

## **FILM131 History of Cinema Production**

Winter Quarter 2021

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office hours: 5:00-6:30 pm Mondays (BlueStar appointments)

Office hours will be held via Zoom

Email: [kendres@depaul.edu](mailto:kendres@depaul.edu)

**Course Description** — This course studies the origins and rise of cinema production from the perspective of a filmmaker. The course examines critical historical events that impacted the industry and the 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.

**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

### **Required Textbooks**

A Short History of the Movies, 11th Abridged Edition by Gerald Mast & Bruce Kavin, Pearson, 2011. Any supplemental readings will be provided on D2L.

### **Grading**

Weekly Notes/Discussions 15%

Weekly response papers 40%

Midterm paper 20%

Final paper 25%

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 = 66-60

F = 59-0

## Weekly Course Schedule

### Week 1

4/1 Introduction, what is cinema, early cinema

Lab: *Blindspotting* (Carlos López Estrada, 2018, 95 minutes)

### Week 2

4/8 Silent era cinema

Lab: *City Lights* (Charlie Chaplin, 1931, 87 minutes)

### Week 3

4/15 Early sound film, Hollywood studio system

Lab: *Stagecoach* (John Ford, 1939, 96 minutes)

### Week 4

4/22 Postwar American cinema, Blacklist, declining Hollywood

Lab: *Bigger than Life* (Nicholas Ray, 1956, 95 minutes) (or *The Misfits*, *Seven year itch*, *The Innocents*, *An Affair to Remember*??)

### Week 5

4/29 Postwar international cinema

Lab: *Stray Dog* (Akira Kurosawa, 1949, 122 minutes) (or *Pathar Panchali*??)

### Week 6

5/6 French (and other) New Waves, Auteurism, film culture

Lab: *Cleo from 5 to 7* (Agnes Varda, 1962, 90 minutes) (Or *Jean Dielman*??)

### Week 7

5/13 New Hollywood

Lab: *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (Robert Altman, 1971, 120 minutes)

### Week 8

5/20 High concept film and the entertainment economy

Lab: *Aliens* (James Cameron, 1986, 137 minutes)

### Week 9

5/27 International and Independent Cinema

Lab: *The Ascent* (Larisa Shepitko, 1977, 109 minutes) (Or *Spirit of the Beehive*, *Vagabond*??)

### Week 10

6/3 21st Century Cinema

Lab: *TBD screening*

Readings will be assigned throughout the quarter. Supplemental screenings will be assigned on a weekly basis.

Last day to withdraw (without penalty):

Last day to withdraw (with penalty):

\*\*\*Course schedule, materials, screenings, and assignments are subject to change due to a variety of factors. You will be notified via email and/or D2L of any changes to the syllabus.\*\*\*

### **Assignments**

Week 1 D2L Surveys due 1/11

Week 1 response due 1/11

Week 2 response due 1/18

Week 3 response due 1/25

Week 4 response due 2/2

Midterm paper due 2/9

Week 5 response due 2/9

Week 6 response due 2/16

Week 7 response due 2/23

Week 8 response due 3/2

Week 9 response due 3/9

Final paper due 3/17

All assignments are due at 1:00 pm. This is to ensure that no one is late to Zoom in order to finish an assignment. I do not accept late work.

### **Weekly responses**

You have a weekly response due every week throughout the quarter. These responses are your opportunity to engage with the screenings, lecture content, and readings. You may explore the cultural, historical, and artistic contexts of the films we screen, as well as contribute your own reactions, observations, and analysis. A general prompt is available on D2L to guide your reflections.

Responses should be 500 words. Approximately 250 of those words should address that week's lab screening while the other ~250 should address the supplemental screening. Feel free to incorporate points from the lectures and/or readings in your responses.

After the 500 words addressing the films, your response will contain two discussion questions (one about each film). These questions should be open-ended enough to sustain a whole conversation. They should address aspects of the film you found most creative/interesting/problematic. They will be used during the breakout sessions of our weekly discussions.

At the end of the quarter your lowest response grade will be automatically dropped.

## **D2L**

We will use D2L <d2l.depaul.edu> for every aspect of this class. All assignments must be turned in via D2L to receive credit. \*\*\*I will NOT accept assignments via email for any reason. \*\*\*

## **Weekly screenings**

There will be two assigned screenings every week: a lab screening and a supplemental screening. All lab and supplemental film screenings will be available via Panopto. You will find links to all the films on the Content page of D2L. You can watch the films in their entirety on Panopto 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 Panopto 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 or Panopto support at <[panoptoadmin@depaul.edu](mailto:panoptoadmin@depaul.edu)> to ensure you stay current with the screenings.

## **Note taking**

As an online student you are required to view EVERY class lecture video unless I instruct otherwise. In order to receive Weekly Notes credit, you must turn in notes from your viewing/listening to the lectures. Your notes are due in a D2L Submission folder every Tuesday and may be typed or handwritten (and scanned/photographed).

There is no strict criteria for your notes -- as long as you demonstrate to me you are watching the lectures and engaging with the material you will receive full credit.

**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.

**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.

**Zoom Etiquette** — Like it or not, Zoom is our new reality and it's here to stay. You're expected to mute yourself whenever you're not actively speaking. You're also expected to wear clothes (pajamas are fine) if you have your camera on. You're also expected to make this class your primary focus while you're on Zoom (e.g. don't be in another Zoom call/class).

**Special Accommodations** — If you need any special considerations, whether it be a learning or physical disability, etc, please send me an email within the first week of the quarter.

**Grade disputes** — Any disputes or challenges to an assignment's grade must be made in writing (email is fine) within 48 hours of receiving your grade. You must state why you are challenging the grade and provide evidence to support your claim. Challenges to your final grade should follow the University's policy on grade challenges, which can be found in the student handbook:

<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/Pages/challenges-to-grades.aspx>

**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 me.

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](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

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

**Excused absences** — 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>