

INSTRUCTOR

B. Rich

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COURSE INFORMATION

DMA 475 Section 701

Time: Wednesday 5:45 – 9:00

Location: 14 E. Jackson, LL107 (Film Stage)

Course page: [D2L](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to more sophisticated forms of image/sound manipulation, editing, and theory. Pre-production planning (storyboards, scripting, budgeting), further refinement of digital editing techniques, and basic post-production/visual effects are covered, as well as studio production techniques, such as chroma-keying and work with advanced cameras. Students are expected to achieve a level of technical competence and confidence necessary to undertake more ambitious independent work. The class views and discusses key contemporary works and related critical writings. DMA 525 is recommended

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To demonstrate an understanding of the language of cinema and to employ fundamental production and editing techniques to express a story visually in creative projects.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in operating digital cameras and non-linear editing programs (Adobe Premiere) through production exercises and short projects.
3. Demonstrate the ability to produce and pre-visualize a production and to collaborate effectively in small crews to develop creative and compelling cinematic projects.
4. Develop/refine skills in critical analysis and feedback

RECOMMENDED READING

The Filmmaker's Handbook, Ascher & Pincus
(latest edition preferable)

Readings on D2L

CLASS FORMAT

Classes will consist of lectures, short film and clip screenings, discussions, workshops, in-class shoots and student screenings.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE AND DEVICES

- Video Camera, high quality microphone, sound recorder (available for check-out from Cage); you may use your own camera if you have one.
- A portable hard drive for editing. Bring your drive with you to class. Should be fast enough for video (firewire, USB 3.0, thunderbolt, etc)
- Software: Adobe Creative Cloud. [Discounts](#)
- CDM [Computer Labs](#) are available for software use outside of class
- Supplemental instruction at [Linkedin Learning](#) (formerly Lynda.Com) is required. It is available at the libraries and by (free) subscription.

EVALUATION & GRADING

Participation	10
Exercises	35
3-minute Film	20
Final Film	25
Exam	10

Participation: Attendance and contributions to class discussions and activities

Exercises: There will be in-class exercises, some which may require outside time to prep/complete.

3-minute Film: Fiction or Experimental.

Final Film – Short film (approx. 5-8 minutes long); Fiction, Non-Fiction, Experimental, Hybrid

Exam: Comprehensive of all topics covered.

GRADING SCALE

A	90%
B+	87%
B	80%
C+	77%
C	70%
D	60%
F	0%

Letter grades will be based on the minimum percentages of total points earned

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (subject to change)*

WEEK 1		
SEP 11	TOPIC	Syllabus Filmmaking Process Visualizing the film Pre-production: Storyboards, Shotlist
	ASSIGNMENT	Chase Sequence Storyboards + Shotlist Premiere Pro intro videos (if needed)
WEEK 2		
SEP 18	TOPIC	Camera Cinematography Visual Story
	DUE	Chase Sequence Storyboards + Shotlist
	WORKSHOP	Shoot Chase Sequence
	ASSIGNMENT	Edit Chase Sequence 3-minute film ideas
WEEK 3		
SEP 25	TOPIC	Pre-production (cont): Treatment, Synopsis, Logline, Script Cinematography Audio
	DUE	Chase Sequence 3-minute film ideas - pitch
	SCREEN	Chase Sequence
	ASSIGNMENT	3-minute film pre-production package (part 1)
WEEK 4		
OCT 2	TOPIC	Editing Film Styles Genres
	PITCH	3-minute film
	ASSIGNMENT	Final Film ideas 3-minute film pre-production package (complete)
WEEK 5		
OCT 9	TOPIC	Lighting
	DUE	3-minute film pre-production package
	ASSIGNMENT	Vox Pop topic + list of questions Final Film Pitch Shoot 3-minute film

WEEK 6 OCT 16	TOPIC	Releases, clearances, permits, budgets, timelines
	WORKSHOP	Shoot Vox-pops
	PITCH	Final Film
	SCREEN	3-minute film
	ASSIGNMENT	Edit Vox Pops Final Film pre-production package
WEEK 7 OCT 23	TOPIC	Lighting, Green screen
	SCREEN	Vox Pops
	DUE	Final Film pre-production package
	WORKSHOP	Lighting & Green screen
	ASSIGNMENT	Shoot Final Film
WEEK 8 OCT 30	TOPIC	Set etiquette
	WORKSHOP	Setiquette, Lighting set-ups
	ASSIGNMENT	Shoot Final Film
WEEK 9 NOV 6	TOPIC	TBD
	SCREEN	Final Film Rough Cut / WIP
	ASSIGNMENT	Exam Final Film Fine Cut
WEEK 10 NOV 13	SCREEN	Final Film Fine Cut
	DUE	Final Film
	ASSIGNMENT	Exam Self Evaluation, Peer Review
WEEK 11 NOV 20	No Class	
	DUE	Exam Self Evaluation Peer Review

* This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class and sent via email.

Course Policies: In addition to [CDM Academic Policies](#) and [DePaul University Policies](#), the following policies will apply to this course:

Email: Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Some guidelines for your emails:

- Be clear and concise in your subject line; ex: "DMA 475 – question about assignment X"
- Don't reply to class-wide email unless it pertains specifically to the subject of that email
- Begin a new email thread for any new question, notification, etc.
- Expect a reply within 24 hours during the week. Expect a delayed response on weekends. If you don't get a response within 1 business day, please resend as there may be an email issue

Course Lectures/Reading Assignments: The assigned and recommended readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class.

Late Assignments: In order to receive any credit for an assignment, you must communicate with me at least 24 hours before the due date/time regarding it being late. Late assignments will . No assignment will be accepted more than 7 days late without a medical excuse.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, arriving 30 minutes late or leaving 30 minutes early. All absences will result in a reduction of the attendance / participation grade. 3 absences, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course. In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the [Dean of Students office](#)

Class Participation: Student participation is crucial to this class. You are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the class topics. You

are also encouraged to offer answers, insights and best guesses to questions posed in class. Having your files and devices and being fully present and engaged add towards the class experience and your participation points. Productive critiques of your own and everyone else's work is critical. For group projects, each individual is expected to contribute according to the needs of the group/project. Private peer evaluations will afford each group the opportunity to measure the contributions of each individual.

Behavior & Attitude: Food and drink are fine. A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting, social media and other forms of technological socializing are not allowable in class. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom and/or lose their tech privileges.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you expect to need to answer a call during class, tell the instructor before class and leave the room in an undistruptive manner. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please communicate this at the start of the course.

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.

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns
Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun if you advise me of this preference. Students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and update their gender. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the [Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy](#).

DePaul University Policies:

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 under [Enrollment Policies](#).

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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