Film and Society (or sociology of film and society)

Text: American Film and Society since 1945, Leonard Quart and

Albert Auster,

Media Spectacle and the Crisis of Democracy. Kellner, Douglas.

**Course Description**

This course will examine American society through viewing films. it is designed to be an opportunity for students to develop their sociological imagination through the viewing, discussion, and analysis of feature-length films. Without a sociological framework, we may focus solely on the plot or the special effects and ignore the impact of the social issues on what we see and how we interpret it. It is not a class on film theory or production or the film industry, but rather the sociological implications of film**—** using movies as a sociological data source.

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Thus successful completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Apply key sociological concepts in critical analysis of feature films

2. Conduct sociological research using films as a data source

3. Produce clear, logical, and persuasive papers with appropriate grammar and

Course Goals:

Students will view a wide variety of American films and analyze the way in which the films depict American society. Also, students will examine the social context in which the films were produced and analyze the relationship between social context and cultural productions.

Course Outcomes:

1. Further student understanding of the relationship between social structure and culture.

2. Further student understanding of American society and culture.

3. Further student ability to analyze cultural products from the point of view of the sociological perspective.

Course Evaluation:

There will be a total of 400 hundred (400) points. There will be two exams worth one hundred (100) points each. The questions will be multiple choice, fill-in, true/false, list, matching, and short answer. Screening Reports will be worth one (100) points: These are one-to-two page written reports concerning films screened in class and films you choose to watch outside of class that are relevant to the course topic of a given week. A detailed handout explaining what is expected in a screening report will be given to you separately. There will be a final paper worth one hundred (100) points.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date Class Assignments

Week 1 Intro: Film and Society Quart: Introduction

View: *It Happened One Night*

Week 2 Post-WWII America Quart: Chapter 2

View: *The Best Years of Our Lives*

Week 3 Post-WWII America Quart: Chapter 3

View: Double Indemnity

Week 4 Post-WWII America Quart: Chapter 4

View: *My Darling Clementine*

Week 5 American Society: Red Scare Quart: Chapter 5 View: *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*

Week 6 American Society: Media Quart: Chapter 6

View: A Face in the Crowd

Week 7 American Society: 1960s

View: *Easy Rider*

**Exam #1**

Week 8American Society: 1960s/70s Quart: Chapter 7

View: *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*

Week 9 American Society: 1970s Quart: Chapter 8

View: *Star Wars*

Week 10 American Society: 1980s Kellner: Introduction, Chapter 1

View: *Roger and Me*

Week 11 American Society: 1990s Kellner: Chapter 2

View: *Bulworth*

Week 12 American Society: 1990s Kellner: 3 View: *Wag the Dog*

Week 13 American Society: 2000’s Kellner: Ch 4

View: *Inside Job*  Kellner: 5

Week 14 American Society: War on Terror Kellner: Ch 6, Conclusion

View: *Dirty Wars*

Week 15 **Exam #2 and Paper Due**

\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the movie schedule.