



Syllabus: Development of the Motion Picture I/Introduction to Film (Film Appreciation)

Course Number: DRAM 2366/COMM 2366

Semester & Year: Spring 2014

Instructor Information

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Textbook Information

The Art of Watching Films; Petrie/Boggs; 8th 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.

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.

EXTRA CREDIT

DVDs are available for viewing on loan from me. These deal with film production, cinematography, film editing, etc. Essays may be turned in on any of these for Extra Credit.

Two particular DVDs (*The Cutting Edge – The Magic of Movie Editing*, and *Visions of Light – The Art of Cinematography*) are full-length films and are worth 3 Extra Credits each.

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.