

DC 275 Cinematography
Winter 2013
Wednesdays 5:45-9:00

Instructor: Dana Hodgdon
Office: CTI 407
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00
Thursdays 1:00-3:00

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Course Description

This course will be an intensive exploration of the craft, technologies and aesthetic principles of cinematography and lighting techniques for motion picture and digital video production. Lectures and in-class demonstrations will cover film and video formats, film cameras, HDV and HD cameras, DSLR cameras and accessories, exposure, lenses and optics, lighting units, lighting placement, lighting control, camera support, and camera movement. All class sessions will consist of lectures, demonstrations, “hands on” with cameras and lighting units, exercises, and screenings of selected film and video clips which demonstrate specific cinematography and lighting techniques.

Course Outline

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| WEEK 1 | 1/9 | Introduction, organization, assignments
Lecture: A brief history of film/video technology, film formats |
| WEEK 2 | 1/16 | Lecture: Video Cameras, basic video technology, video formats. The DSLR phenomena.
Lab: Hands on Canon 7d cameras, tripods, accessories
Reading: Brown “Video and High Def” pp. 193-212 |
| WEEK 3 | 1/23 | Lecture: Lenses – Focal length, f-stop, Focusing
Lab: Shoot Production Assignment # 1 with Canon 7d cameras
Reading: Brown “Optics” pp. 177-192, “Exposure” pp. 103-126 |
| WEEK 4 | 1/30 | Lecture: Lenses - Depth of Field, Composition.
Lab: Hands on JVC 100 and 700 cameras.
Creative Projects: Groups meet for creative conferences for Production Assignment # 2 |
| WEEK 5 | 2/6 | Lecture: Electrics, basic lighting units, lighting control, |

Lighting set-ups.

Reading: Brown "The Tools of Lighting" pp. 141-156

- WEEK 6** 2/13 **Screen and Critique Production Assignment # 2**
Lecture: Color Temp and Lighting
Creative Projects: Groups meet for creative conferences for Production Assignment # 3 (Final Project).
Reading: Brown "Color Theory" pp. 127-140, "Controlling Color" pp. 167-176
- WEEK 7** 2/20 Lecture: Advanced lighting, lighting set-ups, green screen, camera movement, Dollys and dolly shots, Cinematography Tips and Tricks.
Reading: Brown 1st 5 Chapters, pp. 1-10
- WEEK 8** 2/27 Lecture: Basic field audio recording techniques, mic and boom placement, audio levels. On set – the DP, AC, operator, gaffer, grip, PA. New technologies, the future of cinema.
Reading: Brown "Set Operations" pp. 241-256, "Technical Issues" pp. 257-275.
- WEEK 9** 3/6 **Screen and critique ruff cuts of Production Assignment #3.**
Lab/Hands on: Red Epic/Red One camera systems
- WEEK 10** 3/13 **Final Exam**
- WEEK 11** 3/20 **5:45-9:00**

Screen and critique fine cuts for Production Assignment # 3. Attendance is mandatory. Note: This is the scheduled time for the Final Exam for this course. Attendance is mandatory.

Summary of Assignments

Production Assignment # 1. This will be a cinematography exercise to be shot in class week 3 (1/23). **This assignment must be shot with the Canon 7d camera.** Working in groups of 3 you will create the following shots:

- 2 portrait shots (1 interior, 1 exterior) with the background very out of focus – i.e. emulate 35mm DOF
- 2 hand-held tracking shot (interior/exterior)
- 2 extreme low angle dynamic shots (interior/exterior)
- a rack focus shot
- a pull focus shot

NOTE: exterior shooting is weather dependent.

Production Assignment # 2. You will work in groups of 3 and rotate crew positions (Director, DP, Gaffer). **This assignment must be shot with the Canon 7d cameras, or the JVC 100/700 cameras.** You will shoot and edit a short MOS narrative using all 8 elements listed below:

1. Woman at computer
2. Man cleaning something
3. CD playing
4. Someone gets something out of refrigerator
5. Light being turned on
6. Socks being put on
7. Pencil gets sharpened
8. Someone takes off ring

You may add **one** additional shot to the sequence. You can assemble the shots in any order. You will edit your sequence in Final Cut and you must add music and SFX. Besides telling an interesting story, your emphasis should be on lighting technique, exposure, composition, and camera movement. This assignment will be turned in on play DVD with simple menu/play button. I suggest that you shoot your projects on or before the weekend of February 9-10. Due in class for screening and critique on 2/13.

Production Assignment # 3. Again you will work in groups of 3. This can be any mode or genre (except documentary) and must have one or more edited scenes that are sync sound. It should have music and titles. Target length is 3-5 minutes. **This assignment must be shot with either the JVC 100/700 cameras or the Canon 7d cameras.** This assignment will be turned in on play DVD with simple menu/play button.

Course Materials

- 2-3 mini-DV tapes (60 min)
- blank DVDs

Required Texts

Cinematography Theory and Practice, Blain Brown

Grading

Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Production Assignment # 1	10%
Production Assignment # 2	20%
Production Assignment # 3	30%

Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Course Policies – in addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course.

Attendance – Classes will consist of lecture, screenings, discussion, and creative exercises. Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or showing up 15 minutes or more late. Any absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade.

Assignments and Exercises – Assignments and exercises must be completed by the due date as indicated in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

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.

Plagiarism – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) at: <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/handbook/code16.html>.

Course Lectures/Reading Assignments – The assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class. The exam will cover both lecture and reading materials as specified by the instructor.

Content Changes – Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

Working in Groups – For Production Assignments in this course you will be working in groups of 3. A major component of producing films and videos is teamwork. In this course many of you will be working as a creative team for the first time. Most student teams work very well together. But sometimes personality conflicts or creative conflicts can arise. It is your job as a team to work through these 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.

Office Hours/My Availability – I enjoy working with my students and am always available for advising, answering questions, etc. For those of you who want to learn more about technologies beyond the scope of DC 275 feel free to make an appointment and

pick my brain. **To meet with me your best bet is to schedule an appointment thru MyCDM, or stop by during my office hours.** If you stop by during my office hours I may be in the building, but not in my office. If that is the case, call me on my cell phone and we'll connect up.