

FS OX 270:
INTRODUCTION TO FILM

T/TH 10-11:40AM
ELIZER 257

& TUES 3:00-6:00PM
ELIZER 257

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MOD 2, OFFICE 2
OH: T/TH 2:00-3:00
& BY APPOINTMENT

Course Description:

How are movies made, and how do movies make meaning? These are the fundamental questions that animate film studies. This course is an introduction to the techniques and elements that comprise the art and industry of filmmaking. We will consider the language of film form alongside the historical and aesthetic contexts of filmmaking, developing and focusing our abilities to analyze cinema from aperture to zoom. The course content gives rise to three major objectives: students will learn to recognize and name film techniques; students will use their educated observations to consider how those techniques produce meaning; and students will develop their capacities for comprehending, discussing, and writing about the significance of films' constructed meanings.

Textbook: Phillips, William. *Film: An Introduction*. 4th edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009. Additional readings will be made available in class and/or on Blackboard.

Format: In general, new topics will be introduced during the seminar on Tuesdays, and class discussions on our film screenings will be on Thursdays. Reading for the week should be begun by Tuesday and completed by Thursday. The separately scheduled screenings are a critical component of film studies; attendance is mandatory for every film. There will be minimal lecture and discussion during the screening sessions. However, students are expected to take notes during screenings for future reference in class discussions and on exams.

Evaluation: Participation (20%) is composed of attendance as well as informed and thoughtful contributions to class discussions. Come to class prepared and on time, and stay for the whole period. You are allowed two absences without penalty, but beyond that allowance, your grade will drop with every absence. Summaries and Discussion Questions (20%), and Exams (40%) are scheduled throughout the semester and make up the bulk of the students' opportunities for evaluation. A final project (20%) is due in lieu of an in-class exam; aspects of the project may be broken up into component parts during the semester and grades separately; presentations will be held during the exam period. Late work is not eligible for full credit.

Inquiries about grades can usually be answered by referring to the syllabus. Specific questions about grades should be addressed during Office Hours.

Honor Code: As in all courses, students are required to abide by the Oxford College Honor Code, available for review at http://www.oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code. In film studies, common knowledge extends to basic information about a film, including its year, director, cast, and country of origin. However, plot summaries and other analyses are the unique work of particular authors, and they require citation. Content from outside sources, including specific arguments, descriptive phrases, and general information beyond the scope of our class discussions must be cited.

Additional Policies and Etiquette: Lolololol don't text during class or movies. No electronic devices (included but not limited to cell phones and tablets) are permitted during classes and screenings. Exceptions must be approved by the instructor on a case-by-case basis (for example, the course is conducted in accordance with the ADA). Violations of the electronic device policy will destroy your participation grade.

Conversations are prohibited during our screenings (i.e. don't talk during movies). Small snacks are permitted during screenings provided that they do not interfere with note-taking. Freshly popped popcorn, a ubiquitous signifier of attending movies for entertainment purposes, is exclusively banned from the classroom during seminars and screenings. Anyone found in violation of this policy will be required to give a class presentation on a topic of the instructor's choice.

Additionally, this syllabus forms an implied contract. The schedule is subject to change only at the instructor's revision; students are required to complete all of the above as scheduled, including assignments distributed in class and exercises conducted in class. Significant amendments to the syllabus will be made in writing.

Note on Explicit Content: During the lectures and screenings, students will encounter graphic content, including but not limited to nudity, explicit sexuality, vulgarity, drug use, and violence, which may be troubling to viewers. Enrollment in this course indicates the student's awareness of this fact, as well as a willingness to approach these representations in a mature—and sensitive—scholarly manner. If you are concerned that particular themes or images may be triggering, alternative or supplementary arrangements can be made in advance and in coordination with the instructor.