

The Art of Film Syllabus

ENG 2100, Summer 2019, June 24 - July 26

Course & Faculty Information:

Lecturer: TBA

Email: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday (1.8 contact hours each day)

Contact hour: 45 hours

Credit: 3

Office hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to help students become more active, critical viewers of films and to be able to communicate that understanding in writing. Like written forms of literature, movies are texts that can be analyzed and interpreted. In the course, students will view a number of films from different time periods, genres, and artistic approaches. Lectures will concentrate on the narrative and stylistic elements used by film makers.

Textbook Information:

Giannetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*, 14th edition. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2018.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize different narrative patterns used in films.
2. Identify different stylistic techniques (visual, sound, and editing).
3. Recognize metaphors, symbols, and myths used in films.
4. Analyze the exchange between social attitudes and values and film content.

5. Write effectively about film selections.
6. Demonstrate the ability to write effective essays (determined by audience and purpose about a literary selection and may include research).
7. Employ library research (including electronic and field research) competently in the creation of papers and presentations.

Core Assignments:

The core assignments include:

1. Two take-home, typed essays (two pages each) offering responses to films shown in class using principles learned from the textbook. These essays will rely solely on references from the film or the book but no outside information. Specific topics will be given in class.
2. A library research project (three-five pages) on a student-selected film that employs and demonstrates:
 - Note taking
 - Producing a Works Cited page (5-entry minimum)
 - Drafting
 - Documenting research using MLA style
 - Integrating outside sources into a paper
 - Editing and Proofreading
 - Use of textbook concepts
 - Presentation skills

All papers prepared outside of class should be typed, 12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1" margins, MLA format and must meet the minimum length requirement detailed on the assignment sheet. In-class papers will be written on lined paper in blue or black ink, or pencil. All papers submitted for a grade should be original to the class.

Grading:

Students are responsible for viewing all films shown in the course, even if they have seen them before. Class discussions and written work will depend on insightful and well-informed close viewings.

Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%

The following is the course grade distribution:

1st Response Paper: 20%
2nd Response Paper: 20%
Film Project and Presentation: 20%
In-class Participation and Assignments: 20%
Final Exam: 10%
Total: 100%

Course Policies:

- *Attendance is important for success in this class.* You cannot make up Participation points if you are absent. Please contact me via email if for any reason you will be late to class or will have to miss class. In accordance with the Seminole State College Student Handbook, any student missing more than 10% of the class meetings is subject to being dropped from the course without warning. Students who do not complete the course will receive an F for the class. Three (3) tardies will be considered the equivalent of one (1) absent. Contact me if you have an emergency and cannot turn an assignment in on time, but do so prior to the due date.
- *Class participation is mandatory.* All students should participate in each and every class period in some capacity. By this I mean active participation in large and small group discussions, activities, engaged listening, and bringing required textbooks and note paper to class.
- *Come to class prepared and ready to learn.* Read the entire reading assignment listed for each class period and come to class ready to participate and learn. Late work will be accepted for half credit for exactly one week after the due date and after that none will be accepted.
- *Do not interrupt or disrupt instruction, testing, or other classroom activities.* This includes: being late or leaving early from class; use of electronic devices like cell phones or computers for non-class activities; or being disrespectful to instructors, teaching assistants, or each other.

Class Schedule:

Please note that this outline is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed. All reading is to be done prior to the week for which it is assigned. Each week we will see one full-length film. You will have an opportunity to choose your own film for your final project.

Week 1

- In-class assignment: View *Beauty and the Beast* (1991)
- Topics: Culture and art, social attitudes and values, story, writing, sound, music, animation
- *Understanding Movies* readings: Chapter 8 “Story,” Chapter 9 “Writing,” Chapter 5 “Sound”

Week 2

- In-class assignment: View *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000)
- Topics: Genres, mise en scène, movement, effects, editing
- *Understanding Movies* readings: Chapter 2 “Mise en Scène,” Chapter 3 “Movement,” Chapter 4 “Editing”
- Take-home assignments: Response Paper #1 Due

Week 3

- In-class assignment: View *Twelve Angry Men* (1957)
- Topics: Adaptation, acting, photography, context
- *Understanding Movies* readings: Chapter 1 “Photography,” Chapter 6 “Acting”
- Take-home assignments: Response Paper #2 Due

Week 4

- In-class assignment: View *Citizen Kane* (1941)
- Topics: Synthesis of concepts, overview of film critique, reading film as literature
- *Understanding Movies* readings: Chapter 12 “Synthesis”
- Take-home assignments: Work on, find appropriate sources for the Research Project

Week 5

- In-class assignments: Final Exam, Presentations
- Topics: research, source type and credibility, plagiarism, MLA
- Take-home assignments: Research Project Due

Academic Integrity:

As members of the Seminole State College of Florida community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.