Syllabus - Winter 2016

Date and time: **Tuesdays, 5:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Instructor: **Jeff Carrion**

Classroom: **DePaul Center Room C106C, Loop Campus**

Phone: **(312) 362-6296**

Office: **55 East Jackson Building, 20th floor (Ext. 2-6296)**

Office Hours: **Mondays - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and immediately after class, or by appointment**

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Course Description

Students analyze and assemble dramatic scenes under a variety of conditions and narrative strategies. Editing theories, techniques and procedures, issues of continuity, effects, movement and sound are examined as they relate to the fundamentals of cinematic montage and visual storytelling. Prerequisite(s) None.

Course Summary

The class will begin with a discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, grading criteria and qualities. Then it will move into lecture and discussion of the history of video editing and editing technology, the aesthetic qualities of good editing and good editors.

The class will introduce Adobe Premiere Pro CC as a post-production tool for video editing and hone your editing skills in order to drive emotion, create decisive moments, craft story, establish rhythm and maintain continuity.

Digital media management and organization, commonly referred to as 'workflow' - the process of organizing all of the various pieces of media that contribute to your editing projects - will be discussed at length and the Project Template Folder (PTF) workflow structure will be introduced as a means of media management and organization.

The technicalities of video editing will be covered including specific practice with Premiere Pro editing software and other accompanying applications.

Screenings, discussions and practice will also include the aesthetic elements of good editing, pacing, creating mood, time extension or compression, parallel story lines and non-linear story lines.

Video compression and preparation for delivery through various media such as the web will be discussed.

Throughout the class all of these lessons will build on each other to give you a solid foundation for understanding the technical and aesthetic elements that make for good video editing. By the end of class you will be able to efficiently organize digital media assets associated with an editing project, effectively and creatively edit several different types of video projects and finally, prepare completed projects for delivery and distribution through various media such as the web.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency operating digital non-linear video editing software such as Adobe Premiere Pro

- Students will be able to organize any and all digital media assets related to a project in a specific hierarchical folder structure within a computer operating system and maintain an organized workflow of those media assets throughout the entire production process

- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of video and audio file formats, compression codecs, frame size and rate and import and export settings and how these attributes of digital media assets interact to generate the desired type of asset needed to maintain the workflow

- Students will be able to contextualize the many creative techniques of editing in order to drive emotion, create decisive moments, craft story, establish rhythm and maintain continuity

- Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, how and why editing contributes to the emotional impact of the story

- Students will be able to explain the general history of cinema and film/non-linear editing from the late 19th century through today

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met

- Through the quarter there will be screenings of films and TV shows followed by class discussion

- Students will participate in extensive hands-on operation of digital non-linear editing software such as Adobe Premiere Pro

- Students will edit their own versions of several different types of media projects including: stills montage, A-Roll/B-Roll segments, narrative film and music video

- Students will learn to analyze and critique the editing techniques and styles of various film and TV genres

- Through question and answer sessions and other class discussion students will learn to contextualize the editing styles of films and TV shows in relationship to how the editing contributes to the flow of the story

Writing Expectations

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for this course.

How Writing Expectations Will Be Met

- Students will be assigned several written assignments where they will need to view scenes from films and/or TV shows, analyze the editing techniques used in them and explain how that contributes to the flow of the story.

Required Text

In the Blink of an Eye (Revised 2nd Edition) by Walter Murch

Publisher: Silman-James Pr; 2 Revised edition (August 1, 2001)

ISBN-10: 1879505622

ISBN-13: 978-1879505629

Suggested Text (Not Required)

Adobe Premiere Pro CC Classroom in a Book (2014 Release)

Publisher: Adobe Press; Published Sep 3, 2014

ISBN-10: 0-13-392705-9

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-392705-4

Required Equipment

500GB or larger external hard drive for media and project storage that is Thunderbolt or USB3.0 bus powered.

It is very important that you have your own external hard drive that you can store your personal projects and media on. It cannot be guaranteed that if you save work on the classroom iMacs that it will be there the next time you come in. Exceptions for missed work due to data loss from the classroom iMacs will not be granted.

Recommended Equipment

Second external hard drive for backups

Software

We will be using Adobe's Premiere Pro CC video editing software in this course, however, you will not need to provide your own copy. There are labs located at the Lincoln Park Campus as well as the Loop Campus that have this available to you. If you wish to purchase your own license of Premiere Pro you may do so at a significant discount through the DePaul Demon discount program. Search DePaul.edu for more information.

You will be using an online file sharing service and other means to turn in editing assignments. The particular websites and procedures will be demonstrated in class the first week. This website may be changed depending on availability of the web service throughout the class.

This is a Mac OSX based class. You will be expected to have a familiarity with the Mac OS operating system and understand its core functions such as: navigating it's file structure, opening and saving files, and launching and understanding the common core system functions of its applications.

Course Management System

This course will use D2L for course management. All course related materials will be made available in D2L including: presentation slides, homework assignment descriptions, quizzes, exercise files and class session replays.

Viewing Class Session Replays

There will be a video recording made of each class session that you can watch if you need to review material or if you are absent. Class replays can be viewed within an hour or two after the conclusion of each week's session. All classes for the entire quarter will be available in D2L. You can access class session replays by logging into this class's D2L section with your Campus Connect at:

https://d2l.depaul.edu/

When logged into D2L select this class, then navigate to the "Course Home" page, there you will be able to view class sessions under the "CDM Lectures" tab.

Lynda.com

This class will use [lynda.com](#), an online video training platform, as an essential training tool in the use of Premiere Pro. This will be the primary means by which you will receive instruction in the operation and functionality of Premiere Pro and other related software. We will not spend significant time in class going over the functions and operation of the software. Instead, class time will be used to hone your skills in the art and craft of editing.

All DePaul students have unlimited free access to [lynda.com](#) for the duration of their enrollment. You can log into DePaul's [lynda.com](#) student portal using your Campus Connect here:

https://login.depaul.edu/ldap/login?service=https://www.lynda.com/portal/depaulu

There are also mobile apps available where you can login and view courses both online and offline. For more information on available mobile apps, [click here.](#)

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. **Two absences will result in a automatic deduction of one letter grade for the class. Three absences will result in a loss of credit for the course**. Although circumstances and illness can and do happen, there is no such thing as an excused absence. Furthermore, there is no substitute for being in class and participating in the discussion, lecture and exercises. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late to any class will be considered tardy. Two tardies are equivalent to one absence. Arriving more than 45 minutes late will count as an absence. Leaving part-way through a class will count as an absence.

Classroom Decorum

On most evenings, we will take a 15-minute break midway through the class. Please remain in the classroom except during the break. Phones should be set to vibrate only. Texting should be reserved for the break or after class. The computers in class are for specific class work only, using them for personal use or anything other than the specific class material and exercises is not allowed.

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.

Course Requirements

Editing assignments, 1100 points (x5, point value varies)

You will be assigned 5 editing projects to complete outside of class. The projects will vary in their scope and specificity depending on the technical or aesthetic goal of the assignment.

Editing projects will expand in their complexity and build upon each other as the class progresses. The first project will consist of simple montage editing of still images with accompanying music. From there we will delve into motion picture editing in corporate video and narrative cinema style. You will include along with your editing projects a written description about your project that details why and how you did what you did.

Editing projects must be made with Premiere Pro and your project must be organized within the Project Template Folder (PTF) structure that will be presented in class. You will be graded on the technical and aesthetic quality of your projects along with your adherence to the parameters of organization within the Project Template Folder structure.

You will be expected to verbally discuss your editing projects and describe to the class why and how you made your edits.

The projects you submit must be made specifically for this class, during the particular assignment period. Turning in projects previously created will result in a significant deduction of credit on the assignment.

Writing assignments, 50 points (2 x 25 points each)

The writing assignments will be to view a particular scene from a movie or TV show show of your choice and write a 2-3 page analysis of the editing style of the scene, how it contributes to the story of the overall piece, how it relates to the effectiveness of the scene and how it contributes to the emotion and mood of the scene.

Quizzes, 100 points (2 x 50 points each)

There will be 2 quizzes for the course, the first on week 4 and the second on week 8 (subject to change). These quizzes will test you on your knowledge of the history and theory of editing and the technical aspects of editing.

Class participation, 50 points

Class participation is expected and required for this class. Constructive comments on others projects, active listening and asking relevant questions will be reflected in your class participation grade. Not paying attention, talking with classmates, texting, sleeping and using the computers for non-class related activity will result in a deduction of credit for class participation.

Flexibility of assignments and quizzes

The particulars of each assignment and quiz will be discussed in class before they are assigned. While they will follow the general guidelines as summarized above each assignment will be different as well as the requirements for turning them in and providing additional supporting documentation with them. There will also be flexibility in the frequency of assignments and quizzes depending on the progress of the class as a whole.

Late Assignments

The due dates and exact times will be listed in D2L for each assignment. The method for turning in assignments will vary depending on the assignment. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Grading criteria for assignments

Video editing is, by nature, a subjective medium. While some may say that there is no such thing as a "bad" or "wrong" video, that will not be the case in this class. Specific aesthetics and techniques will be taught and will be expected to show in your work.

While you will be learning many so-called "rules" of editing in this class, the one rule you will be expected to follow above all others is - you must first know the rules before you can break them. In other words, if your work shows a break of any of the rules you must be prepared to explain exactly why you chose to do so, it must be pre-meditated.

Further description of grading criteria will be discussed as projects are assigned.

Grade Scale

1,170 - 1,300 points = A

1,040 - 1,169 points = B

910 - 1,039 points = C

780 - 909 points = D

779 or lower = F

Depending on the flexibility of assignments and quizzes as stated above, this grading scale may be modified to reflect a change in total available points.

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.

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 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.

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