

FILM 2A - HISTORY OF CINEMA 1895-1960 (#53307)

Reedley College – Fall 2020

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A journey back in time...

...to the birth of cinema, through the early decades that paved the way for modern movies. Film 2A is a class that informs students on the history of movies...where and how they started with particular attention to how technological advancements shaped the medium over time. It will cover the key people and events that impacted cinema through a filmmaking industry that is a conflation of art and business. The class will also analyze how movies act as both an influence and reflection of the society (and history) from which they were made.

Upon successfully completing this class, a student should be able to identify and analyze significant moments in the development of film technology, the evolution of genres (with respect to a film's historical and social context), the fundamental elements of film form and style as well as the development of key filmic techniques and also report (in chronological order) the main currents of early film history.

Be prepared to: Watch films. Take notes. Ask questions. Do research. Write papers. Take tests. Show interest (even if you have to fake it). Think critically. Participate in Zoom discussions. Participate on Canvas.

Textbook: American Film: A History, 2nd edition, Jon Lewis

Policies: Late work will be accepted for partial credit with instructor's approval (5% deduction for each day late).

Note: this does not apply to the final project and its components or the final test. If a test is not taken on the date of the test, a make-up test may be arranged at the discretion of the instructor and may be subject to a late penalty. In the event of plagiarism (see Schedule of Courses for more information) the student will fail the assignment or the class at the discretion of the instructor (depending on the nature and severity of the offense).

Participation in Zoom discussions is the primary factor in the participation grade. There will be 6-10 Zoom sessions this semester (with varied times) and students will need to plan for attending at least 2 of those. This minimum (of 2) will yield a 70% for the participation grade. However, if a student attends more Zoom sessions (above 2) this will increase the participation grade.

Grading: Grading will be based on a point system.

90% A 80% B 70% C 60% D 50% F (of total points available in class)

(1)	1. Midterm essay	20
(1)	2. Final essay	40
(6-8)	3. Tests	10-40
(1-3)	4. Short essays	10
	5. Homework assignments	2-4
	6. Quizzes	
	7. Participation	30

Final drop date: Friday, Oct. 9, 2020

*instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus as deemed necessary or appropriate.

*Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.