

FILM 1

INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES (#50539)

Reedley College – Fall 2020

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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.

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 discussions.

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).

Participation in Zoom discussions is the primary factor in the participation grade. There will be 6-10 Zoom sessions this semester (with varied times) and students will need to plan for attending at least 2 of those. This minimum (of 2) will yield a 70% for the participation grade. However, if a student attends more Zoom sessions (above 2) this will increase the participation grade.

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
(1)	2. Final essay	40
(6-8)	3. Tests	10-40
	(includes a comprehensive final test)	
	4. Reading quizzes	4-8
	5. Participation (Zoom discussions)	30

Final drop date: Oct. 9, 2020

*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.