

**FILM 1
INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES**

Reedley College – Spring 2017

Tuesday 6:00-8:50 FRM 1

Instructor: Kate Watts

Email: Canvas Inbox feature

Phone: 559-638-3641 (ext. 3406)

Office: HUM 52

Office hours: T 3-5, W 12-1, F 2-3 (virtual) and by appointment

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. 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:

Ryan, Michael and Melissa Lenos. *An Introduction to Film Analysis*

The textbook is REQUIRED. The book is the foundation of the thinking in this classroom. You will be tested on the reading material frequently.

1 three-ring binder or other folder to organize and keep the syllabus, readings, handouts and your writing. It is imperative that you read and annotate the assigned readings carefully. You will be asked to refer to the reading often-having them in one place along with your writing helps to keep you organized and successful in a demanding 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 the Canvas Inbox. All emails should 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-NOT “Yo dude, where u at?” 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, or in the library. 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:

Once the roster is finalized, we will begin ‘talking points.’ This means that each class period, five students are assigned talking points. Talking points are meant to give every student in the class a voice and also to generate discussion. Your talking point should be constructed with this in mind. We will practice talking points before beginning them formally. If you are absent or not prepared for your talking point, you will be docked 5 points. If you know you must miss a class period when your talking point is scheduled, let me know ahead of time and it might be possible to reschedule depending on the nature of your absence.

GRADING:

Grading will be based on a point system.

[90%A 80%B 70%C 60%D 50%F]

1. Midterm Essay	100
3. Final essay	200
4. Tests/Worksheets	300
5. Quick Writes (5 pts. each)	TBD

EXTRA CREDIT:

The author T.C. Boyle will be visiting campus on March 16. He will be speaking and reading in the cafeteria at 7 pm as part of the One Book/One College program. Students who read his short story "Greasy Lake," attend the event and write a 2-page response to the story and the event will receive 10 extra credit points.

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 homework assignments, discussion board posts 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

ACCOMODATIONS:

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.