

DCI00-302/311 Intro to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies

Spring Quarter 2017/18
Wednesdays 9:35am - 12:50pm, Levan 305
Instructor: Josh Wolff
Office: STDC332
Office Hours: 1:00-2:30pm Wednesdays
Email: jwolff4@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 plan to major or minor in Digital Cinema. No prerequisites.

Learning Domain Description — DC 100 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 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 — After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss film as an artistic medium
- Analyze and discuss the craft and technique of specific members of the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.)
- Analyze and discuss visual communication and storytelling as used by filmmakers

Learning outcomes will be achieved through in-class discussions and exercises as well as writing assignments that will require students to think critically and analyze a specific aspect of filmmaking in a given film.

Writing Expectations — Students are expected to write a minimum of 5-7 pages this quarter in accordance with the Arts and Literature domain requirement.

Textbook — There is no required textbook for this class. Reading assignments will be made available through D2L.

Online Course Management System — We will use D2L as our online course management system. You can log in at <<https://d2l.depaul.edu>>. Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, important information, and news will be posted there. Please check D2L regularly.

If you do not turn something in through D2L, *you will not get credit*. ***Do not email me any homework assignments or other course documents.***

Film screenings

All films that we screen will be posted on ColTube, DePaul's video management system, located at coltube.cdm.depaul.edu. You may watch the films in their entirety there after logging in with your CampusConnect credentials. You are free to find the films at the library or elsewhere online if desired.

Please note that ColTube may not work with certain browser extensions or certain browser settings. I recommend you use Google Chrome as your browser with no extensions turned on. If you cannot get the films to play, it is your responsibility to contact me ColTube's support at coltubeadmin@cdm.depaul.edu to ensure you stay current with the screenings.

Grading:

Attendance and participation: 10%

Weekly Response Paper: 70%

Final Paper: 20%

Grade scale:

93 - 100: A

90 - 92: A -

87 - 89: B +

83 - 86: B

80 - 82: B -

77 - 79: C +

73 - 76: C

70 - 72: C -

67 - 69: D +

60 - 66: D

Standards for Achievement:

Grade A:

Student performs in an outstanding way. Student exhibits achievement and craftsmanship in all work. Criteria are exceeded and student challenges him/herself in project development. Student exhibits commitment to expanding ideas, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade B:

Student performs beyond the requirement of the project. Student exhibits above average progress and craftsmanship. A criterion is exceeded. Student exhibits above average interest in expanding ideas, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade C:

Criteria of assignment are met, and all requirements are fulfilled. Student shows average quality work and minimum time and effort on projects. Student shows moderate interest.

Grade D:

Student performance is uneven and below average. Requirements for projects are only partially fulfilled. Minimal interest is shown and attendance, participation and involvement are inadequate.

Grade F

Student fails to meet minimum course requirements and shows no interest. Levels of participation and craftsmanship are extremely poor. Student's attendance is inadequate.

Weekly Response Papers — Every week you will be responsible for a 250-word (minimum) response to the film screened that week in class. A prompt will be posted on D2L outlining the focus of your response. This paper is always due by start of class the following week, submit on D2L as a .doc or .pdf. All homework must be submitted via D2L on the Submissions page. The folders where you submit your assignments close automatically so *no late work will be accepted*. Technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses for not turning in your assignments on time.

Weekly Discussion Posts (ONLINE CLASS ONLY) — Every week you will be expected to contribute to the D2L Discussion Thread for your attendance & participation credit. Every week there will be a new prompt that you must respond to. One post and one response to another student's post for full credit per week (i.e. 10% of your final grade).

- ****ONLINE STUDENTS**** Please email me * **before 4/4*** to demonstrate that you have read and understand the syllabus. The email can say anything you want or it can be blank. It doesn't matter. Not doing so will affect your Attendance and Participation grade.

Writing Help — I *strongly* encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-based Learning (aka The Writing Center). It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your assignments are of the highest quality. To learn more about the services they offer, visit their website: <http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/what/Writing%20Center/wc.html>

Notes :

- All lecture slides will be posted to D2L as PDFs on the Content page. Clips and other media files used in class will be made available for download there too.
- All readings will be available on D2L on the Content page under the week they are assigned.

Last day to withdraw (without penalty): 4/6/2018 Last day to withdraw (with penalty): 5/11/2018

Weekly schedule

Week I

3/28 — Syllabus, Introductions, Cinema overview

Screen: *American Movie* (Chris Smith, 1999, 107 minutes)

Reading (before next class): Story introduction by Robert McKee

Reading (before next class): The Script by Sidney Lumet

Assignment (before next class): *American Movie* Response Paper

Online students (before next class): Discussion post and replies

Week 2

4/4— Screenwriting & Narrative Structure

Screen: *Vertigo* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1960, 128 minutes)

Reading: Best Job in the World by Sidney Lumet

Reading: *A Free Replay* by Chris Marker

Assignment: *Vertigo* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 3

4/11 — Directing

Screen: *Moonlight* (Barry Jenkins, 2016, 115 minutes)

Reading: Cinematography by Sydney Lumet

Assignment: *Moonlight* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 4

4/18 — Cinematography

Screen: *Ida* (Pawel Pawlikowski, 2013, 82 minutes)

Reading : Art Direction and Clothes by Sidney Lumet

Assignment: *Ida* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 5

4/25 — Mise-en-scène/Production design

Screen: *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (Wes Anderson, 2014, 100 minutes)

Reading: *In the Blink of an Eye* excerpts by Walter Murch

Assignment: *The Grand Budapest Hotel* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 6

5/2 — Editing

Screen: *Run Lola Run* (Tom Tykwer, 1999, 82 minutes)

Reading: Sound of Music by Sidney Lumet

Assignment: *Run Lola Run* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 7

5/9 — Sound design and music

Screen : *WALL-E* (Andrew Stanton, 2008, 98 minutes)

Reading : Intro excerpt from *New History of Documentary*

Assignment: *WALL-E* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 8

5/16 — Documentary

Screen: *Exit Through The Gift Shop* (Banksy, 2010, 87 minutes)

Assignment: *Exit Through The Gift Shop* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 9

5/23 — New Wave and Independent Cinema

Screen: *Short Term 12* (Destin Daniel Cretton, 2013, 97 minutes)

Assignment: *Short Term 12* Response Paper

Online students: Discussion post and replies

Week 10

5/30 — Experimental & International/Art cinema

Screen: *Chungking Express* (Kar Wai Wong, 1994, 102 minutes)

Assignment: Final Paper - 4-6 pages **DUE by 11am 6/6**

****Note**** : Course content, assignments, screenings, and due dates are subject to change at any time. Any changes will be communicated clearly in class, on D2L, or by email. As such, it is important for you to read emails and come to class to stay apprised of any changes to the syllabus. The most current version of the syllabus will always be available via D2L.

My policies

Attendance — Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Anyone who misses 3 classes will automatically drop a full letter grade. Anyone who misses 5 classes will automatically fail.

If you are more than 15 minutes late or if you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will be considered absent. **If you come in late**, please let me know after class so you aren't accidentally marked absent.

If you are legitimately sick however, I mean really sick, please stay home. We don't to spread it around. Please email me at jwolff4@cdm.depaul.edu if you are going to miss class and make arrangements to have the absence documented by the Dean of Students Office.

Participation — Participate in class. We'll all have more fun if everyone contributes to the conversations.

Respect — Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs. We do not have to agree on everything but we should be able to discuss anything civilly. This is not the comments section of YouTube. Please respect the films we'll watch, many of which have mature themes and situations. During screenings, please do not talk and keep all comments/observations to yourself.

Email — The best way to contact me is through email. I usually respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. Emails received Saturdays and Sundays may not be returned until Monday.

Computer and cell phone use — Computers, cell phones, and tablets may NOT be used during class. If you have a documented learning need or disability that requires you to use a laptop, exceptions will be made. Otherwise, no screens in class. Computer or cell phone use will affect your participation grade.

All phones must be kept *silent* . Please do not have a phone that is constantly buzzing in your backpack.

I understand that emergencies happen and you may need to be available by phone. If that's the case, please tell me at the start of class if you know you may need to take a call. In any event, if you do need to use your phone during class please step outside quietly and answer your phone in the hallway. *There is no such thing as a text message emergency.*

Expectations — Yes, this is an intro level course for non-majors. That does not mean it should be taken lightly. I expect the same high quality writing and work befitting DePaul's standards of excellence that all the professors in your major/program expect.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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.

You will get caught. Don't do it.

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 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 .

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

TTY: (773)325.7296

Incompletes — Students can read about requesting or receiving an incomplete grade at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

Excused absence — Students can read about the procedures for getting an excused absence at <http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>