
FILM APPRECIATION

SPRING 2021

Instructor

Sara Thomason

Email

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Office Location & Hours

MW 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; by appointment

Course Number

FILM 105 (3 credit hours)

Location

Web Only

Time

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

A study of the basic elements and techniques of the film, 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. Intended for non-majors. Lecture and screening.

Prerequisites: None

OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Colonnade Learning Objectives:

This course fulfills the Colonnade Program's requirements for the Arts and Humanities subcategory of the Explorations category. As part of that program, FILM 105 has the following learning objectives:

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Utilize basic formal elements, techniques, concepts and vocabulary of specific disciplines within the Arts and Humanities.
2. Distinguish between various kinds of evidence by identifying reliable sources and valid arguments.
3. Demonstrate how social, cultural, and historical contexts influence creative expression in the arts and humanities.
4. Evaluate the significance of human expression and experience in shaping larger social, cultural, and historical contexts.
5. Evaluate enduring and contemporary issues of human experience.

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

- Identify and describe the major techniques (narrative, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound, and style) used in narrative motion pictures.
- Discuss the significance of motion pictures as a medium of communication.
- Appraise cinema as a unique art form, as well as its relation to other art forms.
- Compare and contrast motion picture traditions beyond mainstream commercial products, including international cinemas.
- Analyze and assess films based on the techniques and methods discussed in class.

First Day Inclusive Access: Some or all required materials for this class are delivered through the First Day Inclusive Access program. The First Day program provides access to required materials automatically, typically through one or more links within Blackboard. If you receive access through some other means, your instructor can provide you details. For more information and FAQs go to customer care.bncollege.com. While we do not recommend that you do so, you may choose to opt-out at any time within fourteen (14) days of the start of your class utilizing the First Day portal, and this is the only official way to optout. Keep in mind that you will be responsible for purchasing your course materials at the full retail price.

Textbook: Giannetti, Louis D. *Understanding Movies*. Fourteenth edition. Pearson, 2018 (textbook).

Student Responsibilities: Students will be expected to attend all class screenings. Readings and assignments must be completed in a timely manner. Late work WILL NOT be accepted. Because of the participatory nature of the class, students are expected to be on time and ready to work.

Last Day to Drop: Monday, March 25, 2021

Final Exam: Friday, April 30, 2021

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.

Academic Dishonesty: Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without the possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

EVALUATION

Reading Quizzes: In order to aid your understanding of the material, reading quizzes will be posted for each assigned reading on Blackboard. These quizzes are intended to focus your reading of the material to key points of the text. These quizzes will open three Mondays before their due date to give you plenty of time to read the material and take your quiz. Makeup quizzes will not be given.

Film Viewing: Students are required to view films relevant to the learning outcomes of this course. Since this is a web-course, a written response to the assigned film will be required. A low-resolution version of the film will be available on our Blackboard course site **but this is not the recommended viewing method**. All of our films are available at the library, on Kanopy, or on streaming services. Detailed links will be provided on Blackboard.

Exams: A series of two exams will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the theories and techniques discussed in class, outlined in your text and demonstrated in film screenings. Questions will be designed to test your attention to lectures, readings and assigned films, as well as your ability to recognize key concepts in modern and classic films.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Item	Point Value
Reading Quizzes (12)	600 points
Exams (2)	200 points
Screening Discussion Boards (10)	200 points
Total	1000 points

Grade Scale: A = 90% – 100%; B = 80% – 89%; C = 70% – 79%; D = 60% – 69%; F = 59% or below.

BLACKBOARD GRADE BOOK: I will make my best effort to keep your grade up-to-date on Blackboard. Please consider the online grade book a courtesy to you, subject to errors given various upgrades and shifts in the software. I reserve the right to make grade book corrections to keep it consistent with the syllabus so that your grade reflects true performance, not software or user error. If you see something that doesn't make sense, please alert me.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Work standards: All work turned in for this course must be your own. Having another person complete your work for you, in all or in part, is academically dishonest, i.e. cheating, and may result in a failing grade on the assignment. All work turned in for this course must be original, produced during the current term, and produced using the designated equipment and software, unless approved in advance by the instructor.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES: 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 located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.3030 V/TTY] or email at sarc@wku.edu.

Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Information for faculty on Student Disability Accommodations / Section 504 and ADA Compliance is available at <https://www.wku.edu/sarc/services.php>

ACEJMC CORE VALUES AND COMPETENCIES: The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication requires that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies. FILM 105 addresses the 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;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- 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.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	
Week 1	1/19 – 1/22	Lecture: Syllabus and class introduction
Week 2	1/25 – 1/29	Lecture: Photography Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 1 Screening: <i>Life of Pi</i> (Lee, 2012)
	1/29	Due: Chapter 1 Quiz; <i>Life of Pi</i> Discussion Board
Week 3	2/1 – 2/5	Lecture: Mise-en-Scene Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 2 Screening: <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> (Anderson, 2014)
	2/5	Due: Chapter 2 Quiz; <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> Discussion Board
Week 4	2/8 – 2/12	Lecture: Movement Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 3 Screening: <i>Spirited Away</i> (Miyazaki, 2001)
	2/12	Due: Chapter 3 Quiz; <i>Spirited Away</i> Discussion Board
Week 5	2/15 – 2/19	Lecture: Editing Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 4 Screening: <i>Baby Driver</i> (Wright, 2017)
	2/19	Due: Chapter 4 Quiz; <i>Baby Driver</i> Discussion Board
Week 6	2/22 – 2/26	Lecture: Sound Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 5 Screening: <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (Kelly, 1952)
	2/26	Due: Chapter 5 Quiz; <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> Discussion Board
Week 7	3/1 – 3/5	Lecture: Acting Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 6 Screening: <i>Foxcatcher</i> (Miller, 2014)
	3/5	Due: Chapter 6 Quiz; <i>Foxcatcher</i> Discussion Board
Week 8	3/8 – 3/12	Mid-term Exam

Week	Date	
Week 9	3/15 – 3/19	Lecture: Dramatization Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 7 Screening: <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> (Del Toro, 2006)
	3/19	Due: Chapter 7 Quiz; <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> Discussion Board
Week 10	3/22 – 3/26	Lecture: Story Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 8 Screening: <i>Rashomon</i> (Kurosawa, 1950)
	3/26	Due: Chapter 8 Quiz; <i>Rashomon</i> Discussion Board
Week 11	3/29 – 4/2	Lecture: Writing Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 9 Screening: <i>The Social Network</i> (Fincher, 2010)
	4/2	Due: Chapter 9 Quiz; <i>The Social Network</i> Discussion Board
Week 12	4/5 – 4/9	Lecture: Ideology Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 10 Screening: <i>The White Ribbon</i> (Haneke, 2009)
	4/9	Due: Chapter 10 Quiz; <i>The White Ribbon</i> Discussion Board
Week 13	4/12 – 4/16	Lecture: Critique Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 11 Screening: <i>The 400 Blows</i> (Truffaut, 1959)
	4/16	Due: Chapter 11 Quiz; <i>The 400 Blows</i> Discussion Board
Week 14	4/19 – 4/23	Lecture: Synthesis Reading: <i>Understanding Movies</i> Chapter 12 Screening: <i>Citizen Kane</i> (Welles, 1941)
	4/23	Due: Chapter 12 Quiz; <i>Citizen Kane</i> Discussion Board
Week 15	4/26 – 4/30	Final Exam