

FILM101-602: FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

DePaul University | Spring Quarter 2020

Tuesdays | 1:30PM - 4:45PM | REMOTE

Instructor: Eric Marsh

Email: marsh@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 8AM-2PM, Remote, by appointment only (email me to schedule)

Course Management System:

D2L - The course materials for this course such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you on [D2L](#)

ZOOM - In-class meetings will be conducted every week via [ZOOM](#) video conferencing software at the designated class meeting time. I will post a link to the video chat every week on the D2L homepage.

Course Description - This course deals with visualization and cinema literacy skills. Drawing heavily on a wide array of historical examples, the course will examine the many expressive strategies potentially usable in the creation of moving image art forms: image construction and manipulation, editing, composition, sound, narrative, and performance. An emphasis will be placed on story and storytelling. In addition to analyzing the works of others, students will also produce their own projects - putting theory into practice. Note: This course teaches concepts rather than technology. Filmmakers will take the concepts learned in FILM101 to better communicate their ideas in Film Production I (FILM110) and beyond.

Course Objectives - The course is designed as a practical look at cinematic form for filmmakers. By the end of the course students should understand cinematic language and be able to incorporate structure, the framed image, sound, and editing into their own creative work. The following topics will be covered:

- Analyze how cinematic techniques function to tell a story or convey a theme
- Synthesize cinematic techniques in the production of their own creative work
- Identify how techniques function in multiple genres and forms
- Create a project from concept to exhibition
- Utilize basic film production language

Required Text - *Film Art: An Introduction (11th or 12th Edition)* by David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson. Note: earlier editions of *Film Art* are acceptable. The 10th edition is available on D2L ('Content' -> 'Readings'). Supplemental readings will be provided and shared on D2L as PDFs.

Basis for Evaluation

RESPONSES	65%
SCENE ANALYSIS	15%
FINAL PROJECT	30%
ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION	10%
TOTAL	100%

A = 100 – 94, A- = 93 – 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.

Grading - Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment on D2L.

CLASS SCHEDULE & COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1	3/31	INTRODUCTION & SYLLABUS; WHAT IS CINEMA?
WEEK 2	4/7	FILM AND REALITY + A BRIEF HISTORY OF CINEMA
WEEK 3	4/14	FILM FORM
WEEK 4	4/21	NARRATIVE FORM
WEEK 5	4/28	MISE-EN-SCÈNE
WEEK 6	5/5	CINEMATOGRAPHY
WEEK 7	5/12	EDITING & SOUND
WEEK 8	5/19	DIRECTORS & DIRECTION
WEEK 9	5/26	FILM GENRES
WEEK 10	6/2	DOCUMENTARY & EXPERIMENTAL
FINALS	6/9	WHAT IS CINEMA? 21 st CENTURY EDITION <u>FINAL MEETING (2:30PM-4:45PM)</u>

Content & Schedule Changes – The course schedule is subject to change depending on class progress, time constraints, and material availability. The overall workload, however, will not change. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly. You will be notified of any changes in the syllabus in a timely fashion.

Screenings - You will be assigned films and clips to watch at home (and during “class hours”) and will use them in your responses and our discussions. All films and relevant clips will be made available to stream on D2L thru Panopto.

Here is the (subject-to-change) list of the features we will be watching:

Sherlock Jr., 1924, d. Keaton
Only Angels Have Wings, 1939, d. Hawks
The Fits, 2015, d. Holmer
Fargo, 1996, d. Coens
Repo Man, 1984, d. Cox
Do The Right Thing, 1989, d. Lee
Wendy and Lucy, 2008, d. Reichardt
Citizen Kane, 1941, d. Welles
Halloween, 1978, d. Carpenter
The Thin Blue Line, 1988, d. Morris
Hill of Freedom, 2014, d. Hong

Assignment Breakdown & Due Dates

RESPONSES (65%)

Response #1: Intro (5 pts) - DUE 4/7
Response #2: History (5 pts) - DUE 4/14
Response #3: Form & Meaning (8 pts) - DUE 4/21
Response #4: Narrative Structure (8 pts) - DUE 4/28
Response #5: Mise-en-scene (8 pts) - DUE 5/5
Response #6: Cinematography (8 pts) - DUE 5/12
Response #7: Editing & Sound (8 pts) - DUE 5/19
Response #8: Scene Analysis (15 pts) - DUE 5/26

PROJECTS (25%)

Final Project (25 pts) - DUE 6/9

Course Policies - In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

Weekly Email – Within 24 hours of our weekly class meeting I will send an email and post an update on D2L detailing the class business for the week: assignments, readings, screenings, etc. If you want to keep up with the course, you *must* read these emails or updates and make sure you're on track. No excuses.

Attendance - Each class consists of lecture, discussion, and clips, and attendance is mandatory. That being said: given the extraordinary circumstances of our current predicament I understand that this may not always be possible, etc, which is why all of the ZOOM meetings will be recorded and posted to D2L afterwards. If you are not able to attend any of our meetings please reach out to me via email and let me know ahead of time. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstances and the instructor's discretion.

NOTE: Even though we are virtual this quarter, class time is most productive when everyone arrives promptly and comes prepared to discuss that week's topics (i.e. readings, films, etc).

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 topic, reading, screening, etc. Students must keep up with the readings and screenings to participate in class discussion.

Attitude - A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Although we are not meeting in person I expect that we will all conduct ourselves as if we were. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to, or over, others when the instructor or another student is speaking, messing around inappropriately in the video chat, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, or anything else that could be considered a distraction. It's hard enough having to do this online, don't make it harder! The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate any such issues or problems.

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.

Reading Assignments - Reading assignments are *mandatory*. The textbook readings supplement and inform the lectures and discussions and will be crucial in a broad understanding of cinema as well as writing your responses. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class. *Supplemental readings will also be assigned & discussed in-class*. They will be available on D2L.

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 [here](#)

SCA Production Handbook - The School of Cinematic Arts Production Handbook is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. The answers to most questions regarding contacts, resources, contracts, rules, guidelines, etc, can be found inside. It is updated annually and linked to on the CDM Production Resources Page [HERE](#)

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 - Plagiarism is dishonest behavior and therefore violates collegiality as well as University policy. Any cases of plagiarism will automatically receive a zero and be reported to departmental and University officials for disciplinary action. You should familiarize yourself with behavior that constitutes plagiarism by reviewing the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty at:

<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/Resources/Students/index.html>

Special Needs - 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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