

FILM 2A -- HISTORY OF CINEMA 1895-1960 (#55216)

Reedley College – Fall 2023 3:30-4:45pm TTH in FRM 1

Ryan LaSalle contacts: ryan.lasalle@reedleycollege.edu 559-638-0300 (ext. 3125)

Final drop date: Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 Final: Tuesday, Dec. 5 3pm

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and recognize the main events of early film history, the birth and development of genres, and the significant developments in film technology.
- Identify and analyze cinematography and editing techniques used in films to create intention and meaning.
- Complete 2000 words of essay prose using MLA format and citations, with a clear thesis and supporting evidence, focused on film analysis (which includes film form and style) as it relates to the history of film.
- Analyze films and filmic techniques from diverse interpretive angles such as historical impact, cultural or artistic influence, or intention vs. audience comprehension. Discover the hidden social values of films through the study of their criticism.

*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.

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

Policies: 4 absences allowed without penalty. Subsequent absences result in a loss of participation points (however, further absences may be excused for medical/health reasons—contact instructor ASAP when requiring further excused absences). Late work will be accepted for partial credit with a 5% deduction for each week late.

Note: this does not apply to the final paper or the final test (no late final papers or final tests unless approved by instructor). If a test/quiz is not taken by the due date, the test/quiz may be unlocked by contacting the instructor and requesting a makeup attempt. 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).

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 pts. |
| (1) | 2. Final essay | 40 pts. |
| (6-8) | 3. Tests | 10-40 pts. |
| (1-3) | 4. Short essays | 10 pts. |
| | 5. Homework assignments | 2-4 pts. |
| | 6. Module quizzes | 4-8 pts. |
| | 7. Participation | 20 pts. |

*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.