

DC100-411 INTRODUCTION TO CINEMA: THE ART OF MAKING MOVIES

Fall Quarter 2017
ONLINE

Instructor: Nick Schmidt

Office Hours: 14 E. Jackson LL103B, Wednesdays 8:30AM-10:00PM or by appt

Email: nschmid5@cdm.depaul.edu

Course Description: This lecture-based course will introduce students to the art of cinema, from the point of view of the filmmaker. Through screenings of contemporary and classic films, students will gain an appreciation of the various crafts involved in the making of movies, such as: acting, directing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, production design, editing, sound, or visual effects. This course is not intended for students who intend to major or minor in Digital Cinema.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize film as an artistic medium.
- Identify the craft and techniques of specific roles in the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze visual communication as used by filmmakers
- Discuss the methods, forms and styles in a wide array of feature film examples.

Learning Domain Description: DC100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies 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 by 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 to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, through the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take courses in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater.

Text: There is no required textbook for this course. Required materials will be provided and shared with you on D2L.

D2L & COLTUBE: The course materials for this course, such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Please make sure you have access to D2L. Films screened in class will be made available to stream afterwards on COLTUBE site at <http://coltube.cdm.depaul.edu/> as a resource for your writing.

You should be able to log into both with your CampusConnect credentials.

Grading:

Participation: 15%

Quizzes (5): 25% (5 quizzes, 5 points each)

Written Assignments/Responses (5): 40% (5 written assignments, 8 points each)

Final Paper/Project: 20% (20 points)

100 points total

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.

Class Schedule and Course Outline

Week 1

09/06 – Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema Production

Screen: *Living in Oblivion* (Tom DiCillo, 1995)

Reading: (DUE Week 2) *Making Movies*, Sidney Lumet, *The Director: The Best Job in the World/ Film Art*, David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, *Film Production/Directors Close Up*, Jeremy Kagan, “How I Got Here”

Quiz 1: (DUE EOD 09/13)

Week 2

09/13 – Directors

Screen: *American Movie* (Chris Smith, 1999)

Reading: (Due Week 3)

Written Response 1: (DUE Week 3)

Week 3

09/20 – Directing/Producing

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 4)

Quiz 2: (DUE EOD 09/27)

Week 4

09/27 – Story/Structure/Screenplays

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 5)

Written Response 2: (DUE Week 5)

Week 5

10/04 – Photography/Cinematography

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 6)

Quiz 3: (DUE EOD 10/11)

Week 6

10/11 – Editing & Sound

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 7)

Written Response 3: (DUE Week 7)

Week 7

10/18 – Production Design

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 8)

Quiz 4 (DUE EOD 10/25)

Week 8

10/25 – Short Film and Indie Filmmaking, Low Budget

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 9)

Written Response 4: (DUE Week 9)

Week 9

11/01 – Alternative Forms, Documentary, Experimental, etc.

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 10)

Quiz 5 (DUE EOD 11/08)

Week 10

11/08 – Genres

Screen: TBD

Reading: (DUE Week 11)

Written Response 5: (DUE Week 11)

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. When a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

Participation: Weekly Discussion Posts, Every week you will be expected to contribute to the D2L Discussion Thread for your attendance and participation credit. Every week there will be a new prompt that you must respond to. One post and one response to another students post for full credit.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 – 312-362-8002, Fax – 312-362-6544, TTY – 773-325-7296

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.