

FILM 250 Cinematography 1 – Section 504 12/18/2023

Winter 2024 | Tuesday 1:15pm – 4:30pm | Cinespace Stage 21B & Room 101

Instructor: Dana Kupper (she/her)

Office: CDM 460

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Email: dkupper@depaul.edu (If urgent text me, otherwise emails will be answered by the next day.)

Office hours: Tuesday 11:45 am – 1:15 pm (before class @ Cinespace) or by appointment (best).

Course Description and Prerequisites

This course is an overview of the technologies and aesthetic principles of cinematography. The concepts covered will include digital formats, measurement and control of exposure, basic lens properties, camera support and movement, rules of composition and the placement and control of light. Class sessions will consist of lectures, demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and screenings of selected film clips which demonstrate specific cinematography techniques.

Learning Outcomes:

- recognize and construct methods of visual communication.
- effectively operate an HD camera.
- identify and emulate effective lighting techniques.
- control the story from a visual perspective – color, movement, composition, focus and lighting.

Academic Calendar <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

(Be sure to search for correct Academic Year)

Thursday October 12, 2023	Begin Winter Quarter 2024 Registration
Friday December 1, 2023	Tuition Due: Winter Quarter 2024
Saturday January 6, 2024	Begin Winter Quarter 2024 Classes
Friday January 12, 2024	11:59 PM Deadline to add classes to WQ2024 schedule
Monday January 15, 2024	Last day to apply for Winter degree conferral
Monday January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Day - University officially closed
Friday January 19, 2024	Last day to drop WQ2024 classes with no penalty (100% refund of tuition if applicable and no grade on transcript)
Saturday January 20, 2024	Grades of "W" assigned for WQ2024 classes dropped on or after this day
Monday January 22, 2024	Last day to select pass/fail options for WQ2024 classes
Friday January 26, 2024	Last day to select auditor status for WQ2024 classes
Saturday February 3, 2024	Begin WQ2024 optional mid-term exam week
Friday February 9, 2024	End WQ2024 optional mid-term exam week
Friday February 23, 2024	Last day to withdraw from WQ2024 classes
Friday March 15, 2024	End WQ2024 Day & Evening Classes
Saturday March 16, 2024	Begin WQ2024 Day & Evening Final Exams
Friday March 22, 2024	End Winter Quarter 2024
Friday March 22, 2024	End WQ2024 Day & Evening Final Exams
Saturday March 23, 2024	Begin Spring Break
Friday March 29, 2024	End Spring Break
Saturday March 30, 2024	"IN" grades issued Spring/Summer 2023 lapse to "F"
Saturday March 30, 2024	"R" grades issued Winter 2023 lapse to "F"
Saturday March 30, 2024	Grades Due: Winter Quarter 2024

Textbooks and printed resources

Required Text: Cinematography Theory and Practice by Blain Brown Third Edition

Ebook through the DePaul library: [https://i-share-](https://i-share-dpu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_DPU/8tvalj/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781317359272)

[dpu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_DPU/8tvalj/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781317359272](https://i-share-dpu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_DPU/8tvalj/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781317359272)

Handouts: As assigned on D2L

Course Materials

A pair of leather/suede gloves for lighting is suggested.

Software needed to complete assignments:

Editing platform-Final Cut Pro, Premiere Pro, or Avid

Quicktime

Word processing program

Grading

Class Participation & In Class Activities	55%
Quizzes	15%
Assignment # 1 – Camera Test	10 %
Assignment # 2 – 6 Shot Story	10%
Final Assignment - Scene	10%

A = 100-93	A- = 92-90	
B+ = 89-88	B = 87-83	B- = 82-80
C+ = 79-78	C = 77-73	C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-68	D = 67-63	D- = 62-60
F = 59-0		

Standards for Achievement:

Grade A:

Student performs in an outstanding way. Student exhibits achievement and craftsmanship in all work. Design criteria is exceeded and student challenges him/herself in project design. Student exhibits commitment to expanding ideas, vocabulary and performance.

Grade B:

Student performs beyond the requirement of the project. Student exhibits above average progress and craftsmanship. A design criterion is exceeded. Student exhibits above average interest in expanding idea, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade C:

Criteria of assignment is met, and all requirements are fulfilled. Student shows average quality work and minimum time and effort on projects. Student shows moderate interest.

Grade D:

Student performance is uneven and below average. Requirements for projects are only partially fulfilled. Minimal interest is shown and attendance, participation and involvement are inadequate.

Grade F

Student fails to meet minimum course requirements and shows no interest. Levels of participation and craftsmanship are extremely poor. Student's attendance is inadequate.

Requesting an incomplete grade:

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>

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University as aligned with our Vincentian Values

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. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives, and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for

students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create 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 via email or during office hours.

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>.

Attendance – Classes will consist of lecture, screenings, discussion, and creative exercises. Since we do most of the work in class, attendance is extremely important to get the full value of the class. 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. There is sign in sheet for attendance every class. If you arrive less than 15 minutes late, and do not sign in make sure you let me know you are present so I do not mark you absent. Any absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade. However, if you are sick, please stay home.

ANNUAL MANDATORY SAFETY TRAINING (Once a year)

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.

Class Participation— Along with showing up, you are expected to join in class discussions, critique other people's work, and participate in workshops. You'll notice that a portion of your grade are the “in class” exercises. If you miss the class, you get a 0.

Digital Assignments: All assignments handed in digitally must have a visual “slate” with your name and title of assignment, and the file name should contain your name.

Examinations – Students who do not take exams during the regularly scheduled time will receive a failing grade for the exam unless they have contacted the instructor in advance to arrange for a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be administered by the College according to its make-up exam schedule.

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. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

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

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

Working in Groups – For Production Assignments in this course you will be working in groups. A major component of film production is teamwork. It is your job as a team to work through conflicts, because if you don't, your project will suffer. If things get really difficult you can come to me as a team and I will help mediate/resolve the situation.

Trigger and Content Warnings: This course recognizes that to engage with media is to engage with historic and ongoing problematic representation, as well as the ways that harmful representation impacts students in different ways. Students may inform the professor of any material that they cannot engage with to find a suitable alternative.

Class Attire--Come dressed for work. Certain clothing is required for production. You will be climbing ladders, picking up hot lamps and lifting heavy equipment, therefore no open toe shoes, NO FLIP FLOPS, and it is recommended that you do not wear dresses or skirts.

The Stage—Our workshop/Lab time will be held on the production stage. Let's take good care of this fantastic space. There is no eating or drinking allowed on the stage. Wrap all equipment when finished and return to the designated area. The entire class will be held responsible to return the stage to the order it was in when found. NO STUDENT LEAVES CLASS until the stage is in proper condition.

Equipment- The Canon C100 will be used for in class assignments. To complete out of class assignments, the students will have access to the Canon C100 camera packages and tungsten, Kino Flo and LED kits and a variety of grip equipment.

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>

SCA Production Office:

The Production office, located in LL Daley Building and at production@cdm.depaul.edu is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. The office can answer general questions about navigating filming inside or outside of DePaul, SCA facilities and equipment, and provide resources for casting, insurance, crew calls, etc. Office hours are listed on the CDM Production Resources page [here](#).

SCA Central:

Run by The Production Office, SCA Central is our online information hub, filled with resources including the SCA Production Handbook, pre-production templates, waivers/contracts, job listings, SCA events, local production community news & events, internship opportunities, etc. [Find it on D2L and make it your home page.](#)

SCA Production Handbook:

Required reading for all SCA Students prior to equipment/stage/studio reservations, The SCA Production Handbook is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. Guidelines, policies, and procedures for filming at DePaul; using SCA facilities and equipment; and answers to questions regarding SCA resources and building contacts, are found inside. The handbook is updated regularly on [SCA Central](#) and also linked to the CDM Production Resources page [here](#).

Talent Waivers:

Talent waivers must be signed by any outside talent (non-DePaul students) and submitted to The Production Office *prior* to camera rolling for any projects. Waivers and other commonly used forms can be found on [SCA Central](#) under "Info & Forms".

DePaul Production Insurance:

DePaul production insurance **does not cover** the use of fire (including pyrotechnics and fireplaces), use of vehicles for shooting (moving or stationary), or animals of any kind and is therefore not permitted for SCA projects unless proof of personal production insurance is provided.

Read more about DePaul's requirements via the SCA Production Handbook. Any questions about DePaul's insurance should be directed to The Production Office *well before* shooting begins (production@cdm.depaul.edu).

Use of Prop Weapons:

Rules and regulations **MUST** be followed when using prop weapons, including firearms. The instructor must approve the appearance of a prop weapon in any student film, including class syllabus assignments. An approved/signed Prop Weapon Request Form must be submitted to the Production Office prior to filming (find it on [SCA Central](#) under "Info & Forms"). For safety purposes, The Production Office may also review the filmmaker's plan for transportation of prop firearms prior to receiving approval for use.

ABC - Always Be Careful:

Film and video production shoots can be hazardous. Above all, work safely in all situations and always think before you act. Please don't hesitate to ask faculty if you're unsure about anything regarding your shoot, in or out of class.

Week	Date	Subject	In Class Exercise	Assigned	Due
1	01/09	Introduction to the course and each other Start Camera Exercises	Stage tour Set up FX6		
2	01/16	Camera Day! Tripod <i>Camera Test assigned</i>	Fun activities to learn the FX6	A#1 Camera Test	Quiz #1
3	01/23	How to use the lights/grip stuff/electricity on the stage Screen direction Quality of light	Light demo and hands on exercise Quality of light Demo		Quiz #2
4	01/30	Exposure Tools demo and exercise	Lighting exercise to learn exposure tools		<i>Camera Test due</i>
5	02/06	Framing/Composition/ Aspect Ratio / Storytelling shots Lenses / Sensor size / Depth of Field <i>6 Shot Story assigned</i>	Fun with lenses	A#2 6 Shot Story	Quiz #3
6	02/13	Operating / Camera Movement Review 6 Shot Stories	Operating exercise Redo 6 shot story		<i>6 Shot Story Due</i>
7	02/20	LUT/camera/Looks/Color	Match the lighting Exercise		Quiz #4
8	02/27	How to plan a scene Plan next week's shoot	How to plan a scene worksheet Plan scenes for next week		Quiz #5
9	03/05	Shooting a scene	Shoot scene in class		
10	03/12	Low budget Lighting Working on set – working in the business – The camera crew Watch final scene edits	Low budget light kit demo		<i>Scene edit due</i>
11	03/19	No Class			

*** Read Handouts as assigned. Watch videos as assigned. Check D2L for handouts and video links**

TEXTBOOK READING SCHEDULE ---- CINEMATOGRAPHY 1

BOOK: Cinematography Theory and Practice Blain Brown

Read	Chapter	Subheading	Pages
For Week 2	Writing with Motion Set Operations	All Set Operations Making it Happen The Director Of Photography The Team and the Order Camera Crew Operator First AC Second AC Loader DIT DIT workflow Simple Data workflow Digital Loader/Media Manager Utility	1-11 323 324 325 331 332 332 333 335 336 336 337 337 338 338
For Week 3	Cameras and Sensors (125) Lighting Basics (259)	HD, HD+, and UHD HD recording ISO in Digital Cameras Frame Rates Lighting Basics WHOLE CHAPTER	127 127 145 149 259-283
For Week 4	Coverage and Continuity (57)	Whole Chapter	57 96
For Week 5	Measurement (151) Exposure (171)	The Waveform Monitor Types of Display Exposure Theory What Do We Want Exposure to do For Us? Controlling Exposure Change the Bucket The Elements of Exposure Light F/Stops Shutter Speed/Frame Rate/Shutter Angle Two Types of Exposure The Tools of Exposure The Incident Meter The Reflectance Meter A Different World of Exposure Setting Exposure with the Waveform Monitor F/Stops on the Waveform The 18% Solution	152 159 172 172 173 174 174 175 175 176 178 181 181 182 182 183 183 184

		Exposure Indicators in the Camera Zebras Histogram Use Light Meters Meter the Key Using the Waveform Monitor Placing the Middle Gray Start at the Bottom or Start at the Top Expose to the Right Zebras The Monitor Know Thyself and Know Thy Camera	185 185 185 192 193 193 194 194 195 196 196 196
For Week 6	Optics & Focus (285) Language of the Lens (29)	The Physical Basis of Optics Refraction Focal Length and Angle of View F/Stop Language of the Lens The Lens and the Frame Foreground/Midground/Background Lens Perspective Wide Lenses and Expansion of Space Deep Focus Compression of Space Manipulating Perspective Selective Focus Image Control at the Lens Filtration Lens Height High Angle Low Angle Dutch Tilt	286 286 286 287 29 30 30 31 31 32 34 36 38 40 41 42 42 43 44
For Week 7	Visual Language (13)	More Than Just a Picture Forces of Visual Organization ALL The Rule of Thirds Basic Composition Rules for People Headroom Noseroom Other Guidelines	14 21-25 26 26 27 27 27
For Week 7	Visual Storytelling (45) Camera Movement (301)	Visual Metaphor Telling Stories with Pictures Lighting As Storytelling Film Noir Light as Visual Metaphor Light and Shadow/Good and Evil Fading Flashbulbs Visual Poetry Camera Movement in Filmmaking Motivation and Invisible Technique Basic Technique	46 46 48 48 49 51 53 55 302 302 303

