

FILM 201 Introduction to the Cinema

Western Kentucky University - Summer 2017

Online



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Office Hours: By appointment

Catalog Description: 3 CREDIT HOURS

A study of the basic elements and techniques of the film medium, designed to increase the student's understanding and appreciation of the motion picture both as a communication medium and as an art form. A number of film masterpieces will be viewed and analyzed. Lecture and lab.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

FILM 201 is designed to introduce students to the analysis of motion pictures, moving beyond simple entertainment. The course will explore film pre-production, production & post-production techniques as a means of identifying filmmaker intent & understanding audience response. A number of films will be screened, from a variety of eras and genres.

By course end, the well-disciplined student will be able to:

- Appreciate motion pictures as an art form
- Identify common techniques used in narrative film
- Articulate the significance of motion pictures as a medium of communication
- Understand the diversity of motion picture traditions beyond mainstream commercial products, including international cinema
- Analyze film effectively through both written and oral communication

Important Note:

This class is participating in The WKU Store's Day One Access program. You will receive access to a digital copy of *Film Art* through our class Blackboard site, and you will be billed automatically by The WKU Store after the Add/Drop period. The cost of this digital copy is significantly less than the cost of the printed text, but you are free to opt out of the Day One Access program if you prefer to purchase a traditional printed copy instead. If you would like both a digital copy of the text and a hard copy, you can purchase a loose-leaf version of the book from the bookstore for an *additional* \$20. If you have questions or concerns about this arrangement, please don't hesitate to contact me and/or The WKU Store.

Textbook:

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. Eleventh Edition. McGraw Hill, 2016 (textbook)

Course Guidelines:

During the semester, reading assignments will be given for each class and exams will be utilized to test comprehension. In addition, each student will be required to complete a number of short journals following each of the film screenings. Assignments are expected on the assigned due dates, and will not be accepted late. All written assignments and assignment components must be submitted electronically.

Last Day to Drop:

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

Attendance:

Due to the online nature of this course, traditional attendance will not be taken. However, participation in discussions is a major requirement of the class. Regular monitoring of the class Blackboard page is a necessity.

Final Exam:

Friday, June 23rd, 2017

Film Access:

During the course of this class, you will be asked to screen a number of films, all of which will be provided for you online. If you prefer, most or all of these films can be accessed via other streaming services, rented from brick-and-mortar video businesses or purchased. If you have any questions about the specific *version* of a film that is required for the class, please contact your professor.

Film Content:

Film clips and screenings used in class this semester will include material rated R and unrated. These films may include scenes of strong language, violence and sexuality. If you feel that any material may be disturbing or if you have any other reason for avoiding certain kinds of material, please contact me for alternative assignments. If you make use of material that is rated R or unrated in your forum posts and discussions, please let me and the class know in advance.

Workload:

Because of the contracted three-week schedule of this course, the daily requirements are significantly greater than those of a traditional full-semester class. Please be prepared to dedicate some time every day to the films, readings and assignments of the course.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty among students will not be tolerated. Examples include plagiarism, use of another student's work, cheat sheets, copying exam answers, and falsifying assignments or information. *Any incident of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the semester.*

Assignment Details:

Please note: all writing assignments must have proper documentation.

Film Journals are (approximately) two-page responses to several of the films that are screened as part of the class. Each journal should explain your reaction to the film, analyze some specific technique that it used, and link it to concepts covered in the readings and lectures. Links to submit journals, with additional instructions, will be available on Blackboard.

Discussion Boards are forums on Blackboard in which you will create an initial post in response to the specific prompt, and then respond to at least one thread. More details for each discussion board will be available on the specific forum assignment page on Blackboard.

The Film Essay will ask you to analyze specific techniques covered in class through a film of your choice. You should choose a film that you are familiar with and can rewatch, with a focus on a few key scenes. The essay should draw on your knowledge from class readings and lectures, should show your familiarity with key terms, and should run between three and five pages in length.

Exams will test your knowledge and understanding of the readings, lectures and films that are covered in class. They will consist of multiple choice questions on key cinematic terms and concepts, as well as essays that apply those terms and concepts to specific examples. Prominent information from required films will also be tested.

Grade Breakdown:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
Film Journals	3	75	225
Discussion Boards	12	25	300
Film Essay	1	125	125
Exams	3	150	450
TOTAL			1100

Students with Disabilities:

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center in Downing Student Union (DSU) 1074. The phone number is (270) 745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center.

ACEJMC Core Values and Competencies:

Assessment is geared to fulfilling requirements of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Comm. All graduates of accredited journalism/mass communication programs, irrespective of their particular specialization, should be aware of certain core values and competencies. FILM 201 addresses the following core values and competencies:

- **Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;**
- **Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;**
- **Think critically, creatively and independently;**
- **Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;**
- **Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;**
- **Apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communication professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world.**