

# FOUNDATIONS OF CINEMA FOR MAJORS

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY | AUTUMN QUARTER 2021  
FILM101-402 | TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 10:10AM-11:40AM  
14 E. JACKSON ROOM 211

Instructor: Eric Marsh | [marsh@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:marsh@cdm.depaul.edu)  
Virtual Office Hours: Fridays, 9AM-2PM, by email appointment only

**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.

**Learning Outcomes** - 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 [12th Edition]* by David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson. Available on D2L as a PDF. (Note: Earlier editions are also acceptable). Supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor.

**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](#)

## **Basis for Evaluation**

ASSIGNMENTS .....	65%
FINAL PROJECT .....	25%
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.

## **Class Schedule & Course Outline**

WEEK 1	TH	9/9	What is Cinema?
WEEK 2A	TU	9/14	Film and Reality
WEEK 2B	TH	9/16	Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business
WEEK 3A	TU	9/21	Making the Movie: Film Production 101
WEEK 3B	TH	9/23	Introduction to Film Form
WEEK 4A	TU	9/28	Film Form: How Movies Make Meaning
WEEK 4B	TH	9/30	Narrative and its Elements
WEEK 5A	TU	10/5	The Elements of Mise-en-scene
WEEK 5B	TH	10/7	Performance as Mise-en-scene
WEEK 6A	TU	10/12	Cinematography: Elements of the Camera
WEEK 6B	TH	10/14	Cinematography: Framing
WEEK 7A	TU	10/19	Editing: Shaping Space, Ideas, and Aesthetics
WEEK 7B	TH	10/21	Editing: Continuity and Discontinuity
WEEK 8A	TU	10/26	Sound: Designing, Editing, Mixing Sounds
WEEK 8B	TH	10/28	Sound: Sources, Sounds and Music
WEEK 9A	TU	11/2	Film Genres
WEEK 9B	TH	11/4	Challenging Classical Cinema
WEEK 10A	TU	11/9	Documentary
WEEK 10B	TH	11/11	Experimental
WEEK 11	TU	11/16	21st Century Cinema

## **Screening List**

*Symbiopsychotaxiplasm Take One*, 1968, d. Greaves

*Sherlock Jr.*, 1924, d. Keaton

*The Fits*, 2015, d. Holmer

*Inside Man*, 2006, d. Lee

*Repo Man*, 1984, d. Cox

*Clueless*, 1995, d. Heckerling

*All That Heaven Allows*, 1955, d. Sirk

*35 Shots of Rum*, 2008, d. Denis

*Dragon Inn*, 1967, d. Hu

*Halloween*, 1978, d. Carpenter

*Hill of Freedom*, 2014, d. Hong

*Hale County This Morning, This Evening* (2018)

*various experimental shorts*

+ More TBD

## **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).

[COVID-19 Updates and Guidance](#)

[DePaul Health and Safety Practices](#)

[Protocol for Reporting Confirmed COVID-19 Cases or Exposure](#)

[More Information for Students](#)

**Content and Schedule Changes** - The syllabus is subject to change depending on class progress, time constraints, material availability, etc. This goes for the screenings as well. 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** - All of the assigned film screenings are required "texts" for the course, and as such, are MANDATORY. You will be assigned films to watch at home 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.

**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 as PDFs.

**Grading** - Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time. *Late work will receive zero points for grading.* Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

**Attendance** - Each class consists of lecture, discussion, and clips, and attendance is mandatory. Given the extraordinary circumstances of our current situation, however, this may not always be possible. There are various ways to engage with the course from a distance: every class will be recorded by COL and also accessible via ZOOM.

All I ask is that you stay in touch with me and keep an open line of communication: 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.

**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 films and reading assignments. Students must keep up with the readings and films to participate in class discussion.

**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.

**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.

**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](#)

**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](#)

**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 [HERE](#).

**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.

**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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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