

FILM 1

INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES (#52630)

Reedley College – Spring 2021

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For the love of film...

There is a difference between the casual movie going experience and taking a class in film studies. The “studies” denotes a certain level of examination and rigor that elevates “seeing a movie” to experiencing and understanding film on a completely different level. This class aims to expose students to a wide range of films in order to better understand techniques in direction, cinematography, sound, editing, and lighting. We will view and examine entire films (as well as scenes) in order to better understand historical and social context and genre development.

Upon successfully completing this class, a student should be able to observe and analyze various elements of a film, critique films through discussion and writing with regard to social and historical context, and demonstrate a basic knowledge and application of various film theories.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Demonstrate an understanding of some main issues of film theory and film criticism
Demonstrate an understanding of the varieties of filmic meaning
Recognize and explain the role of photography, editing, and sound in film narratives

*Student Learning Outcomes are statements about what the discipline faculty hope you will be able to do at the end of the course. This is NOT a guarantee: the ultimate responsibility for whether you will be able to do these things lies with you, the student. In addition, the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes is done by the department in order to evaluate the program as a whole, and not to evaluate individual faculty performance.

Be prepared to:

Participate online. View 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 meetings.

Textbooks: Anatomy of Film, 6th edition, Bernard F. Dick

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 paper or the final test (no late final papers or final tests allowed).** 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).

The meeting participation grade is based on attending Zoom meetings. There will be approximately 10 Zoom meetings this semester and students should plan for attending at least 2 of those. This minimum (of 2) will yield a 70% for the meeting participation grade (21/30). However, if a student attends more Zoom meetings (above 2) this will increase the participation grade. A student will gain 2 points for each additional meeting (for example: 3 meetings (23/30), 4 meetings (25/30)...). It will most likely be possible to exceed the 30 points allotted for meeting participation.

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)

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|-------|--|-------------------|
| (1) | 1. Midterm essay | 20 pts. |
| (1) | 2. Final essay | 40 pts. |
| (5-6) | 3. Tests (includes a comprehensive final test) | 20-40 pts. |
| (5-6) | 4. Module quizzes | 4-8 pts. |
| | 5. Meeting participation (Zoom meetings) | 30 pts. |

Final drop date: Friday, March 12, 2021

*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.