**Introduction to Film Studies ~ Spring 2024**

**Course Code: 53313**

**Class Meets Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:15**

**Location: Forum Hall**

**Instructor: K. Watts**

**Email: Contact through Canvas Inbox**

**Office Hours:** Monday Forum 8 2-3 pm; Tuesday Forum 8 10-12 am; Wednesday Forum 8 2-3 pm; Thursday Forum 8 10-11 am; Friday 2-3 pm via Zoom, and by appointment

**Office Hour Zoom Link:** [**https://scccd.zoom.us/j/94160419991**](https://scccd.zoom.us/j/94160419991)

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with important analytical tools for viewing film. In acquiring these tools, you will discover that developing a more sophisticated, analytical eye and mind enhances rather than detracts from the pleasure of watching films. First, we will examine various components of filmmaking-- the choices filmmakers can make in telling a story in visual and aural terms--with a concentration on shot analysis. Then, we will focus on the knowledge and application of film theory.

**Course Schedule**

I post schedules for each unit one at a time. We spend approximately four weeks on each unit. I reserve the right to make any changes to the schedule. If any changes are made, you will be notified immediately.

**Expectations**

For assignments in this class, I expect you to be familiar with MLA conventions including formatting, the use and integration of quotations, and the assembly of both an annotated bibliography and a works cited page. Assistance is also available through the Reading and Writing Center, or students can reference sites, such as Purdue OWL ([https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\_owl.html (Links to an external site.)](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)) for information regarding MLA and standard writing practices required for this course.

**Technology:**

Always use Chrome as your browser. While your phone can show you some materials, many materials will NOT be available to you on your phone or in another browser. All uploaded documents MUST be in Microsoft Word. I will not accept Google Docs or any other format.

Please review the “How To” videos posted in the Week 1 module for valuable information including how to download a free version of Word.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

SL01: Demonstrate an understanding of some main issues of film theory and film criticism

SL02: Demonstrate an understanding of the varieties of filmic meaning

SL03: Recognize and explain the role of photography, editing, and sound in film narratives

**Required Texts and Materials**

In addition to the required text listed below, there may be additional content or readings that will be provided via Canvas in the form of PDFs or digital media. Please be sure to thoroughly read announcements and the course calendar for detailed instructions regarding the reading materials required in each unit of this course. All of the films will be provided to you; however, I am recording on a mediocre laptop, so the quality is not perfect. I suggest watching the films on streaming services, such as Amazon or Netflix, whenever possible. We watch the films together in class, but it is important to review crucial scenes and sequences or even rewatch an entire film.

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|  | **Anatomy of Film**  Edition: 6th  ISBN: 9780312487119  Author: Dick  Publisher: Bedford Saint Martin's (MPS)  Formats: PAPERBACK |

**Communication**

Please always make sure to check both our course site and your district email for announcements as well as other essential course information. All emails should be sent using the Canvas email function. All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line and begin with “Dear Ms. Watts….” Or “Hi Ms. Watts……” I will respond to your emails as soon as possible; however, if you email me late in the evening during the week (and sometimes after 8 is late for me!), don’t expect to hear back from me until the following day. Feel free to email me any time of the day or night- I do not get email notifications, so you will not be waking me up if you email late at night. I will be available over the weekends, but not in the evenings. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, please resend your email as that would indicate a problem with your first transmission.  Please review the video "Using Proper and Professional Etiquette" presented by the Reading and Writing Center:

**Course Requirements and Grading**

There are six major assignments in this class. There will be a midterm essay, a final essay, three major tests, and a final exam. Worksheets are assignments that prepare you for the essays. Multiple choice quizzes or tests will be given approximately every two weeks and forum assignments are due weekly. (Please note, if you fail to write one of the required essays, it will be very difficult for you to pass the class.)

**Talking Points**: Talking points are a requirement of this class. Once our roster is finalized, students will be assigned talking points for each class. Students will ask a question or present an argument about our current film and then the class discusses the issue. If you are absent from class or if you are not prepared for your talking point, you will be docked five points. I am happy to reschedule your talking point if you contact me BEFORE class. Talking points will be assigned in alphabetical order. We will practice talking points before they begin so students are comfortable with this assignment.

**Tests & Quizzes:** Three major tests and three scheduled quizzes (180 points)

**Forums:** (Worth approx. 150 Points)Forum posts are due by 11:59 pm every Sunday. If the posts indicate the student has not read the assigned materials, there will be no credit for that post.

**Midterm Essay:** (Worth 100 points)

**Final Essay:** (Worth 100 points)

**Final Exam:** (Worth 30 points) Multiple choice exam.

Grading will be based on a point system. Students must receive a 70% or better in order to receive credit for the class.

**Grading Scale: 90% = A; 80% = B; 70% = C; 60% = D, 50% = F**

**The Reading and Writing Center:**

The Reading and Writing Center is accessible virtually through their Canvas Course Site: students must enroll (open enrollment at no cost) in this course to access the free resources and book appointments with peer tutors. Use this link to self-enroll in the Reading and Writing Center course now: [https://scccd.instructure.com/enroll/LN9B8C](/enroll/LN9B8C)

For more information about available services at the Reading and Writing Center or how to book an appointment with a peer tutor, please watch the two tutorial videos located at the top of the Helpful How-To Videos page located in the Student Resources module.

**Course Policies**

**Phones:**

**Phones must be out of view throughout the entire class.** A significant body of research demonstrates that when students engage in off-task behavior on their devices, **it hurts the learning of the peers sitting near them**. In one study, students who were *not* using a device in a class lecture, but were seated *within view of a peer with a device*, performed 17% worse on an exam based on that lecture material than students who were not within view of someone else’s device. Hence the first purpose of this policy is to ensure that your devices are not harming the learning of your peers and interfering with their viewing.

**Attendance:**

Students will be dropped after four absences.

**Late Policy**:

You will be docked one letter grade for every day your essay is late. After the third day, I will no longer accept your work. Weekends count as days. I do not accept late work for quizzes, tests, worksheets, or forums. All assignments, except for the essays, are locked at midnight on the due date.

If for some reason you cannot access Canvas to post an assignment, wait a few minutes and try again. If Canvas is down for a substantial length of time, you may email the assignment to [kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu). I will record that you submitted the assignment on time; however, I will require you to submit the assignment to Canvas again as soon as it is available.

**Lack of Effort Statement:**

Your instructors at Reedley College want you to be successful in your classes and therefore expect you to submit your best work. Successful students in reading and writing classes make sure that they carefully address the prompt, proofread their writing, and follow MLA guidelines. Please note that an instructor may choose to read only the first page or less of an assignment and return it to you with little or no feedback if the paper demonstrates poor effort in areas such as, but not limited to, following directions, meeting the minimum requirements, and basic skills; this paper will receive a failing grade.  Successful students do the following: follow their instructor’s instructions, pay attention to the appropriate syllabus and rubric requirements, attend class regularly, seek assistance from the Reading and Writing Center, and ask their instructor for guidance during his/her office hours DAYS BEFORE their paper is due.

**Trigger Warnings:**

All films for this class are R-rated and, as such, contain adult material. I alert students before the film about anything I feel they might find offensive; however, I cannot know what every student might find "triggering." Therefore, it is up to you to research the film's content ahead of viewing. In certain circumstances, I can provide an alternative assignment. With that said, all of the films we watch in this class are highly regarded iconic texts.

**Extra Credit:**

One point of extra credit will be given to the student who first detects any error on my part throughout the semester and emails me to point out the error. This includes typos. There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester, such as special events or live readings, which will be announced as they become available. Instructions on how to earn the extra credit for these opportunities will be given when they are announced.

**Academic Honesty:**

The Reedley College English department has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined on page 48 of the Reedley College Catalog as follows:

“Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.”

Please note the use of ANY AI platform is cheating.

If I determine you have cheated or plagiarized, I will refer you to the Dean of Humanities office for disciplinary action. Until you meet with the Dean once he has received the report, your account with the District will be frozen. You will receive zero credit for the assignment. This could result in a failing grade for the semester.

**Accommodations:**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me **as soon as possible.**This is extremely important. Your need for accommodation MUST be verified by DSPS. If you produce verification of this information at the beginning of the semester any need for the extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.

**Canvas:**

All course announcements, the course schedule, assignments, and your grades are available on our Canvas course site. It is the student's responsibility to stay engaged and up-to-date with the course.

**\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this material at any time.\***