

DC 121 – The Art of Production Design in Cinema
Spring Quarter – 2017
Wednesdays 6:00pm – 9:15pm
Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center Room 330

Professor John Corba

Office Hours: Thursdays: 5:00pm- 6:00pm and after class in Room 330

Or buy appointment at DePaul Cinespace Studios

Email: jcorba@depaul.edu

Course Description

The Art of Production Design is an introduction course and explores production design and art direction as narrative art forms in cinema. In this course we will examine the collaborative relationship between director, production designer, and cinematographer and the evolution of *mise-en-scene*. Using observational readings, screenings, screenplays, lectures, research, and discussion, students will study the fundamentals of a production designer's approach towards visualizing and conceptualizing story. Students will also gain a historical perspective of how the role of production design has evolved and how advances in technology have influenced the various crafts.

Learning Domain Description

DC 121 (The Art of Production Design in Cinema) is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts while developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning, and through critical and/or creative activity, come to better understand the original audience that witnessed a work of art and how its meaning and significance changes over time. These courses focus on works of art or literature, however the process of analysis may include social, cultural, and historical issues. Genres covered in this domain include literature, the visual arts, media arts, the performing arts, music, and theater.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Explain, in well-written prose, the role of production design and how it helps convey story in cinematic media.
 - Articulate and explain the various trades, craftspeople, and positions that work within production design to achieve that end.
- Identify historical and technological landmark achievements in the field.
- Develop interpretations for the aesthetics concerning production design and the affiliated crafts.

- Contextualize and evaluate various films and visual media.
 - Do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre.
 - Contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met:

Attendance and Class Participation	40 points	40.0%
Analysis Papers (3)	30 points	30.0%
Midterm and Final Exams – (15 points each)	30 points	30.0%
Total	100 points	100%

An expanded description of each follows:

Attendance and Class Participation - Class attendance is mandatory. Most of class time will be spent viewing and discussing films and assigned readings. Group discussions are a key component to the success of the class. Points will be taken off for absences and lack of contribution to class discussions.

Analysis Papers – Students will be assigned three analysis papers (3-4 pages in length), topics are directly linked to the course objectives and will be covered in class well in advance of due dates.

Midterm and Film Exams – The Midterm and Final Exam for this course will reflect a comprehension of reading assignments, class discussions and viewed materials.

Course Management System – <https://d2l.depaul.edu>

Textbooks and Printed Resources

Designs on Films

By Cathy Whitlock and The Art Directors Guild
ISBN 978-0-06-088122-1

Other worth while books: (suggested but not required)

FilmCraft: Production Design

By Fionnuala Halligan
ISBN 978-0-240-82375-1

The Filmmaker's Guide to Production Design

By Vincent LoBrutto

ISBN- 10: 1-58115-224-8

What and Art Director Does (An Introduction to Motion Picture Production Design)

By Ward Preston

ISBN: 1-879505-18-5

***Production Design in the Contemporary American Film
(A Critical Study of 23 Movies and Their Designers)***

By Beverly Heisner

ISBN-13: 978-0-7864-1865-7

All other reading materials will be handed out in class or on the Desire2Learn site.

Class Attendance and Discussion Policy:

Class Attendance: Each class consists of lectures, discussions, and screenings. Your attendance in the course is required. The class is participatory and the instructor's material and concepts are presented during class meetings. 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 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. Second, students will be expected to demonstrate comprehension of the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

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.

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.

Grading Scale:

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. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Week	Topic	Reading Homework	Films	Homework Due***
<u>Week 1</u> March 29	Intro Syllabus Expectations Student Intros	<i><u>Designs on Film</u></i> Pages 1-93	Trip to the Moon / The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari	
<u>Week 2</u> April 5	<u>The 1920's</u> William C. Menzies German Expressionism		The Thief of Bagdad / Metropolis	
<u>Week 3</u> April 12	<u>The 1930's</u> Art Deco Horror, Gangster	<i><u>Designs on Film</u></i> Pages 95- 187	Our Dancing Daughters / Frankenstein / Little Caesar	
<u>Week 4</u> April 19	<u>The 1930's</u> <u>continued</u> The Golden Age		The Wizard of Oz / Gone with the Wind / Lost Horizon	Paper #1
<u>Week 5</u> April 28	<u>The 1940's</u> Noir, Welles, & WWII	<i><u>Designs on Film</u></i> Pages 188- 333	Casablanca / The Fountainhead / Rebecca	Midterm
<u>Week 6</u> May 3	<u>The 1950's</u> The Musical, The Western, and Hitchcock		North by Northwest / High Noon An American in Paris	
<u>Week 7</u> May 10	<u>The 1960's</u> The Epic, Kubrick, & James Bond		Lawrence of Arabia / Dr. Strangelove / Goldfinger	Paper #2
<u>Week 8</u> May 17	<u>The 1970's</u> Coppola, Lucas, & Spielberg,		The Godfather / Star Wars / Jaws	
<u>Week 9</u> May 24	<u>The 1980's</u> Sci-Fi & Greed		Bladerunner / Wall Street/Gattaca	
<u>Week 10</u> May 31	<u>The 1990's</u> Genre Redefined		Gattaca/ Unforgiven	Paper #3
<u>Week 11</u> June 7	Final Exam		***subject to revision	

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: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

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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March 23, 2017