



WW-HUMN 340
Aviators and Aviation in Film
Online Course Syllabus
Worldwide 2025-05 May

Course Information

Credit Hours: 3

Delivery Method: Online (Internet/Canvas)

Instructor Information

Name

Robert Ford

Email

fordr@erau.edu

Required Course Materials

Title: Aviators in Early Hollywood

ISBN: 978-0738559025

Authors: Shawna Kelly

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing

Publication Date: 2008

Format: Textbook

Title: Required Film Viewing

Notes

The films required for viewing are provided at no cost for students in the course. The final essay requires students to research and view a film of their choice, which may incur a

cost to the student.

Catalog Course Description

Representation of aviators and aviation in popular film from the silent era to the present. Evolution from the aviator to the astronaut. Historical and social context of specific films. Birth of film as a novel technology. Introduction to film analysis.

Prerequisite(s): HUMN 340 Prerequisite is ENGL 123.

Course Goals

Students will learn the vocabulary of film analysis and explore the themes of the aviator and aviation in popular film from the silent era to the present. They will become familiar with the history of film as a technology and the concurrent rise of aviation and film as modern industries; become adept at the analysis of films, individually and comparatively, across a range of film genres; become adept at critical thinking and writing about film; gain skills in research and application of research in formal writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Apply the basic terminology, objectives, and methods of narrative film analysis to several films across a range of film genres.
2. Evaluate the dual status of film as a technology and an aesthetic form.
3. Compare and contrast the early history of film to the early history of aviation.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of key historical moments in the evolution of the art of film from the silent film era to the present.
5. Evaluate in discussion and writing the historical accuracy and/or aesthetic merits of a particular film or films.
6. Analyze films in discussion and writing in relation to historical events and societal movements, especially those affecting aviation and aeronautics.

Grading

Scale	Grade
90 - 100	A (Superior)
80 - 89	B (Above Average)
70 - 79	C (Average)
60 - 69	D (Below Average)
0 - 59	F (Failure)

Evaluation Items & Weights

Aviate: Film Viewing	0%
Navigate: Film Worksheet	30%
Communicate: Discussions	15%
Communicate: Written Assignments	30%
Final Essay Proposal	5%
Final Essay	20%
Total	100%

Aviate: Film Viewing

In all modules, you will view one or two feature (full-length) films and (usually) a few other very brief videos. You are required to view all of these since this is the core material for the course—substituting for a textbook that would be the central primary text in many courses. Take notes while viewing, rewatch parts that are significant or you didn't catch the first time, and consider re-watching the entire film. You can use your notes for the Film Worksheets and Essays, and they may also be useful for Discussions and the Final Project.

Navigate: Film Worksheet

A Film Worksheet should be done for every feature (full-length) film; there are 14 of these films for the term. The Worksheet is the same for every film. You will fill in names, titles, dates, genres, and other facts about the film. You will also categorize the main and secondary characters and give one to two-sentence answers to a few questions concerning themes and comparison to previous films. The Worksheet is very important, as it trains you to do film analysis in the way that film critics do. You will benefit from using the Worksheets for your Discussion posts, essays, and even the Final Project.

Communicate: Discussions

Each Module has one Discussion thread except the first, which has two (introductions and the feature film). You will write a 90-word (approximate) post about the feature film

or films for the Module, and you may also comment on the brief videos (except the aviation professional videos). A good discussion post is thoughtful, robust, well-written (grammar and spelling), and raises questions/issues to provoke further discussion. You must reply to at least two of your peers' posts each time with thoughts and questions about what they have discussed. The goal is to explore your and others' reactions to the films in a thoughtful, critical (in terms of critical thinking) fashion. Reading all other posts will further your familiarity and comfort with film analysis.

Communicate: Written Assignments

Module 3 Film Essay: The goal of the essay is to give you a chance to show in writing what you have so far learned about film analysis by examining one or two feature films. For this assignment, write a 600-750 word essay about one of the two prompts. You will need to cite your textbook *Aviators in Early Hollywood* as a secondary source for this paper. Specific requirements are laid out in the Module, but in general, you are composing a five-paragraph essay, with an introduction and conclusion paragraph, and body paragraphs where you analyze the film(s).

Module 5: The goal of the **Reflection Essay** is to have you think about how aviation films have influenced/do influence those who have worked in the aviation profession for some time. You will compose a 200-250 word essay in which you reflect on the aviation professional videos you have seen for this class. Discuss at least two of the four videos. Be sure to cover at least two of the four prompt questions in the Module description of the assignment.

Module 6 Film Essay: The goal of the essay is to give you a chance to show in writing what you have so far learned about film analysis by examining one or two feature films. For this assignment, write a 600-750 word essay about one of the three prompts. You will need to cite at least one of the readings for the semester as a secondary source for this paper. Specific requirements are laid out in the Module, but in general, you are composing a five-paragraph essay, with an introduction and conclusion paragraph, and body paragraphs where you analyze the film(s).

Final Essay

Brief Proposal (5%): The 300-word proposal will prepare you to write your final essay. The proposal should identify the film you have chosen from the suggestion list for your essay. You will use the skills you have developed throughout the term to analyze the film in terms of its representation of aviation. Possible elements include character study, scene analysis, discussion of the theme(s), and use of aviation technology. You will also compare the film to one to two of the films covered in the term.

Final Essay (20%): This 3,000-word essay is the culminating assignment of the course. You will use the skills you have developed throughout the term to analyze the film you chose in your Proposal in terms of its representation of aviation. Possible elements to write about include character study, scene analysis, discussion of the theme(s), and use

of aviation technology. You will also compare the film to one to two of the films covered in the term. You will demonstrate knowledge of film analysis vocabulary and analytic skills acquired through the Film Worksheets and Discussions.

Disability and Special Needs and Mental Health Wellness

ERAU-WW is committed to the success of all students. It is a University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, who qualify for services. If you would like to request accommodations due to a physical, mental or learning disability, please contact the [Student Accessibility Support](#) Office at 386-226-7334 or via email at wwsas@erau.edu. ALL DISCUSSIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

Mental Well-Being Statement

ERAU recognizes that life stressors, such as depression, anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, relationship problems and various other experiences can hinder the learning process. All ERAU students have access to free, confidential counseling through TELUS Health. You can access a counselor 24/7 via phone, computer or chat in the Student Support app. Please download the app or add the link to your computer and consider using this valuable resource during your educational journey at ERAU. More information on TELUS can be found on the [WW Dean of Students ERNIE page](#).

Additional Information

APA Format

Go to the [APA website](#) for additional information about the *American Psychological Association Publication Manual*.

Library

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has one of the most complete library collections of aviation-related resources in the world. The Hunt Library is the library for all Worldwide students regardless of location. For help finding resources for your assignment, project, or topic, or to learn more about the library services available to you, please contact our librarians using the following information:

- [Hunt Library Worldwide: Information, Services, Help](#)
 - [Library Basic Training](#)

- [Ask-a-Librarian](#)
- [Library Hours](#)
- Contact Information
 - Email: library@erau.edu

Title IX

[Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#) ("Title IX") is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. All public and private elementary and secondary schools, school districts, colleges, and universities receiving any Federal funds must comply with Title IX.

The Title IX Office oversees compliance of Title IX Sexual Harassment in accordance with Federal Regulations as well as incidents falling under the University Sexual Misconduct policy. Policy violations can include sexual harassment or sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and stalking.

Anyone **may** report suspected or known violations directly to the Title IX Office. However, there are certain persons / offices who **must** report incidents to the Title IX Office (mandatory). Those are Campus Safety & Security, Dean of Students (or designee), Vice President of Human Resources (or designee). Please refer to the policy and/or contact the Title IX Office for more specifics related to filing a report.

[Title IX Office](#)

Phone: 386/226-6677; 386/481-9131; 386/241-1881

Email: wwtitle9@erau.edu or meyerspa@erau.edu

Website: <https://worldwide.erau.edu/administration/diversity>

Form: [Online Complaint Form](#)

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Embry-Riddle is committed to maintaining and upholding intellectual integrity. All students, faculty, and staff have obligations to prevent violations of academic integrity and take corrective action when they occur. The adjudication process will involve imposing sanctions which may include, but are not limited to, a failing grade on the

assignment, a failing grade in a course, suspension, or dismissal from the University, upon students who commit the following academic violations:

1. Plagiarism: Presenting the ideas, words, or products of another as one's own.
Plagiarism includes use of any source to complete academic assignments without proper acknowledgment of the source. Reuse or resubmission of a student's own coursework if previously used or submitted in another course, is considered self-plagiarism, and is also not allowed under University policy.
2. Cheating: A broad term that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 1. Giving or receiving help from unauthorized persons or materials during examinations.
 2. The unauthorized communication of examination questions prior to, during, or following administration of the examination.
 3. Collaboration on examinations or assignments expected to be, or presented as, individual work.
 4. Fraud and deceit, that include knowingly furnishing false or misleading information or failing to furnish appropriate information when requested, such as when applying for admission to the University.

Note: The Instructor reserves the right to use any form of digital method for checking plagiarism. Several electronic systems are available and other methods may be used at the Instructor's discretion.

Online Learning

This course is offered through Embry-Riddle Online (Canvas) and runs nine (9) weeks. The first week begins the first day of the term and ends at midnight EDT/EST (as applicable) seven days later. Please note that all assignments, unless otherwise indicated, are due by 11:59p.m. EDT/EST on the date shown. Success in this course requires in-depth study of each module as assigned, timely completion of assignments, and regular participation in forum discussions.

Late work should be the exception and not the rule and may be downgraded at the discretion of the Instructor, if accepted at all. Unless all work is submitted, the student could receive a failing grade for the course. Extensions may be granted for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Instructor and only for the length of time the Instructor deems appropriate. The most important element of success in an online course is to communicate with your Instructor throughout the term.

Conventions of “online etiquette,” which include courtesy to all users, will be observed. Students should use the Send Message function in Canvas for private messages to the Instructor and other students. The class discussion forums are for public messages.

It is highly recommended that students keep electronic copies of all materials submitted as assignments, discussion posts and emails, until after the end of the term and a final grade is received. When posting responses in a discussion forum, please confirm that the responses have actually been posted after you submit them.

Course Specific Policies

Late Work Policy: All course work is expected to be completed on time and should be submitted before 11:59 PM ET on the date indicated in the Course Schedule below. Unless otherwise specified in this document, late work will be downgraded 10% for each day it is past due, up to 5 days beyond the deadline. After that, a permanent score of zero (0) will be entered in the Canvas Grades area (Note: please look in the “Assignments” section of the syllabus for more instructions). Please coordinate with the instructor as soon as possible if you know your assignment will be late. In some special cases, a penalty-free extension might be granted if you provide your expected date of submission in addition to the reason you cannot make the deadline (expect to provide supporting documentation). Keep in mind that you are always allocated a sufficient time to complete your assignments, so difficulties encountered less than 24 hours prior to the deadline will not be viewed in a favorable light.

Exceptions: Instructors may choose to develop and implement their own policies regarding the following:

1. Discussion boards (initial posts and replies to classmates)
2. Assignments submitted after the last class day
3. Assignments submitted using third-party integrations

Any such deviations must be clearly posted in the Instructor Bio & Policies page.

Summary

- Before you begin the course, read the Important Course Information and other items in the Start Here module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

- Visit the Modules area for an overview of the course structure and direct navigation to all course content.
- All assignments due by 11:59 pm ET.

Date Due	Name (link)	Event Type	Points
	Online Office	Discussion	0
	Student Lounge	Discussion	0
6/6/25	Module 1 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
6/6/25	Module 1 Assignment: Film Worksheet	Assignment	100
6/6/25	Module 1 Discussion: George Melies and The Conquest of the North Pole	Discussion	100
6/6/25	Module 1 Discussion: Introductions	Discussion	100
6/13/25	Module 2 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
6/13/25	Module 2 Assignment: Film Worksheet 1	Assignment	100
6/13/25	Module 2 Assignment: Film Worksheet 2	Assignment	100
6/13/25	Module 2 Discussion: WWI and the Aviator	Discussion	100
6/20/25	Module 3 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
6/20/25	Module 3 Assignment: Film Worksheet	Assignment	100

Date Due	Name (link)	Event Type	Points
6/20/25	Module 3 Discussion: Barnstormers and Acrobats	Discussion	100
6/20/25	Module 3 Written Assignment: Essay_(PLG1)	Assignment	100
6/27/25	Module 4 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
6/27/25	Module 4 Assignment: Film Worksheet 1	Assignment	100
6/27/25	Module 4 Assignment: Film Worksheet 2	Assignment	100
6/27/25	Module 4 Discussion: Women and Aviation	Discussion	100
7/4/25	Module 5 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
7/4/25	Module 5 Assignment: Film Worksheet 1	Assignment	100
7/4/25	Module 5 Assignment: Film Worksheet 2	Assignment	100
7/4/25	Module 5 Discussion: Aviators and WWI	Discussion	100
7/4/25	Module 5 Written Assignment: Reflection Essay_(PLG1)	Assignment	100
7/11/25	Module 6 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
7/11/25	Module 6 Assignment: Film Worksheet 1	Assignment	100
7/11/25	Module 6 Assignment: Film Worksheet 2	Assignment	100

Date Due	Name (link)	Event Type	Points
7/11/25	Module 6 Discussion: The Cold War and Aviation	Discussion	100
7/11/25	Module 6 Written Assignment: Essay (PLG1)	Assignment	100
7/18/25	Module 7 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
7/18/25	Module 7 Assignment: Film Worksheet	Assignment	100
7/18/25	Module 7 Assignment: Final Essay Film Proposal (PLG1)	Assignment	100
7/18/25	Module 7 Discussion: The Right Stuff	Discussion	100
7/25/25	Module 8 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
7/25/25	Module 8 Assignment: Film Worksheet 1	Assignment	100
7/25/25	Module 8 Assignment: Film Worksheet 2	Assignment	100
7/25/25	Module 8 Discussion: Top Guns	Discussion	100
8/1/25	Module 9 Assignment: Film Viewing	Assignment	
8/1/25	Module 9 Assignment: Film Worksheet	Assignment	100
8/1/25	Module 9 Assignment: Final Essay (PLG1)	Assignment	100
8/1/25	Module 9 Discussion: Boîte noire (Black Box)	Discussion	100

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Last Updated: 02/12/2023

By: Dr. Marie Lathers