

FILM APPRECIATION SPRING 2022

Instructor
Meagen Cain

Email
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Location
JRH 0166 (Auditorium)

Course Number
FILM 105-001 (3 credit hours)

Time
TR 9:35a-10:55a

Office Hours:
By Appointment
JRH 336

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 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: Bordwell, David. *Film Art*. Twelfth edition. McGraw Hill, 2022 (textbook).

Student Responsibilities: Students will be expected to attend all classes and 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: April 5, 2022

Quizzes: Students must take quizzes reflecting comprehension and analysis of readings, films, and lectures.

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.

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.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

| Item | Point Value |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Signed Syllabus | 50 |
| Quizzes | 600 |
| Mid-Term Exam | 150 |
| Final Exam | 200 |
| TOTAL | 1000 |

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.

PLAGIARISM: To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his or her own. Students must give the author(s) credit for

any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

Disposition of Offenses - 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 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.

WKU COVID 19 Statement: All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](#) (voice), [270-745-3030](#) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](#) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

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, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@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.

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/DISCRIMINATION AND HARRASSMENT: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). 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 | *readings all available in <i>Film Art: Twelfth Edition</i> |
|--------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | 1/18-20 | Syllabus and Introduction |
| Week 2 | 1/25-27 | Lecture: Film as Art and Business Reading: Chapter 1: Creativity, Technology, and Business (pgs 2-48) Screening: <i>La La Land</i> (2016) |
| Week 3 | 2/1-3 | Lecture: Mood and Tone Reading: Chapter 2: The Significance of Film Form (pgs 50-70) Screening: <i>Arrival</i> (2016) Quiz: Ch. 1-2, lectures, and screenings |
| Week 4 | 2/8-10 | Lecture: Structure of Storytelling Reading: Chapter 3: Narrative Form (pgs 72-110) Screening: <i>The Drop</i> (2014) |
| Week 5 | 2/15-17 | Lecture: Motif and Design Reading: Chapter 4: The Shot – Mise-en-Scene (pgs 112-158) Screening: <i>Get Out</i> (2017) Quiz: Ch. 3-4, lectures, and screenings |
| Week 6 | 2/22-24 | Lecture: Cinematography Reading: Chapter 5: The Shot – Cinematography (pgs 159-215) Screening: <i>Mother of George</i> (2013) |
| Week 7 | 3/1-3 | Lecture: Editing Reading: Chapter 6: The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing (pgs 216-262) Screening: <i>The Social Network</i> (2010) Quiz: Ch. 5--6, lectures, and screenings |
| Week 8 | 3/8-10 | Lecture: Sound Design Reading: Chapter 7: Sound in the Cinema (pgs 263-302) Screening: <i>The Hurt Locker</i> (2008) MID TERM EXAM: Ch 1-6, lectures, and screenings |

SPRING BREAK

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| Week 10 | 3/22-24 | Lecture: Visual Language Reading: Chapter 8: Style and Film Form (pgs 303-325) Screening: <i>The White Ribbon</i> (2009) Quiz: Ch 7-8, lectures, and screenings |
| Week 11 | 3/29-31 | Lecture: Expectations in Genre Reading: Chapter 9: Film Genres (328-351) Screening: <i>Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade</i> (1989) |
| Week 12 | 4/5-7 | Lecture: Other Forms of Cinema Reading: Chapter 10: Documentary... et. al. (pgs 352-400) Screening: <i>The Devil's Miner</i> (2005) Quiz: Ch 9-10, lectures, screenings |

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| Week 13 | 4/12-14 | Lecture: Adaptations Readings/Quiz: Chapter 11: Film Criticism: Sample and Analyses (402-448) Screening: <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (2005) |
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| Week 14 | 4/19-21 | Lecture: Exam Review Readings/Quiz: Chapter 12: Historical Changes in Film Art Screening: <i>The Godfather</i> (1972) Quiz: Ch 11-12, lectures, and screenings |
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| Week 15 | 4/26-28 | Final Exam |
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***Films for screenings can be changed at Professor's discretion**

FILM 105 STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

After you have studied the syllabus and other course materials, please read, sign, and date the following statement. This gives you another prompt to ask questions about any unclear issues and will save us both time and your confusion about course requirements.

I have received a copy of the course syllabus and materials.

I understand and accept their contents and will abide by the rules and requirements indicated.

Print name

Signature

Date