

# FILM 455 - LIGHTING FOR CINEMA 1

*Updated: April 13th, 2024*

**SPRING 2024 - Mondays 1:15PM - 4:30PM**

**Section 601, Class Number 35416**

**April 1, 2024 - June 10, 2024**

**Meets in room 202 @ CineSpace DePaul**

**Instructor:** Jerry Tran (he/him/his)

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**Cell Phone:** 773.396.8806

**Office Hours:** Mondays from 4:30PM - 5:30 PM (after class) via phone, Zoom, or in-person at CineSpace DePaul. Appointments can be made via text (preferred) or email prior to office hours. Please give at least 24 hours for a reply to your message. If urgent, please feel free to call me.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to safe and established practical operation of studio lighting and grip equipment. Students will learn a variety of basic lighting techniques, set electrical distribution, dolly set up, grip and lighting equipment.

## SUMMARY OF COURSE

The goal of this course is to enable students to safely utilize lighting and grip equipment to create narrative imagery to visually engage an audience. Students will learn a variety of skills both creatively and technically to perform lighting setups. This course will take a hands-on approach and will emphasize active participation and team work. Class sessions will be broken down into aesthetic discussions on lighting and then the technical / practical steps to execute the desired aesthetic outcomes.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of Lighting 1, students will be able to:

- Safely *demonstrate* the skill to utilize a variety of lighting equipment to specific visual effect.
- *Apply* knowledge of lighting to create depth within an image.
- Create specific moods utilizing quality, color, intensity and direction of light.
- *Demonstrate* a basic knowledge of electrical distribution and grip rigging.
- *Describe* and *perform* the different jobs within a professional lighting crew.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK (NOT REQUIRED!)

*Set Lighting Technician's Handbook: Film Lighting Equipment, Practice, and Electrical Distribution*, 5th Edition, by Harry C. Box. ISBN: 9781138391727.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIRED STUFF

Film and lighting equipment can get hot, heavy and filthy so please wear appropriate clothes and shoes to work on set (That means no open toe shoes or flip flops). Please keep in mind that you could be climbing ladders and picking up hot lights, so a pair of heat resistant work gloves are critical. A small flashlight and utility knife or multi-tool would be super helpful but not required.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Last day to drop this class with no penalty is SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024:**

This date is subject to change. Please check out the academic Calendar for official up-to-date info:

<https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

## GRADING POLICY

50% - Class attendance & Participation

20% - Assignments

10% - Midterm Test

20% - Final Exam

A = 100-93%, A-=92-90

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%

## ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, and creative exercises. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, arriving more than 15 minutes late, or missing any 15 minute periods during class time. However, if you are legitimately sick please stay home. Out of courtesy, **please email or text me before class if you are going to miss a session.**

Participation and joining in on class discussions and activities is a critical measure for how you will be graded for this course. Lighting is a highly active and collaborative endeavor and you cannot participate in this class unless you are physically present. With that said, there is one firm rule when it comes to attendance for this class: **Missing more than 3 classes regardless of the reasons will result in an automatic failure for this course.**

## COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (D2L)

Assignments, readings, feedback and grading will be given weekly online using the D2L system. Students must check the information provided online each week: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home>

## MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

The midterm and final exams will be administered online on D2L.

## GETTING TO THE DEPAUL CINESPACE STAGES

It is stressed that the DePaul shuttle is the best way to get onto the CineSpace campus. Parking is very limited but if you must drive, please use this address for any map app to find the DePaul parking lot: 2525 W 15th Street, Chicago, IL 60608. As there are many one-way streets and CineSpace gates nearby, it's easy to get lost or confused. The best approach would be to come north from Ogden, turn south onto Rockwell St, then left (east) on 15th Street. The parking lot is on the right. Here is a map: <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Documents/map-Cinespace-Chicago.pdf>

## EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATIONS

In this course, students will be instructed on the “safe and proficient” use of a variety of common industry tools for which specific knowledge and skills are necessary to gain certification. In order to reserve *Advanced LED* lighting equipment for your own projects, you must be certified to do so. This process is optional. For those who opting in, a certification test will be administered at the end of the quarter. Specific to this course, these are the items for which you have the ability to gain certification: *Arri Skypanels, Astera Titan/Helios Tubes, Kino Freestyles*.

If you do not opt to certify in class, you must schedule individual certification sessions with the Cage, Camera Vault or CineSpace for each item covered within the course.

## WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

(this is subject to change):

### WEEK 1 - April 1, 2024

#### Class Discussion:

- Intro and class overview. What to expect.
- What is "good" lighting? (Examples of lighting setups and clips)
- Discuss a simple 3-Point lighting setup: Key, fill, back light.

#### Stage Discussion:

- Welcome To CineSpace!
- Safety and protocols on stage.
- Walk through of our stages.
- How to setup and wrap equipment.
- Demonstration on how to wrap a stinger.
- How to use a C-Stand (6-Rules of a C-Stand).
- Tungsten light operation and lingo.

## **WEEK 2 - April 8th, 2024**

### **Class Discussion:**

- Introduce "The 4 Controls" over lighting: Direction, Contrast/intensity, Quality and Color.
- Focus on lighting "direction" and its correlation to lighting moods.
- How to find and set your Key light source.
- Introduce the "Rembrandt Cheek Patch."
- Light motivated by windows, sources.
- Lighting strategies through motivated lighting and lighting direction and angles.
- Lighting vocabulary: Placement, height & direction.

### **Stage Discussion:**

- Full class lighting exercise. Interview style 3-point lighting setup.

## **WEEK 3 - April 15th, 2024**

### **Class Discussion:**

- Discuss the next light control: Contrast / Intensity
- Introduce "The 4 Types" of lights: Key, fill, back light, AND background/space light.
- Introduction to lighting "Layers:" Background, mid-ground, foreground at different intensities.
- High Key, Low Contrast versus Low Key, High Contrast lighting.
- Electricity 101.
- Simple power distribution.
- Calculating paper amps.
- Determining our electrical limits.
- Where to plug into in a residence.
- Describe and perform the different jobs within a professional lighting crew.
- Determine paper amps and power limits on stage.

### **Stage Exercise:**

- Begin lighting group exercises, #1.
- Light a subject using 3-point lighting and a Rembrandt Cheek Patch.
- Must have a "Practical" light in the background.

## **WEEK 4 - April 22nd, 2024**

### **Class Discussion:**

- Discuss "Quality" of light.
- Soft versus hard light.
- Lighting shaping, shadows and cuts.

**Stage Discussion:**

- Grip Department 101.
- Basic grip equipment: Flags, clamps, frames.
- Softening/diffusing light, bouncing light, and breaking up light.
- Defining grip cutters, direction, and terminology.

**Stage Exercise:**

- Lighting group exercise #2.
- Key light must be softened / diffused.
- Two contrasting qualities of light on a subject: Soft Key light, hard backlight.

**WEEK 5 - April 29th, 2024****Class Discussion:**

- Color and creating visual depth using color.
- Introduction to color temperature.
- Introduce and define different types of lighting gels.
- Introduction to LED lights and color modes.

**Stage Exercise:**

- Lighting group exercise #3.
- Create depth using color.

**WEEK 6 - May 6th, 2024**

**Midterm Test online on D2L due today @ 1:15PM.**

**Stage Discussion:**

- Electricity Part 2.
- Complex power distribution.
- Intro to Bates, banded cable, and electrical distribution boxes.
- How to use an amp probe to determine amperage.
- Larger light sources: 5Ks, T12s, Maxi-Brutes, LED Teners.

**Stage Exercise:**

- Lighting group exercise #4.

## **WEEK 7 - May 13th, 2024**

### **Stage Discussion:**

- Grip Department Part 2.
- Intro to larger frames, stands, and menace arms.
- Introduction to dollies and laying track.

### **Stage Exercise:**

- Full class shoot with 3 cameras.
- Light an interview using three dollies, larger light sources and frames.

## **WEEK 8 - May 20th, 2024**

### **Stage Discussion:**

- Equipment certification day!

### **Stage Exercise:**

- Lighting group exercise #5.

## **WEEK 9 - May 27th, 2024**

**No class.** In observance of Memorial Day.

## **WEEK 10 - June 3rd, 2024**

### **Class Discussion:**

- Career day!
- Discuss the filmmaker's "lifestyle."
- Navigating a career in cinematography.
- Discuss working in unions.
- Current projects shooting in Chicago and how to get involved.

### **Stage Exercise:**

- Lighting group exercise #6.

## **WEEK 11 - June 10th, 2024**

**Final exam due online on D2L @ 1:15PM.**

# COURSE POLICIES

## **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.

## **COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions**

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).

## **Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University as aligned with our Vincentian Values.**

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore "what must be done" in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all



perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

### **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.

Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Posting work on online sites, such as Hero**

All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly

sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

### **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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

### **Incomplete Grades**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

### **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. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student

Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus (773) 325-1677
- Email: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu)

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gregory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS (SCA) PRODUCTIONS:**

### **SCA Production Office:**

The Production office, located in LL Daley Building and at [production@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:production@cdm.depaul.edu) is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. The office can answer general questions about navigating filming inside or outside of DePaul, SCA facilities and equipment, and provide resources

for casting, insurance, crew calls, etc. Office hours are listed on the CDM Production Resources page here:

<https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/Production-Resources.aspx>

### **SCA Central:**

Run by The Production Office, SCA Central is our online information hub, filled with resources including the SCA Production Handbook, pre-production templates, waivers/contracts, job listings, SCA events, local production community news & events, internship opportunities, etc. [Find it on D2L and make it your home page.](#)

### **SCA Production Handbook:**

Required reading for all SCA Students prior to equipment/stage/studio reservations, The SCA Production Handbook is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. Guidelines, policies, and procedures for filming at DePaul; using SCA facilities and equipment; and answers to questions regarding SCA resources and building contacts, are found inside. The handbook is updated regularly on [SCA Central](#) and also linked to the CDM Production Resources page here:

<https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/Production-Resources.aspx>

### **Annual Mandatory Safety Training:**

Each SCA student must go through SCA Production Training before having access to reserve production equipment from any of our equipment centers. This online training is accessible through SCA Central on D2L to do at your own pace. You can find it by clicking on "SCA Production Training" in the blue box at the top of SCA Central.

### **Talent Waivers:**

Talent waivers must be signed by any outside talent (non-DePaul students) and submitted to The Production Office prior to camera rolling for any projects. Waivers and other commonly used forms can be found on [SCA Central](#) under "Info & Forms".

### **DePaul Production Insurance:**

DePaul production insurance does not cover the use of fire (including pyrotechnics and fireplaces), use of vehicles for shooting (moving or stationary), or animals of any kind and is therefore not permitted for SCA projects unless proof of personal production insurance is provided.

Read more about DePaul's requirements via the SCA Production Handbook. Any questions about DePaul's insurance should be directed to The Production Office well before shooting begins ([production@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:production@cdm.depaul.edu)).

### **Use of Prop Weapons:**

Rules and regulations MUST be followed when using prop weapons, including firearms. The instructor must approve the appearance of a prop weapon in any student film, including class syllabus assignments. An approved/signed Prop Weapon Request Form must be submitted to the Production Office prior to filming (find it on [SCA Central](#) under "Info & Forms"). For safety purposes, The Production Office may also review the filmmaker's plan for transportation of prop firearms prior to receiving approval for use.

### **ABC - Always Be Careful:**

Film and video production shoots can be hazardous. Above all, work safely in all situations and always think before you act. Please don't hesitate to ask faculty if you're unsure about anything regarding your shoot, in or out of class.