**Syllabus:** Film Appreciation  
**Course Number:** DRAM 2366/COMM 2366  
**Semester & Year:**

**Instructor Information**

Name: Michael Cooper  
 Office: Studio 109  
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 Office Hours:

**Textbook Information**

The Art of Watching Films; Petrie/Boggs; 9th edition; ISBN: 978-0-07-338617-1

**Student Learning Outcomes for the Course**

Reading – Interpret knowledge from text for quizzes.

Writing – Produce essays on films relating to specific and varied criteria (i.e., editing, color, acting, special effects, etc.)

Listening – Interpret classroom information from viewing discussing specific film genres.

Critical Thinking – Incorporate information from class and text and relate to specific film assignments.

Computer Literacy – Produce critical essays following instructions for preparation and presentation.

**Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates**

This is an introductory course which surveys film as an art form, a business, and a means of communication. As you will see, we will have extensive screenings and analyses of representative films, and will examine how film works technically, artistically and culturally.

# ESSAYS

Students will write an Essay on each film shown in class, as well as 5 additional Essays (description follows):

All essays (excepting the Final) must be typewritten (12 pt. font), double-spaced, and a **minimum of** **ONE FULL PAGE** in length. Criteria for the Essays on films shown in class appears on the Schedule.

Please note that the dated class essays will be accepted at full credit for up to a week after the due date. After that, when turned in, they will be dropped **one letter grade per week.**

In addition to the films shown in class , you must view and submit essays on **5** additional films: **3** from the AFI list of ‘Greatest American Films’ and **2** from current films being shown in a theatre. . Criteria for the additional Essays is of your own choosing.

**Note:** **In NO case should an Essay be a re-hashing of the storyline of the film (filler), except in how it relates to the subject matter.**

# QUIZZES

Quizzes will be based on Chapter readings, and will be given at the end of each class, after the film. They will be short and, more often than not, multiple-choice. Quizzes are related to the Essay for the film being watched that day – see the Schedule of Events for specifics.

**FILM SCREENING RULES**

A film will be screened in each class period. Because of the length of some of the films, class will ALWAYS begin PROMPTLY.

Once the film is started, the classroom door will be locked. NO ONE may enter after the film begins – there will be NO tardies allowed.

In addition, if you leave the classroom during the viewing, you may not re-enter until the film is over.

We will watch all films to the end of the production credits.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to locate the film you missed (good luck with some of them!) so that you can write the required Essay. See under ‘Make-Up Policy’ regarding missed Quizzes and Essay due dates.

Note: this is a COLLEGE course – some films contain adult themes and subject matter. At all times you are expected to behave in a mature manner. Disrupting the viewings for other class members is not acceptable (keep your comments during the screenings to yourself) and will result in immediate dropping from the class.

**CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN IN THE CLASSROOM DURING THE SCREENINGS!!!**

You will be dropped from the class if you are reported to use your phone or text during the film.  
  
**Student Assessment**

Grades will be based on an averaging of quizzes and short essays.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** |  |
| **A** | 90-100 |
| **B** | 80-89 |
| **C** | 70-79 |
| **D** | 60-69 |
| **F** | 59-below |

**Class Schedule**

See the distributed Schedule of Events, which specifically lists the Screenings for each class.

**Attendance Policy**

Obviously, attendance is Mandatory!!! You have to see the Films. Also, even though you may have seen the film before, your understanding and appreciation of the film will be improved by seeing it again, especially in the context of the ways in which we are examining it for class. I will not deduct from your grade for absences – HOWEVER you are responsible for the content of all classes (Essays and Quizzes – there will be a Quiz at each class). In addition, as this class only meets once a week, you will have missed a week of class for each absence – therefore, I will DROP you from the course after 3 absences.

CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN IN CLASS!!!!! (Unless you are a medical professional on call, or have another good reason that you have okayed with me) First offense will be given a warning, Second offense will result in you being dropped from the class!!!

**Make-up Policy**

There is one day on the schedule that is reserved to make-up any missed Quizzes. Also note there is a date identifying the latest you may turn in any delinquent Essays.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, col­lusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <https://texarkanacollege.edu>.

**Disability Act Statement:**

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations..

**Financial Aid:**

**Attention!** Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

*TC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Human Resources Director, 2500 N. Robison Rd., Texarkana, TX, 75599, (903) 823-3017,* [*human.resources@texarkanacollege.edu*](mailto:human.resources@texarkanacollege.edu)

*Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing enough food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in this course or ability to remain in school, is urged to contact Tonja Blasé, Director of Student Retention, at 903.823.3349 for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess*