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Course Outline for HUMN 2

THE ART OF FILM

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HUMN 2 — THE ART OF FILM — 3.00 units

Exploration of the basics of film form, cinematic language (cinematography, editing, etc.), narrative elements, and acting. An introduction to film analysis through the study of the history of film, film genres, and the role of film in contemporary society.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. describe Film Studies as a distinct approach to the Humanities.
- B. distinguish between various types of films (narrative, documentary, and experimental), as well as major film genres.
- C. identify the common elements of narrative films, such as the 3-act structure, plot vs. story, and types of duration.
- D. describe and analyze the function of mise-en-scene in film, in terms of various elements of design and composition.
- E. identify and analyze the function of the basic elements of cinematography, e.g. shots, lighting, camera angles and movement, framing, and special effects.
- F. describe the evolution of screen acting and distinguish between various aspects of performance and acting styles.
- G. identify and analyze the effects of major editing techniques in terms of continuity and discontinuity.
- H. describe and evaluate the qualities, sources, types, and functions of film sound.
 - I. demonstrate knowledge of developments in film history from pre-cinema to the present, and describe major trends in global traditions that influenced film history.
- J. identify the various phases in movie making (pre-production, production, and post-production), and distinguish between the studio system and independent filmmaking.
- K. explain the basic aspects of the financing, marketing, and distribution of movies.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Overview of Film Studies as a distinct discipline and one way of studying the Humanities.
- B. Overview of terminology and methods necessary for Film Studies:
 1. Basics of film form
 2. Cinematic language
 3. Historical and cultural interpretations
 4. Film genres
 5. Narrative structure
 6. Editing techniques
 7. Sound and music
 8. Ways of seeing/looking at movies.
- C. Overview of common approaches to speaking and writing about films.
- D. Narrative, documentary, and experimental film types.
- E. Film genres and conventions for each major genre.
- F. Focus on the common elements of narrative films.
- G. Mise-en-Scene in film design and composition.
- H. Introduction to major aspects of cinematography
 1. Shots
 2. Lighting
 3. Camera angles and movement
 4. Framing
 5. Special effects
- I. Overview of the evolution of screen acting and aspects of performance.
- J. Overview of major editing techniques in terms of continuity and discontinuity.

- K. Film Sound
 - 1. Qualities
 - 2. Sources
 - 3. Types
 - 4. Functions of film sound
- L. Film History
 - 1. Basic approaches to film history,
 - 2. Overview of developments in cinema
 - 3. Introduction to selected global traditions that influenced film history
- M. Overview of the studio system and independent filmmaking, as well as the basics of financing, marketing, and distribution of movies.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Student Presentations** - In small groups, students will present on selected films, directors, and/or film genres.
- B. **Lecture** - Lectures will complement readings that students are required to do outside of class, as well as provide new information.
- C. **Discussion** - Much time will be spent in class discussing the readings and lecture content, as well as the films/film clips screened during class.
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** - Some class time will be dedicated to screening film clips and tutorial videos. At times, students will share their own audio-visual film homework.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Short answer quiz on assigned reading: after reading a chapter on Elements of Film Narrative, students are asked to describe the difference between a narrative film, film narration, and types of narrators.
- B. Group project and presentation: as a final project, students are asked to work in small groups to research and prepare both an oral presentation and an individual short essay on either a film genre or an important film director.
- C. Short film response and analysis essay: to demonstrate knowledge and put into practice film analysis skills, student are asked to watch "Citizen Kane," or another seminal movie, and analyze it for its use of cinematographic devices and editing techniques.
- D. Notes: students are required to take notes on class lectures, discussions, and clips/films viewed in class, as well as on homework readings; instructor reviews students' notebooks during the semester for a component of the final grade.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Papers
- 4. Oral Presentation
- 5. Group Projects
- 6. Class Participation
- 7. Class Work
- 8. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. At least 2 quizzes and 1 test
- 2. At least 1 group project and oral presentation,
- 3. At least 2 short film response and analysis papers,
- 4. Weekly notes on in-class discussion and lecture as well as on homework readings.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Barsam, Richard, and Dave Monahan. *Looking at Movies*. 5th ed., W. W. Norton, 2016.
- 2. Bordwell, David . *Film Art: An Introduction*. 11th ed., McGraw Hill, 2016.
- 3. Piper, Jim . *Get the Picture?: The Movie Lover's Guide to Watching Films*. 2nd ed., Allworth Press, 2008.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: