UMASS FILM COURSE GUIDE – FALL 2018

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

ART 230 - Photography I

Susan Jahoda Cap. 12, 3 Credits

TuTh 1:00PM - 3:45PM

Studio Arts Building Room 240

Open to BA-ART, BFA-ART, and BDIC students only. Film Study Certificate students by instructor permission

Introduction to photographic tools and methods. The balance between self-inquiry and the importance of process and materials as vehicles of meaning. Theory explored through class critiques and slide presentations. Photography examined and discussed both from a personal point of view and in its wider cultural context.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: V

ART 274 - Animation Fundamentals

Patricia Galvis-Assmus Cap. 16, 3 Credits

TuTh 1:00PM - 3:45PM

Fine Arts Center Room 447

Prerequisite: Art 104, 110, 120, or 131

Introduction to traditional animation techniques as used in fine art animation and experimental film/video. Basics of locomotion, timing, lighting, camera moves, exposure, sound design and audio and visual editing. Studio course.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: V

ART 374 - Int. Computer Animation

Shane Mecklenburger Cap. 6, 3 Credits

TuTh 4:00PM - 6:45PM

Studio Arts Building Room 16

Prerequisite: Art 104, 110, 120, or 131. Students may enroll without prerequisites with permission of the instructor.

First half of a two-semester sequence. With studio. Principles and applications of computer animation using Crater and Alias Maya software in film, video, music, and technology. Introduction to 2D and 3D animation programs. Skills acquired in preparation for production in second semester. Emphasis on professionalism and quality. Should be followed by 397, 3D Computer Animation.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: V

COMM 140 - Introduction to Film Studies

Anne Ciecko Cap. 43, 3 Credits

Lecture: TuTh 2:30PM - 3:45PM; Screening; Tu 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Integrative Learning Center Room S240

Open to Sophomores & Freshmen only.

This course offers an introduction to the study of film as a distinct medium. It introduces the ways in which film style, form, and genre contribute to the meaning and the experience of movies. Topics include film as industrial commodity, narrative and non-narrative form, aspects of style (e.g. composition, cinematography, editing, and sound), and the role of film as a cultural practice. Examples are drawn from new and classic films, from Hollywood and from around the world. This course is intended to serve as a basis for film studies courses you might take in the future.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: I, V

COMM 231 - Film and Television Production Concepts

Kevin Anderson Cap. 125, 3 Credits

TuTh 11:30AM - 12:45PM

Integrative Learning Center Room S240

Open to undeclared students, SBS Exploratory Track students, and Communication majors only.  
Open to COMM and Undeclared majors, or to students who have taken either COMM 118, 121, 122, 125, or 140. 75 seats reserved for COMM majors. Students wishing to enroll who do not meet course eligibility should contact instructor.

This class provides an overview of film and television production principles and processes from script to screen and also prepares students for later hands-on production courses. We will explore both the art and craft of film and video production, including the roles and functions of the major creative and technical personnel in the scripting;pre-production, production and post-production phases. Technical aspects such as digital vs. analog media, lighting, lenses, types of film and videotape, crew organization and function, editing concepts, sound recording, etc. will be discussed, as well as creative functions such as dramatic and documentary structure, creating characters, acting for the screen, visualization and composition for the camera and more.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: I,V

COMM 296F - Independent Study: Film Festival

Anne Ciecko Cap. 100, 1 Credit

We 7:30PM - 10:00PM  
School of Management Room 137  
Comm 296F is open to all undergraduate students, all majors. Since the festival screenings change each semester, Comm 296F can be taken multiple times.

This is a 1-credit Mandatory Pass/Fail course. Film screening. This festival colloquium will be held in conjunction with one or more semester-long film festivals.

COMM 331 - Program Process in TV

David Maxcy Cap. 36 Lecture/ 12 for each Lab, 3 Credits

Lecture: We 10:10AM - 11:00AM Lab: Mo 1:25PM - 4:25PM, We 1:25PM - 4:25PM, or Fr 9:05AM - 12:05PM

Integrative Learning Center N155 for Lecture; Integrative Learning Center N317 for Lab  
Open to Senior, Junior and Sophomore Communication majors only. Journalism Majors and Film Certificate Students by permission of the instructor, djmaxcy@comm.umass.edu

This course introduces concepts and techniques of television production through weekly lectures and lab meetings. During the first six weeks basic concepts and techniques are introduced in lecture. Students then break up into lab groups where, under the supervision of their lab instructor, they produce a short program which puts the concept of the week to work. During the course students work on two major projects: first, a short, narrative piece shot in single-camera, post-production style, and, second, a multiple camera piece shot live in the studio.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: V

COMM 340 - History Of Film I

Shawn Shimpach Cap. 45, 3 Credits

Lecture: MoWe 11:15AM - 12:05PM; Screening: We 12:20PM - 2:15PM

Integrative Learning Center S350

Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only.

Lecture, lab (screening), discussion. A survey of key events and representative films that mark the history of motion pictures in the United States and other countries to 1950. In addition to identifying and providing access to major works, the course is designed to facilitate the study of the various influences (industrial, technological, aesthetic, social, cultural, and political) that have shaped the evolution of the medium to the advent of television.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: II, V

COMM 397B - Intro Studio Directing

David Maxcy Cap. 10, 3 Credits

Tu 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Integrative Learning Center TV Studio S312

Open to Senior, Junior and Sophomore Communication majors only. Journalism Majors and Film Certificate Students by permission of the instructor, djmaxcy@comm.umass.edu

Students will learn basic concepts and techniques of studio television production, with a focus on directing live programs in a full-scale studio facility on the UMASS campus. The course includes lecture presentations, production exercises, script-writing projects, and studio production projects. Finally, each student will write, produce, and direct a live studio production.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: V

COMM 397TV - TV Studio Operations, Production Design & Production

David Maxcy Cap. 10, 3 Credits

Th 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Integrative Learning Center TV Studio S312

Open to Senior, Junior and Sophomore Communication majors only.

This course explores the links between technical operations, creative production design, and actual production in the live, multiple-camera HD studio environment. Though loaded with technology, the television studio is, from the first instance through the last, a creative environment with tools aimed at production of meaningful content. This course will explore and put to work the concepts and techniques fundamental to multiple-camera studio production in the HD studio environment. These include conceptualization, visualization, and writing for multiple-camera, wide-screen production; and production design, including staging, set design, photography, lighting, sound, and graphic design. Students will learn and practice skills including light placement and mixing, videography using the HD studio camera, sound pickup and mixing, and graphics. Students will realize all of this work in collaborative, final studio production projects.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: V

COMM 441 - Principles and Techniques of Film Style Production

Kevin Anderson Cap. 12, 3 Credits

Tu 2:30PM - 6:30PM

Integrative Learning Center N317

Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only. Prerequisite: COMM 231 and 331.

A hands-on introduction to single-camera filmmaking using digital video camcorders and non-linear editing. Production assignments will foster student skills in the art of visual storytelling: from pre-production, shot composition and lighting to continuity editing and post production audio.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IV, V

COMM 445 - Screenwriting

Bruce Geisler Cap. 20, 3 Credits

TuTh 11:30AM - 12:45PM

Integrative Learning Center N345

Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only.

An examination of the art, craft, and business of screenwriting from theoretical and practical perspectives. Topics include screenplay format and structure, story, plot and character development, dialog and scene description, visual storytelling, pace and rhythm, analysis of professional and student scripts and films.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IV, V

COMM 446 - Film Documentary

Bruce Geisler Cap. 25, 3 Credits

Lecture: Tu 2:30PM - 4:30PM; Discussion: Tu 4:45PM - 5:25PM

Integrative Learning Center S350

Open to Seniors & Juniors only. Prerequisite: either COMM 140 (formerly 240), 231, 340, 342 or 445 (formerly 493E.), or by permission of the instructor at geisler@comm.umass.edu.

We will view, analyze, and discuss films by modern documentary masters such as Michael Moore ("Sicko"), Chris Paine, ("Revenge of the Electric Car"), Seth Gordon ("The King of Kong - A fistful of Quarters"), Pamela Yates ("Granito") and many others to further the understanding of the documentary craft and art from a filmmaker's perspective. Students will also do preproduction (research and treatment) for their own short documentary, along with shorter hands-on exercises in writing narration, interview techniques, etc.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, IV, V

COMM 493L - Experimental Film and Video

Kevin Anderson Cap. 25, 3 Credits

Th 2:30PM - 5:30PM

Integrative Learning Center S350

Open to Seniors & Juniors only.

This course explores the genre of Experimental Film and Video with a critical eye toward the history and current articulations of this form of production in both feature film and short form movies and videos. The course begins with an introduction to the genre, then explores Experimental Film; video according to three different categories: Experimentation with Narrative, Experimentation with Structure/Form, and Experimentation with the line between Fact and Fiction. Students will emerge from this course with a solid foundation in the history and theory of experimental film/video as evidenced by writing projects, research papers, and student-produced experimental media projects.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, IV, V

COMM 494BI - Countercultural Films

Bruce Geisler Cap. 25, 3 Credits

Lecture: We 2:30PM - 4:30PM; Discussion: We 4:45PM - 5:45PM

Lecture: Integrative Learning Center S350; Discussion: Integrative Learning Center N345

Open to Seniors & Juniors only. Or by permission of instructor @geisler@comm.umass.edu.

An exploration of the counter-cultural movements of the 1960s and 70s and later, hosted by someone who was there and lived to tell the tale. Through the medium of documentary and fiction films, we will delve into the musical, sexual, artistic, political and spiritual upheavals that rocked America and Europe back then and that continue to reverberate today. This course satisfies the Integrative Experience requirement for BA-Comm majors.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, IV, V

COMP-LIT 197FA - Introduction to Film Analysis: Cinematic Time Travel

Barry Spence Cap. 45 Lecture/ 15 for each Discussion, 3 Credits

Lecture: Th 4:00PM - 7:00PM; Discussion: Fr 2:30PM - 3:45PM, Fr 2:30PM - 3:45PM, Mo 2:30PM - 3:45PM

Integrative Learning Center S240

This is an introduction to film studies and to the analysis of film. The course explores the complex nature and cultural function of cinema by focusing on time travel as both a central theme of a wide range of films and as a way of understanding how cinema works as a time-based medium. By studying films from various points in the global history of cinema - including films from nine countries and five continents - this course performs a transcultural introduction to the formal and stylistic aspects of cinematic storytelling.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: I, V

COMP-LIT 383 - Narrative Avant-Garde Film

Don Levine Cap. 50 Lecture/ 25 for each Discussion, 4 Credits

Lecture: Mo 4:00PM - 7:30PM, Discussion: Tu 2:30PM - 3:45PM, TBA

Lecture: Herter Hall Room 227, Discussion: Integrative Learning Center S404, TBA

Focus on narrative problems of love, desire, sexual identity, daily life, and death. These films' investigations of how we might gain distance on our life fictions by questioning and undermining viewer identification with narrative. (Gen.Ed. AT)

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIA, V

COMP-LIT 391A - Introduction History of Animation

Christopher Couch Cap. 35, 3 Credits

Tu 4:00PM - 7:00PM

Location TBA

This course traces the history of animation from the late 19th century to today, including short and feature-length films from the United States, Europe and Japan. Topics will include the Fleischer, Disney and UPA studios, directors from Emil Cole to Hayao Miyazaki, and experimental animators including Oskar Fischinger and John Canemaker. Animation for television, including Jay Ward's Rocky and Bullwinkle and Matt Groening's The Simpsons will also be considered.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, V

ENGLISH 298B - Prac-Literary Classics on Film

Kirby Farrell Cap. 30, 1 Credit

Mo 6:00PM - 9:00PM

South College Room W101

FILM-ST 197FA - Introduction to Film Analysis: Cinematic Time Travel

Barry Spence Cap. 30 Lecture/ 10 for each Discussion, 3 Credits

Lecture: Th 4:00PM - 7:00PM; Discussion: Fr 2:30PM - 3:45PM, Fr 2:30PM - 3:45PM, Mo 2:30PM - 3:45PM

Integrative Learning Center S240

This is an introduction to film studies and to the analysis of film. The course explores the complex nature and cultural function of cinema by focusing on time travel as both a central theme of a wide range of films and as a way of understanding how cinema works as a time-based medium. By studying films from various points in the global history of cinema - including films from nine countries and five continents - this course performs a transcultural introduction to the formal and stylistic aspects of cinematic storytelling.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: I, V

FILM-ST 397E - Film at the End of the World

Daniel Pope Cap. 20, 3 Credits

Mo 4:00PM - 7:00PM

Integrative Learning Center S404

What insights do films with end-of-the-world scenarios, dystopian futures, and post-apocalyptic themes offer into the cultural moment that produces them? From alien invasions and planetary collisions to cataclysmic war and totalitarian dystopias, from the zombie apocalypse and the rise of machines, to human extinction and the end of civilization, what do these films tell us about contemporary realities? How do they speak to our anxieties and fears about the future as well as our hopes and aspirations? In what ways do these films pose and explore questions of the "human"? End-of-the-world films often intersect with other genres (thriller, action film, neo-noir, comedy, art-house, romance, drama, experimental, etc.) In this course we will study the cinema of eschatology, of ultimate endings, and analyze a range of filmic approaches to the philosophical, psychological, and aesthetic questions raised in end-of-the-world narratives. Satisfies UMass Undergraduate Film Certificate Category IIB

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, V

FILM-ST 497T - Film Theory

Barry Spence Cap. 15, 3 Credits

We 4:00PM - 7:30PM

Integrative Learning Center N155

This course provides an in-depth overview of the key theoretical approaches to the study of cinema by examining historically significant ways of analyzing film form and its social and cultural functions and effects. The course seeks to equip students with a command of the diverse history of theoretical frameworks for understanding the medium and experience of cinema, from early concerns over film's relation to other arts to the way the movie as a cultural form has been reconceptualized within the contemporary explosion of new media. The pressing relevance of film theory becomes clear once we stop to consider--taking just one small example--the many implications of a society-wide movement away from the collective experience of movies in a public theater to private viewing with earbuds on the tiny screen of a cell phone or tablet. We will explore a wide range of questions (concerning the nature of the cinematic medium and its apparatus, aspects of the spectator's experience of film, and the aesthetic and ideological dimensions of film genre, to name just a few) as a way of putting ourselves in dialogue with various film theoreticians. And we will ground our examination by looking at cinematic practice in relation to theory. This will be done through regular film screenings throughout the semester. Feature length films drawn from various points in the history of cinema, as well as a selection of film clips will be used to illustrate and discuss the various theories.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIA, IV, V

FILM-ST 497V – Video Essay in Film Criticism

Daniel Pope Cap. 14, 3 Credits

Lecture Tu 4:00PM – 6:45PM, Integrative Learning Center S404

Discussion Th 1:00PM - 2:15PM, Integrative Learning Center S405

This is a course in planning, scripting, and editing video essays in film criticism, working with films from around the world and across film history.  The field of film criticism is taking new forms in recent years, with social media, podcasts, websites and blogs dedicated to analyzing and discussing movies.  Out of this trend, the video essay emerges as an exceptionally attractive and powerful medium for the film critic.  In this class, we examine a wide array of video essays and explore the unique analytical and expressive opportunities the medium offers.  A primary emphasis in the course is the study and practice of film criticism as an intellectual and creative endeavor with its own particular objectives, challenges, and expressive powers.  With this foundation, we develop the critical, creative, and technical skills necessary for making effective video essays addressing films, directors, genres, national cinemas, and cultural and social issues.  Making a video essay is in many ways like making a movie.  As such we are engaged not only in film analysis and film writing but also in video editing, image composition, sound design, and other aspects of moving image media.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIA, IV, V

FRENCH-ST 350 - French Film

Philippe Baillargeon Cap. 100, 4 Credits

MoWe 2:30PM - 3:45PM

Integrative Learning Center S240

This French film survey course in English will introduce a variety of French films (with English subtitles) of different genres dating from the 1930s to the present, which we will interpret on their own terms, in relation to other films, and with respect to their specific historical contexts of time and place. At the end of this course, you will be able analyze films and their different genres as cultural products, identify the values transmitted within these works of art, critically discuss films with the technical vocabulary of film analysis, and interpret films as complex creative works within their specific settings of time and place in French history. To this end, we will focus on food and meals and how this theme reflects economic realities, national obsessions, behavioral conventions, and societal transformations.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, V

ITALIAN 350 - Italian Film

Andrea Malaguti Cap. 25. 4 Credits

TuTh 4:00PM - 5:15PM

Location: TBA

This course is a historical overview of how the most modern form of visual and narrative art responded to Italian culture, i.e. one of the richest traditions in painting, mosaic, and theater. From silent movies to current productions, the history of Italian film parallels and documents also the history of a modern nation, from pre-industrial to post-industrial economy. The course is conducted entirely in English. It re-examines Italian neo-realism and the filmmakers’ project of social reconstruction after Fascism. This course shows how Italian film produces meanings and pleasures through semiotics and psychoanalysis, so as to understand the specific features of Italian cinema, its cultural politics, and the Italian contribution to filmmaking and formal aesthetics.

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, V

PORTUG 408 - Brazil in Film & Fiction

Luiz Amaral Cap. 25, 4 Credits

Tu 4:00PM - 6:30PM

Location: TBA

The principal aim of this course is to introduce students to Brazilian culture through film and selected readings, by focusing on how filmmakers, writers, and artists represent key aspects of Brazilian society past and present: the colonization process; culture contact between Europeans and native Brazilians; slavery and race relations; economic development; immigration and internal migration; life in the backlands; urban problems; the dictatorship and its aftermath; contemporary Brazil. A second aim of the course is to study the development of Brazilian cinema through the past few generations, especially the important movement known as cinema novo. A third aim is to develop analytical skills and writing abilities. Course and readings in English; films have subtitles. (Gen.Ed. AL, DG)

UMASS UNDERGRADUATE FILM STUDIES CERTIFICATE CATEGORY: IIB, IV, V

**GRADUATE COURSES**

PORTUG 697A- Brazil in Film & Fiction

Luiz Amaral Cap. 25, 4 Credits

Tu 4:00PM - 6:30PM

Location: TBA

The principal aim of this course is to introduce students to Brazilian culture through film and selected readings, by focusing on how filmmakers, writers, and artists represent key aspects of Brazilian society past and present: the colonization process; culture contact between Europeans and native Brazilians; slavery and race relations; economic development; immigration and internal migration; life in the backlands; urban problems; the dictatorship and its aftermath; contemporary Brazil. A second aim of the course is to study the development of Brazilian cinema through the past few generations, especially the important movement known as cinema novo. A third aim is to develop analytical skills and writing abilities. Course and readings in English; films have subtitles.