

DePAUL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS
WINTER QUARTER - 2015-2016
DC 110 – FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

INSTRUCTOR:	Brian Zahm	SECTION:	503
OFFICE HOURS:	M 11:45-1:00 / T 5:15-7:00	CLASS #:	22985
OFFICE LOCATION:	CDM 455	CLASS TIMES:	MON 01:30-04:45 PM
E-MAIL:	bzahm@cdm.depaul.edu	CLASS LOCATION:	14EAS 214

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to develop your cinema literacy and visualization skills. Drawing on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on storytelling and visual design. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects putting theory into practice. **Please Note:** *This course teaches concepts rather than technology. Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in DC 110 to better communicate their ideas in Digital Cinema Production I (DC 210) and beyond.*

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- » ANALYZE how cinematic techniques function to tell a story or convey a theme
- » SYNTHESIZE cinematic techniques in the production of their own creative work
- » IDENTIFY how techniques function in multiple genres and forms
- » CREATE a project from concept to exhibition
- » UTILIZE basic film production language

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXT

- » **FILM ART: AN INTRODUCTION** by David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson (ISBN 13: 978-0-07-353510-4) A must read for all filmmakers to help understand the importance and historical significance of the cinematic form. *Make sure you buy the 10th Edition!*
- » **DESIRE2LEARN (D2L):** Some additional readings and weblinks will be posted on D2L.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- » **EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE:** You will need some form of external drive to store your project files on. You will need at least 200gb of free space. The classroom computers have USB & Thunderbolt ports, so your drive should be compliant. I would recommend a Thunderbolt connection, and/or USB 3.0. A USB 2.0 connection will likely not be fast enough to edit the files in this class. If it is an HDD drive, I would recommend it being 7200 rpms. You will use this drive for this class and beyond. *Also, please note, you are responsible for backing up all of your work!*

PRODUCTION RESOURCES

A great place to obtain ROYALTY FREE MUSIC for student work is at **FreePlayMusic.com**. Simply put your selected music in the shopping cart and select STUDENT or YOUTUBE project and it's FREE!

A great actor resource is through DePAUL's ACTOR DATABASE. Working with friends is one thing, but working with trained actors can take your work and your experience to the next level. Simply go here: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Production-Resources.aspx> - under CASTING & CREW

DePaul has negotiated a great rate with ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD, a tremendous production resource. Find out more information here: Students can purchase Creative Cloud for about \$10 here: <http://offices.depaul.edu/is/services/Software/Pages/Software-for-Personal-Computers.aspx> <<http://offices.depaul.edu/is/services/Software/Pages/Purchasing-Software-for-Personal-Computers-Kivuto-Students.aspx>

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING

» ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: 15% (INDIVIDUAL)

You are required to attend class and participate in the day's activities. This active engagement will ensure you get the most from the course. Each class is vital to your early artistic development.

» READING + LECTURE EXAM: 20% (INDIVIDUAL)

This test will help reinforce the key elements presented in the lecturers and readings.

» "THE ACTIVITY" SILENT FILM: 10% (GROUP)

This silent film will portray one character doing one activity from start to finish. (Ex. brushing teeth, juggling, playing pinball, eating an apple etc). This project will help you better understand the use of cinematic language and composition.

» "THE OBSESSION" PHOTO ROMAN: 15% (GROUP)

This is a still photo montage film that should portray someone with an obsession i.e. they are infatuated with one single thing. This film will also introduce the power of sound design to help bring your images to "life". This project will help you understand and experience visual and audio design and their contribution to cinematic storytelling.

» "THE STORY" PREVISUALIZATION PACKET: 15% (INDIVIDUAL)

This is the previsualization packet for "The Story" film. This packet will include a logline, a treatment broken down into the three-act structure, and a storyboard. The storyboard should be constructed with still photographs, be numbered and feature important sound effects. *The best previz packets will be chosen to be made into films.*

» "THE STORY" FILM: 25% (GROUP)

This short film should tell a complete story (has conflict!) without dialogue, driven purely by visual-storytelling and intelligent sound design. This film will help you understand and experience the power of cinematic storytelling and help prepare you for Production 1.

A = 100-93, A- = 92.9-90, B+ = 89.9-87, B = 86.9-83, B- = 82.9-80, C+ = 79.9-77, C = 76.9-73,
C- = 72.9-70, D+ = 69.9-67, D = 66.9-63, D- = 62.9-60, F = 59.9+Below.

"A" indicates Excellence, "B" indicates Very Good, "C" indicates Satisfactory,
"D" indicates Poor, "F" indicates the student has NOT accomplished the objectives of the course.

GRADING POLICY

Professional filmmakers must adhere to strict deadlines. Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the established deadlines. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. I will not accept the excuse of technological failure or absent-mindedness (you all have phones...set alarms for due dates). *Back up your work and do not leave your work until the last second!* This is your warning. All grades will be kept current on D2L.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to be on time, and if you plan on missing or being late to a class are expected to e-mail the instructor BEFORE that particular class. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether an absence or tardy is "excused." ***Unexcused absences or tardiness will negatively affect your grade.*** Please see ***Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office*** at the end of the syllabus to see how your grade will be affected. Attendance will be kept current on D2L. If you want to question a recorded absence or tardiness, it must be done within a week of the recorded occurrence.

COMPUTER/CELLPHONE/I-PAD ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

If you are using any personal or school electronic equipment during class for anything other than class-related work, *you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that class.*

E-MAIL POLICY

You are expected to read all e-mails from the class instructor because you are responsible to know the information they contain. *So, you should check your e-mail at least once every 24 hours!*

Type **DC 110 FOUNDATIONS** in the subject of all e-mails to the instructor about this class. Please DO NOT JUST REPLY to my all-class e-mails because your response might get lost in the shuffle—*Send me an individual e-mail. I will do my best to get back to you in short order, but please allow up to 24hrs for the instructor to respond.*

PROJECT FILE LABELING + FORMAT POLICY

Label all Files as Such (ex. Student is STEVEN SPIELBERG and he is submitting the "ACTIVITY" PROJECT): **SPIELBERG_ACTIVITY**

*All Projects should be submitted in H.264 format! **Projects NOT labeled properly or submitted in the proper format WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This is your warning!!!***

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY

All work submitted for this class should be original work made specifically for this class. If you are found to be submitting work you have made for another class you will receive zero credit for that particular assignment.

I will grade the first project file that is submitted. Check and double-check the work you are submitting. Do not submit the wrong file, an incomplete file, a corrupted file, etc. Submit the correct project file by each deadline. Most work will be submitted through D2L Dropbox. Do not leave this until the last second—upload several hours before the deadline to be safe! *Again, no late work is accepted! AND you should always double-check that your file has been successfully uploaded to D2L!*

FILM + VIDEO CONTENT WARNING:

A full spectrum of award-winning film and video content will be shown in class with the hope that it will enlighten and inspire you. If you are highly sensitive to any particular cinematic content, please inform the instructor and you will be excused from watching said content.

EXCUSES (i.e. LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM)

My courses are designed to teach professional conduct and particular skill-sets. Time management skills are essential for all endeavors. Modern technology makes it easy to stay organized, on time and on task. Please remember, an excuse is just that—an *excuse*. Here are just a few examples of excuses for not meeting class obligations that I won't accept:

- a. I have a life...
- b. I forgot...
- c. I didn't realize...
- d. I mixed up the dates...
- e. I don't "do" books...
- f. My alarm didn't go off...
- g. I live out of town so I can't...
- h. I was busy working on other projects so I didn't...
- i. My job called me in so I had to work and couldn't do my assignment...
- j. I would have made the deadline if the deadline wasn't when it was...
- k. It's just easier to do it my way, so I did it my way...
- l. Other classes don't have me do it this way, so I did it their way...
- m. I was not aware of class policy...
- n. I didn't read the e-mail you sent out, so I didn't know...
- o. The cage checked out bad equipment to me, so I couldn't...
- p. My hard-drive crashed and I didn't back up my work...
- q. The internet was slow when I tried to turn in my project...
- r. I accidentally submitted the wrong project file, but it was on time...
- s. I didn't do the assignment as you asked, but don't worry, I got it all worked on in my head...
- t. I have to pick my friend up at the airport so I can't...
- u. I have to go on vacation so I can't...
- v. I was at a bar and...
- w. I scheduled an appointment during class time so I can't...
- x. I don't want to do this for my career, so I don't need to know how to do this so I didn't...
- y. I haven't been meeting class expectations, but I'm on scholarship and need an "A" so...
- z. I thought I turned in my project, but I didn't...
- aa. I didn't look on the syllabus...

DC 110: COURSE SCHEDULE

All assigned readings/tutorial lessons are to be completed by the following class. All assignments have strict **DUE** deadlines noted in the schedule. **Late work is NOT accepted!**

CLASS 01_January 4th

IN CLASS >

REVIEW: Syllabus
LECTURE: What is Cinema?
SCREENING: Film Odyssey

BEFORE NEXT CLASS >

- » Read: FILM ART Chapter 1 + 2 + 12
- » Read: D2L>CONTENT>FILMING POLICIES
- » Upload Your Picture 2 D2L for Extra Credit

CLASS 02_January 11th

IN CLASS >

PRESENTATION: "The Cage" Camera Presentation starring Nick Schmidt
LECTURE: Narrative Form
SCREENING: Short Films
ASSIGN: Groups + "The Activity" Film

BEFORE NEXT CLASS >

- » Read: FILM ART Chapters 3 + 9

CLASS 03_January 18th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – DePaul Holiday (No Class Session)

CLASS 04_January 25th

IN CLASS >

LECTURE: Cinematography + Mise-en-Scene

SCREENING: Side-by-Side

DEMO: Uploading a Film to D2L

BEFORE NEXT CLASS >

» Read: FILM ART Chapters 4 + 5

DUE: JANUARY 31st by 1pm via D2L > DROPBOX > [THE ACTIVITY_FILM](#)

CLASS 05_February 1st

IN CLASS >

SCREENING + CRITIQUE: "The Activity" Film

LECTURE: Sound + Cinema

SCREENING: La Jetee + Short Films

DEMO: Acquiring Sound + Sound Sources

ASSIGN: "The Obsession" Photo Roman

BEFORE NEXT CLASS >

» Read: FILM ART Chapter 7

CLASS 06_February 8th

IN CLASS >

LECTURE: Editing: The Invisible Art

SCREENING: The Cutting Edge

BEFORE NEXT CLASS >

» Read: FILM ART Chapters 6 + 8

» Read: D2L>MATCH CUTS

DUE: FEB. 14th by 1pm via D2L> DROPBOX> [OBSESSION_PHOTO ROMAN](#)

CLASS 07_February 15th

IN CLASS >

SCREENING + CRITIQUE: "The Obsession" Photo Roman

LECTURE: Previsualization

SCREENING: Short Film/Feature Scenes

ASSIGN: Previsualization Packet

CLASS 08_February 22nd

IN CLASS: READINGS + LECTURE EXAM

DUE: FEBRUARY 27th by 1pm via D2L > DROPBOX > [THE STORY_PREVIZ](#)

CLASS 09_February 29th

IN CLASS >

CRITIQUE: "The Story" Previz Packets

LECTURE: Directing Your Film

SCREENING: Short Films

ASSIGN: Final Selected "The Story" Short Films + New Groups

CLASS 10_March 7th

IN CLASS >

CRITIQUE: "The Story" Rough Cuts

DUE: MARCH 13th by 3pm via D2L > DROPBOX > [THE STORY_FILMS](#)

FINALS_March 14th 2:30-4:45PM***

IN CLASS >

Critique: "The Story" Films

Lecture: Thinking About Your Career in Cinema + Time at DePaul

Note On Requirements (and the Syllabus in General)

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, and posted on D2L. **AS A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ON THE TOTALITY OF THIS SYLLABUS.** These guidelines are established to ensure all students know what is expected of them, and so all students are treated equally by being held to the same standards.

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.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office

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 Attendance & Participation drops one-third after any absence (50pts). 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.

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Civil Discourse: DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). 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 undistruptive 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.