

**DC206 History of Cinema Production**

Spring Quarter 2018

Tuesday 5:45-9:00 and online

Daley 801

**Instructor: Ben Kumming**

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312-362-6728

Office: Daley LL103

Office Hours: T 4:45-5:30 and F 9:00-10:00.

Other by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course explores the origins, evolutions, and revolutions of cinema production from the perspective of a filmmaker. We will examine a diverse range of critical historical events that have impacted the industry and craft of filmmaking; the emergence of the studio system, the coming of sound, audience shifts, emergence of other media, and the rise of digital technology. Students will acquire a broad understanding of the aesthetic, economic, social, and technological forces that have shaped and continue to influence the development of cinema. In addition to weekly mandatory lab screenings of relevant films, students will be assigned readings on various historical, critical, and theoretical topics.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

- Identify major historical shifts in the production of motion pictures.
- Analyze the historical and creative context of films and their relationship to – and role in – society.
- Recognize the importance of global perspectives throughout the history of cinema production.
- Evaluate the continuing evolution of the cinematic process through qualitative movements in culture, technology, economics, and audience appreciation.
- Synthesize their understanding of the course materials through written analyses of feature films, readings, and class lectures.

**Writing Expectations**

College-level writing is expected. College-level writing is coherent, proofread and free of typos and grammatical errors, and is well structured with a clear thesis statement and evidence to support the claim.

If I find your writing below this standard I will require that you have your work reviewed by the Writing Center before submitting.

University Center for Writing-based Learning (UCWbL):

Loop Campus: 25 E. Jackson Ave, Lewis room 1600. 312-362-6726

Lincoln Park: 2320 N. Kenmore, SAC room 212. 773-325-4272

**Course Management System**

We will use D2L extensively for both online and in-person sections of this course. Readings, assignments, discussion boards, and films will be posted via D2L.

### **Textbooks and Printed Resources**

A Short History of the Movies, 11<sup>th</sup> Abridged Edition  
Gerald Mast & Bruce Kawin 2011  
Various Supplemental Readings Posted Online

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required for students in the in-person section of this class, both for lectures and screening labs. Attendance is 10% of the course grade.

An absence includes arriving more than 5 minutes past the start of class or resumption of class after an announced break.

To request an excused absence, please complete the Absence Notification Form via the Dean of Students Office [here](#).

### **Course Policies**

Late work will be penalized by 10% per day past the original due date and time. Work later than 7 days will not be accepted and will be marked as 0.

Participation is expected and will be factored into your final grade. Your thoughts and opinions on the subjects we discuss and the films we watch are important, valid, and may be helpful to other students.

Students in the online section will have their participation assessed based on their activity in online discussion forums.

### **Changes to Syllabus**

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

### **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](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

### **Assignments**

Each week, in-person and online students will be expected to complete the following:

1. Complete any reading and watch any films assigned.
2. Write a short answer to a weekly study question pertaining to readings, films, and previous class content.

Online students must also complete discussion posts each week. The number and nature of these posts changes each week.

In addition, there will be a mid-term paper, a final paper or project, and a self-assessment.

Midterm: You will write a 3- to 5-page paper analyzing a film for key principles and concepts covered in lectures, discussions, and readings. Films will be selected by students from a list I provide.

Final: You will write a paper at least 5 pages in length detailing the historical, social, and artistic context of a movement in cinema history, researching the major contributions of 2 filmmakers within the movement, and analyzing film style and technique employed by those filmmakers in at least two of each of their works.

Self-Assessment: You will write a 1- to 3-page self-assessment and reflection paper in which you describe what you've gained from taking this course and how you can apply it to your own future films or other work.

## **Grading**

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+= 89-87, B=86-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-77, C=76-73, C-=72-70, D+=69-67, D=66-63, 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.

Final course grade is composed as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 10%

For online students, this will be the Discussion Posts

Weekly Study Questions: 20%

Midterm Paper: 25%

Final Paper: 35%

Self-Assessment: 10%