

FILM 1
INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

Reedley College – Fall 2016

M/W 3:30-4:45 FRM 1

Instructor: Kate Watts

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Class 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. Our theme this semester will be 'road movies.' In every film we will watch, the characters are somehow either forced or want to 'go on the road.' Many of our films exploit or manipulate the traditional idea of the 'road movie.' This theme will aid in our understanding of narrative structure—one of the most important components of filmmaking.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successfully completing this class, a student will 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.

Required Texts and Materials:

An Introduction to Film Analysis, Ryan and Lenos (ISBN 978-0-8264-3002-1)

1 three-ring binder or other folder to organize and keep the syllabus, readings, handouts and your writing.

An electronic system to back up ALL of your writing—flash drive, email or server. Do not rely on blackboard to save your work.

An Amazon account is useful but not required. All films will be on reserve in the library, but not until the class has completed the viewing. Films can be rented or purchased for very little. Multiple viewings will be a major contribution to your success in this class.

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 to kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu. All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line and begin with "Dear Mrs.

Watts....” Or “Dear Professor Watts...” The language used in emails should be the same kind of language that you would use in an essay. Please note that my Friday office hours are virtual-you will be able to get me via email between 2 and 3 every Friday. 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. I will be available over the weekends, but not in the evenings.

Decorum & Policies: This is not a movie theater- it is a classroom. Do not come late to class. Do not leave early through the back door. If this time does not work for you, drop the class. If there is any talking, or other behavior that is rude to your instructor and your classmates, you will be asked to leave. If you miss a film, it is your responsibility to view the film either on your own. Films are available on reserve in the library after the class has completed watching the film. Two absences within the first 9 weeks of class will cause the student to be dropped from the class. After the roster is finalized, there will be a seating chart. Talking points will be assigned once our roster is finalized. Students who are not in class when assigned talking points will be docked 5 points. Students who are not prepared for their talking point or whose talking point demonstrates they have not done the reading or watched the film will be docked 5 points.

Blackboard: The syllabus, lectures, course readings and all grades will be available on Blackboard.

Late Essay 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. Note: this does not apply to the final project and its components or the final exam. NO MAKE UPS for Quick Writes, quizzes or tests-please do not ask.

Grading: Grading will be based on a point system. (90-100 A) (80-89 B) (70-79 C) 60-69 D) (0-59 F) Students must receive a 70% or better in order to receive credit for the class. Tests and quick write grades are available in one to two days. Essay grades are available in 10 days to two weeks.

1. Midterm essay	100
3. Final essay	200
4. Tests/Worksheets	300
5. Quick Writes	TBD

ACADEMIC HONESTY: The Reedley College English department has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. All of the writing done in this class must be your own. This includes all worksheets, tests, quick writes and essays. You cannot use work from another class in this class. Additionally, if, instead of making your own decisions about how to revise, you have someone revise or edit an essay for you, the piece you submit is no longer your own work, and you are plagiarizing. If I determine you have committed plagiarism, I will refer you to the Dean of Student's

office for disciplinary action. You will receive zero credit for the assignment. In addition, I will email the Dean of Humanities, the Chair of the English department and the Vice President of Instruction with the particulars of your offense.

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 in the beginning of the semester any need for extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.

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