

Film 131

History of Cinema Production

Lecture: Monday 5:45 – 9:00 pm

Location: 14 E. Jackson Room 802

Instructor: Andrew Stasiulis (office: CDM 408)

Email: astasiul@depaul.edu

Office Hours: Mondays- 11am-1pm, Wednesdays- 11am-3pm

Given the current situation, all office hours will be conducted remotely via video chat or by phone call.

Summary

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 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. 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.

Covid-19 Policies

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to

- (1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus;
 - (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms;
 - (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions;
 - (4) stay home if sick;
 - (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing;
 - (6) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training;
- and (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory.

By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students

who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

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.

Texts

A Short History of the Movies

11th Abridged Edition

Gerald Mast & Bruce Kavin

Various Supplemental Readings Posted Online

Assignments & Grading

1. Weekly Responses = 50%
2. Midterm Essay = 25%
3. Final Essay = 25%

All assigned work must be turned in to a submissions folder on D2L at the date and time it is due. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Weekly Responses will be worth 10 points each. A strong response will meet the word count and demonstrate a serious engagement with the required reading and films each week. Points will be deducted for missing the word count and/or not discussing the assigned material in detail. These assignments will not be graded with comments. If you have questions regarding the grading of the weekly responses, do not hesitate to contact me.

Essays will be graded with detailed comments and worth 25 points total. You will be deducted points for missing the word count, failing to follow the guidelines clearly, lacking works cited, and/or not having citations within your paper.

Week by Week Schedule

Week 1

September 13: Intro & Discussion: What is Cinema? Early cinema (1895-1908)

Screening Assignment: The Gold Rush (Charles Chaplin, 1925)

Battleship Potemkin (Sergei Eisenstein 1925)

Reading Assignment: Chapters 5, 6, & 8

Week 2

September 20: Silent Era Cinema (1908-1927)

Screening Assignment: M (Fritz Lang, 1931)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 7, 9

Week 3

September 27: Arrival of Sound, Golden Age of Hollywood (1927-1948)

Screening Assignment: Johnny Guitar (Nicholas Ray 1954)

Reading Assignment: Chapters 9 & 11

Week 4

October 4: Decline of Studio Era, Surfaces & Subversion, Total Cinema (1948-1964)

Screening Assignment: Cleo From 5 to 7 (Agnes Varda 1962)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 12

Week 5

October 11: Neorealism, New Wave, Auteurism (1945-1968)

Screening Assignment: Black Girl (Ousmane Sembene 1966)

Persona (Ingmar Bergman 1966)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 13

Week 6

October 18: International Cinema I (1945-1968)

Screening Assignment: The Ascent (Larisa Shepitko 1977)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 14

Week 7

October 25: International Cinema II

Screening Assignment: The Spook Who Sat By the Door (Ivan Dixon 1973)
Cabaret (Bob Fosse 1972)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 15

Week 8

November 1: Hollywood Renaissance & New Hollywood (1964-1980)

Screening Assignment: Aliens (James Cameron 1986)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 17

Week 9

November 8: High Concept, Globalization, Transnational & Independent Cinema (1980-1999)

Screening Assignment: Boyz n' The Hood (John Singleton 1991)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 18

Week 10

November 15: 21st Century Cinema

Lab Screening: TBA

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each zoom meeting lecture and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

D2L

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to:

<https://login.depaul.edu/cas/login?service=https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/orgtools/CAS/Default.aspx> and enter using your campus connect logon and password. Once you are logged on, click on the course number link and you will find links to the syllabus, course outline, video lectures, discussion forums, weekly assignments, etc.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly 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.

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

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

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 reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

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.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.