

FILM 180
FILM CULTURE

BULLETIN INFORMATION

FILM 180 - Film Culture (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

How the film industry developed and the impact the movies have had on global popular culture. Does not count toward the film studies major.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

In roughly 120 years, motion pictures have rapidly evolved from silent depictions of everyday life to multi-million-dollar entertainment spectacles. We've all grown up watching movies; but aside from our likes and dislikes, how many of us have really tried to dissect their meaning? What are the techniques that go into making movies? How do these techniques convey meaning? What do movies say about our culture and, in turn, how does society influence the movies? By taking this course, you will learn how to find answers to these questions and gain a greater appreciation of the aesthetic and cultural importance of the motion picture art form.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Film 180, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the formal techniques through which media create meaning (e.g., cinematography, editing, narrative, sound)
2. Analyze how these techniques are used in examples of specific film forms to produce particular meanings and effects
3. Identify and discuss the role of the director, art director, cinematographer, editor, writer, sound designer, and composer
4. Discuss the impact specific films have had on popular culture
5. Synthesize analyses and construct compelling interpretive arguments
6. Present ideas in writing through clear and well-supported, thesis-driven papers.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. Gianetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. 12th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2010.
2. Course films and videos as assigned.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM

1. Quizzes, in-class assignments, class participation
2. Two film analysis papers, 2-3 pages each
3. Midterm Exam

4. Final Exam

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

SECTION I: FILM LANGUAGE AND FILM HISTORY

- Week 1:** Introduction to the Course
Reading: Ch. 1: pp. 1-43, Photography
Handout: Basic Elements of Film Language
- Week 2:** Reading: Ch. 2: pp. 44-91, Mise-en-Scène
Lecture: Timeline of the Birth of Cinema
Film: *Forrest Gump* (Robert Zemeckis, 1994, 142 mins.)
- Week 3:** Reading: Ch.3: pp. 92-130, Movement
Reading: Ch. 4: pp. 131-200. Editing
Lecture: Film in the 1950s
Lecture: Editing
- Week 4:** Reading: Ch. 11: pp. 463-469 “The Auteur Theory”
Lecture: The Film School Generation
Film: *AmoresPerros* (Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu, 2000, 153 mins.)
- Week 5:** Reading: Ch. 5: pp. 201-236, Sound
Film: *The King’s Speech* (Tom Hooper, 2010, 118 mins.)
- Week 6:** Review for Midterm Exam
Midterm Exam
- Week 7:** SECTION II: FILM THEORY
Ideology and Class
Reading: Ch. 10: pp. 402-446, Ideology
Reading: Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses”
Lecture: The Political Spectrum Chart
Lecture: Class and Ideology---Marx and Althusser
- Week 8:** Film: *Never Let Me Go* (Mark Romanek, 2010, 103 mins.)
First Film Analysis Paper due
- Week 9:** Race
Reading: Omi and Winant, “Racial Formation”
Film: *Battle at Elderbush Gulch* (D.W. Griffith, 1913, 29 mins.)

- Week 10:** Masculinity
Reading: Thompson, "We Should Reject Traditional Masculinity"
Film: *Planet of the Apes* (Franklin J. Schaffner, 1968, 112 mins.)
- Week 11:** Femininity and Sexuality
Reading: Houston, "Psychoanalytic Criticism"
Reading: Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"
Handout: Mulvey in 4 Easy Steps
- Week 12:** Lecture: Timeline of the Ratings System
Film: *Black Swan* (Darren Aronofsky, 2010, 108 mins.)
- Week 13:** Narrative
Reading: Ch. 8: pp. 330-366, Story
Reading: Simmons, "Is Contemporary American Independent Film Classical or Radical?"
- Week 14:** Film: *Moon* (Duncan Jones, 2008, 97 mins.)
Review for Final Exam
Second Film Analysis Paper due
- Week 15:** **Final Exam according to University exam schedule**