

## **FILM 100 - Introduction to Cinema - Summer Session II - Brian Mellen**

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**Office hours:** F 12:00pm to 1:30pm (Zoom)

### **Course Description:**

This lecture-based course will introduce students to the art of cinema from the point of view of the filmmaker. Through screenings of contemporary and classic films, students will gain an appreciation of the various crafts involved in the making of movies, such as: acting, directing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, production design, editing, sound, or visual effects. This course is not intended for students who plan to major or minor in Digital Cinema. No prerequisites.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

*\* Syllabus is subject to change*

### **Learning Domain Description:**

Film 100 Introduction to Cinema: The Art of Making Movies is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts while developing their critical and reflective abilities.

In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning, and through critical and/or creative activity, come to better understand the original audience that witnessed a work of art and how its meaning and significance changes over time. These courses focus on works of art or literature, however the process of analysis may include social, cultural, and historical issues. Genres covered in this domain include literature, the visual arts, media arts, the performing arts, music, and theater.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss film as an artistic medium.
- Analyze and discuss the craft and technique of specific members of the filmmaking process (i.e. cinematographer, editor, writer, etc.).
- Analyze and discuss visual communication and storytelling as used by filmmakers.

Learning outcomes will be achieved through in-class discussions and exercises as well as writing assignments that will require students to think critically and analyze a specific aspect of filmmaking in a given film. Students are expected to write 6 pages this quarter in accordance with the Arts and Literature domain requirement.

### **Textbooks and printed resources:**

Moving Pictures, by Russell Leigh Sharman, Fayetteville, Arkansas, University of Arkansas, 2020.

<https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/>

### **Online Course Management:**

We will use D2L as our online course management system. You can log in at [d2l.depaul.edu](http://d2l.depaul.edu). Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, important information, and news will be posted there. Please check D2L regularly.

If you do not turn something in through D2L, you will not get credit. \*\*\*Do not email me any homework assignments or other course documents.\*\*\*

### **Film Screenings:**

While the plan for the in person section is to watch the film in class, all films that we screen will be posted on D2L for the online section of the course. You will be able to watch the films through the links on the Content page of D2L. You are free to find the films at the library, on streaming services, or elsewhere if desired.

Panopto, DePaul's Video Management Service, 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 to ensure you stay current with the screenings.

### **Drop Dates:**

Tuesday, July 19 (by 11:59pm): Last day to add (or swap) classes  
Friday, July 22: Last day to drop classes with no penalty  
Tuesday, Aug. 9: Last day to withdraw from classes

### **Grading:**

Attendance	10%
Discussion Posts	10%
Quizzes	20%
Papers	35%
Final Exam	25%

Participation in Discussion Forum: 10% of your total grade (1% per week, 2% for week 9). You must post to receive any credit.

Discussion Forum Rubric (A weekly grade will be given):  
100% = 1 posting and 2 replies to other posters per week  
75% = 1 posting and 1 reply to other posters per week  
50% = 1 posting and 0 replies to other posters per week  
0% = 0 posting and 0 replies to other posters per week

### **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### **Grading Scale:**

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

**Course Policies:**

In addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course.

**Papers:**

There will be three, two-page analysis papers throughout the quarter. All homework must be submitted via D2L on the Submissions page. The folders where you submit your assignments close automatically so no late work will be accepted. Don't submit your work last minute or you risk not being able to submit. **Emailed submissions will not be accepted.**

**Quizzes:**

There will be five quizzes throughout the quarter. All quizzes will be administered through D2L. They will close promptly at the appointed time. You will not be able to access or submit quizzes that are in progress once the deadline passes.

You must finish the film screenings and the readings BEFORE doing the quizzes as the quizzes cover readings, screenings, and lecture material.

**Electronic Devices (In-Person Only):**

There is a no tolerance policy on electronic device usage during class. Cell phone/tablet usage and/or internet usage during class will result in 0 attendance points for the day. It is distracting to others around you. You may take notes on a computer using word or text edit (do not browse the internet) but not on a cellphone/tablet.

**Cell Phones/On Call:**

If you have 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 or mute your computer's microphone in a non-disruptive 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.

**Student responsibilities:**

Each student is responsible for their time management and for meeting the expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines in class. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for an assignment sheet detailing any homework. If an assignment is listed on the syllabus you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

**Attendance & Participation:**

This course demands class participation - attendance is mandatory. More than one (1) unexcused absence will result in a full letter reduction to your grade. Each subsequent absence will also be a letter grade reduction. Three unexcused absences will result in FAILURE of the course.

Excuse absences must be worked out with instructor BEFORE the absence.

### **Course Lectures/Reading Assignments:**

Readings are due for the next class session unless otherwise noted. Please keep up or it will be hard to follow in-class demos and lectures.

Lecture presentations will occur weekly. The readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements lectures. The instructor will use both the classroom and the readings for quiz questions. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class. **BOTH SOURCES ARE NEEDED.**

### **Discussion Posts:**

Every week you are required to post at least once and reply to at least two other students week-to-week on D2L. Discussion posts add an important interactive component to the online section of the course. **The in-person section is also required to post.**

### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given on lectures in class throughout the quarter. Quizzes will be multiple choice and true/false.

### **Deadlines:**

This course requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructors discretion. **You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.**

### **Content Changes:**

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

### **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 [Campus Connect](#).

### **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

**Content Changes:**

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

*\* Syllabus schedule is subject to change*

**Class One - 07/19**

Introductions, Review of Syllabus, History of Cinema

Screening: (Tom DiCillo, 1995, 90 minutes)

**Discussion Post #1 and 2 (07/26 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Readings:** *Moving Pictures, Ch. 1 A Brief History of Cinema, (Ch. 2) How to Watch a Movie*

**Class Two - 7/21**

Screenwriting, Story Structure

Screening: Mike Nichols, 1967, 106 minutes)

**Discussion Post #3 (07/26 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #1 (07/26 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Readings:** *Moving Pictures, Ch. 4 Narrative*

### **Class Three - 07/26**

Directing

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #4 (08/02 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Readings:** *Moving Pictures, Ch. 5 Cinematography*

### **Class Four - 07/28**

Mis-en-Scene

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #5 (08/02 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #2 (08/02 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Paper #1 (08/02 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Readings:** *Moving Pictures, Ch. 6 Mis-en-Scène*

### **Class Five - 08/02**

Cinematography

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #6 (08/02 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Readings:** *Moving Pictures, Ch. 6 Editing*

### **Class Six - 08/04**

Editing

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #7 (08/09 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #3 (08/09 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Paper #2 (08/09 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Readings:** *Moving Pictures, Ch. 7 Sound*

### **Class Seven - 08/09**

Sound in the Cinema

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #8 (08/16 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Class Eight - 08/11**

Documentary

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #9 (08/16 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Quiz #4 (08/16 DUE):** To be completed by the start of class on D2L.

**Paper #3 (08/16 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

***Readings: Intro excerpt from New History of Documentary (Posted on D2L)***

**Class Nine - 08/16**

Genre

Screening: TBD

**Discussion Post #10 (08/18 DUE):** Details posted on D2L.

**Class Ten - 08/18**

Experimental Filmmaking, Final Exam Review

Final Exam