or task.  Only after you complete the certification testing session may they correct your mistakes, if any.  Students may retake the certification on the following day or whenever the Cage, Camera Vault or Cinespace schedule allows.*

***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.*

***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. DePaul students can walk in 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.*

***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.*

***DePaul Shuttle info –*** [*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.*

*Typically, 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. DePaul students do not need to show ID to enter the secure area of Cinespace while on the shuttle. However, everyone should still have a DePaul ID. 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.*

***Annual Mandatory Safety Training -*** *Each SCA student must go through SCA Production Training before having access to reserve production equipment from any of our equipment centers. This online training is accessible through SCA Central on D2L to do at your own pace. You can find it by clicking on “SCA Production Training” in the blue box at the top of SCA Central.*

***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. Please see* [*https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online- teaching-evaluations.aspx*](https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-%20teaching-evaluations.aspx) *for additional information.*

***Academic Integrity and Plagiarism -*** *This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.*

*More information can be found at* [*https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching- commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx*](https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-%20commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx)*.*

*Posting work on online sites, such as Hero. All students are expected to abide by the University’s Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.*

***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*](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx)*.*

***Incomplete Grades -*** *An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at* [*http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx*](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx)*.*

***COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions -*** *The health and safety of everyone at DePaul depend on the cooperation of all who come to campus. By taking care of yourself, you protect the entire community. DePaul’s COVID-19 response plans are based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the university’s medical advisor from AMITA Health.*

*Mandatory protocols must be followed by DePaul students, faculty and staff at all times on both campuses* [*https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/guidance/health-safety- practices/Pages/default.aspx*](https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/guidance/health-safety-%20practices/Pages/default.aspx)*.*

***Respect for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion -*** *At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore “what must be done” in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. Diversity is valued because it is part of our history, our traditions and future. Diversity is an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. I strive to include diverse filmmakers with a variety of perspectives. Open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives is encouraged. I hope you encounter an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me.*

***Trigger Warnings –*** *Films, images, student scripts or visual assignments, may trigger a deep emotional or traumatic response. I will attempt to flag any material that has violence, sexual assault or rape, sexism, racism, police brutality, transphobia, homophobia, abuse, suicide, blood and body-shaming. Please reach out to me in helping identify something potentially triggering.*

***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*

***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.*