



Undergraduate Course Syllabus

COM 222 Introduction to Film History

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

There are no additional prerequisites for this course.

Course Description

Beginning with the first film images in 1889-90, an ending with the more challenging and cutting-edge filmmaking of recent years, this course will be a very thorough decade-by-decade overview of the history of film. Lectures will focus on the works of various filmmakers, some well-known and some not so. Besides the general evolution of film, the course will also examine various genres as well as how technology has continually affected filmmaking. We will research and discuss genres and movements; students will view specific sections of certain films as well as others in their entirety.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, each student should be able to:

1. Define key technological advances that led to filmmaking.
2. Define key terms and concepts used in film.
3. Recognize and define film genres, movements and styles.
4. Appreciate all that goes on 'behind the scenes' when films are produced and what led to certain films being produced in the manner that they were.

Required Materials

A History of Film & Short Guide to Writing about Film (package)

Wexman

Pearson

7th ed.

2009

9780205911950

Citizen Kane, 1941, Orson Welles (for Module Two)

Ridicule, 1996, Patrice Leconte (for Module Three)

Bicycle Thieves, 1948, Vittorio De Sica (for Module Five)

Farewell My Concubine, 1993, Kaige Chen (for Module Six)

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your instructor will be active in Blackboard at least five days each week; this is where most of the class interaction will happen. Communication, when in the Blackboard environment, benefits the entire class. Emails to the instructor directly should be reserved for concerns of a personal/sensitive nature. Your instructor will respond to questions—either via the discussion board or via email—within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussion	11	10	110
Short Paper	2	95	190
Final Paper	1	250	250
Wiki	4	75	300
Project	1	150	150
		Total Course Points:	1000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Total Points: 1,000	
			Lower	Upper
A	93-100	4	0	0
A-	90-92	3.67	0	-1
B+	87-89	3.33	0	-1
B	83-86	3	0	-1
B-	80-82	2.67	0	-1
C+	77-79	2.33	0	-1
C	73-76	2	0	-1
C-	70-72	1.67	0	-1
D+	67-69	1.33	0	-1
D	60-66	1	0	-1
F	0-59	0	0	-1
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
IP	In Progress (past end of term)			
W	Withdrawn			

*Incomplete and Incomplete/Failure: Any student requesting an “I” grade must complete a Student Petition & Contract for a Grade of Incomplete and submit it to the proper offices prior to the final day of the term/semester. The petition will specify a deadline by which the coursework must be completed. The incomplete automatically becomes an “IF” if work has not been completed and a grade has not been submitted by the specific deadline.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions and grading guides can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found the folders. All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the last day of the module week.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Early Years of the Film Industry Icebreaker Activity (Required) 1.1 Viewing: Films to Watch 1.2 Short Paper: Film Criticism 1.3 Discussion: Early Technology 1.4 Discussion: Contributions of early film 1.5 Planning: Final Paper: Introduction
2	Hollywood 2.1 Wiki: Film Critique #1 2.2 Discussion: Hollywood and Politics 2.3 Final Paper: Topic and Preliminary Resources
3	French Film 3.1 Wiki: Film Critique #2 3.2 Discussion: Early French Film 3.3 Discussion: French New Wave Cinema
4	Soviet Film 4.1 Project: Film as Propaganda 4.2 Discussion: History and Film
5	Italian Film 5.1 Discussion: Italian Neo-Realism 5.2 Wiki: Film Critique #3 5.3 Final Paper: Milestone 2: Rough Draft

6	Asian Film 6.1 Discussion: Foreign Film Aesthetic 6.2 Wiki: Film Critique #4
7	The 1960s 7.1 Discussion: 1960s Film 7.2 Final Paper: Final Research Paper
8	Political Movements 8.1 Discussion: National Films 8.2 Discussion: Course Reflection 8.3 Short Paper: Self-Reflection and Prediction Paper

Attendance Policy

Failure to participate during the first week of the course (12:00 a.m. Monday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday) will result in automatic withdrawal. Participation must include posting activity within the discussion forum in addition to any other assignment requirement listed in the syllabus. Students who do not participate during the first week forfeit their rights to be reinstated into the course.

While online education classes are asynchronous, they are not correspondence- or self-paced. Although only a portion of students' grades are tied to discussion, participation in discussion boards (unless otherwise indicated) is **mandatory**. Students are expected to participate in their Blackboard course at least three separate days per week throughout the term for a total of four posts (one initial post and at least three responses) each week.

Extended absences, defined as failure to post into the Blackboard classroom for more than five days, must be coordinated with the instructor. Students who fail to coordinate any such absence with the instructor, or who fail to withdraw from the course in accordance with the COCE official drop and withdrawal policy, will be graded appropriately.

All assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Blackboard tool by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on the specified due date. Refer to the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder for specific details on completing the assignments in this course.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy

<https://www.snhu.edu/648.asp>

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Guide to Student Success

<https://my.snhu.edu/Resources/StudentHandbooks/Pages/default.aspx>

Blackboard Course Tools/Areas Overview

Your course will be delivered through Blackboard. Below are the most often used Blackboard tools and areas.

Tool/Area	Description	You Should...
Announcements	This area is used to post day-to-day course details such as the status of or directions for assignments and discussions.	Check the announcements on a regular basis, at least several times each week.
Course Information	The course syllabus, assignment guidelines and rubrics, technical support, Student Handbook, and advising information can be found here.	Check this area at the start of the class. It is recommended that the syllabus be downloaded for future reference.
Learning Modules	This area contains course content, including lectures, readings, resources, and assignments. This area may also contain a checklist summary of assignments for the module.	Check this area at the start of each module and throughout the module week to review course materials.
Discussion Board	This is one of the primary areas for discussion and collaboration in the class.	Participate and contribute on a regular basis. Refer to the Attendance Policy section for information.
Research/Writing	SNHU library and research information can be found here.	Check this area for links and information on different library-related resources.
My Instructor	Instructor information is located in this area.	Check this area to find out about your instructor's background and contact information.
My Grades	Assignment grades are located in this area.	Check this area to find out your grades for your course assignments.
Communication	The primary communication tool areas for the course are discussion forums and small group areas.	Limit the use of email for comments and questions of a personal or sensitive nature. All course-related questions should be posted on the discussion boards.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found at

<https://my.snhu.edu/Academics/Pages/SyllabiStatements.aspx>.

Continuing Education Center Instructor Availability: All undergraduate Continuing Education instructors at all center locations (Manchester, Nashua, Salem, Portsmouth, and Brunswick, Maine) will be available to students for a minimum of four additional hours of face-to-face meeting time per term. This time is in addition to the required 20 hours of face-to-face time in hybrid classes and the required 40 hours of face-to-face time in lecture classes. How the additional meeting time is utilized is at the discretion of the instructor and may vary by course.

Academic Honesty Policy: Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university.

Students involved in such activities are subject to serious disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined as the use, whether by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another without full and clear acknowledgment. Cheating includes the giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance on quizzes, examinations, or written assignments from any source not approved by the instructor. Understand that in taking this course, your assignments may be submitted to Turnitin.com or other plagiarism-detection services and reviewed for textual similarity suggestive of plagiarism. All submitted papers are subsequently included as source material in the Turnitin.com database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other submitted work. Please review the Turnitin.com Usage Policy should you have any questions. For more about academic dishonesty, please refer to the undergraduate or graduate catalogs.

ADA/504 Compliance Statement: Southern New Hampshire University is committed to meeting the needs of students challenged by physical, emotional, or learning disabilities with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. To request accommodations to be made in your Blackboard course or to an assessment, contact the SNHU Disability Office.

Technical Support: Support for technology and Blackboard software issues can be found at <http://www.snhu.edu/techsupport> or by dialing SNHU 24/7 Live Support at 1-877-708-2909.

Academic Assistance: Online students enrolled in undergraduate courses in the areas of math, writing, accounting, and statistics will have access to Smarthinking online tutoring: <https://my.snhu.edu/offices/COCE/Tutoring/Pages/default.aspx>.

Library Resources Statement: In addition to the intellectual resources available onsite and online (<http://www.snhu.edu/library>), Shapiro Library makes available group and one-on-one instruction in information literacy, enabling students to define and articulate what knowledge-based resources are relevant to their research interests.

Copyright Policy: Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. The SNHU Copyright Policy can be accessed from the Shapiro Library's Copyright LibGuide at <http://libguides.snhu.edu/content.php?pid=5411>. Questions regarding copyright may be addressed to the Dean of the University Library.