

Humanities & Religious Studies 180: The Film

CSUS spring 2007

Thursday 6.0-8.50 MND 4004
call number 22928 section 1

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Catalog description

HRS 180. The Film. Introduction to the aesthetics of cinema with special attention to the evolution of a critical theories of cinema within the framework of twentieth century arts and ideas.

General Education Area C2: Introduction to the Arts

Learning objectives

1. Develop an understanding of how films communicate
2. Develop an ability to analyze films
3. Improve writing and oral communication skills

Course description

The course will cover different analytical approaches to the study of film, such as stylistic and comparative analysis. It will apply those approaches to movies through discussion and written essays.

What you will have to do

read the assigned material
learn the terminology and concepts of film analysis
analyze, compare, and discuss cinematic works of art
see ideas and styles expressed in films
write essays about the material read and discussed, and the films shown in class

How the course works

The course focuses on different ways to analyze films. The basis for discussion will be the text by Giannetti and the films viewed in class.

Before we take up a particular assigned reading I will ask for three or four volunteers for the scheduled discussion. Students will be graded on how well they discuss the assigned reading in class. Everyone is required to do one discussion assignment.

The first time a student does not show up for an assigned discussion, it may be made up by doing two more. For a second no-show, there is no make-up. Make-up discussions will not be possible the last week of the semester.

The midterm and the final examination will involve both multiple-choice and essay questions. The tests must be taken on a Scantron Form no. 886-E. There will be no make-ups. I will drop the lower grade of the two tests, so that your higher grade will count for both.

Two short papers are required, one on a film seen in class, the other on a film viewed outside class. The papers are due on the dates specified in the schedule. Late papers will be accepted up to one week after the due date but will be docked one letter grade.

In-class time will be spent discussing the assigned readings and watching films. In general, the first 35 to 50 minutes will be devoted to discussion. Then there will be a 10 minute break; everyone is expected to return within that time. The last 110 to 125 minutes will be used to view a complete film. I will occasionally talk over the film to make relevant comments, but everyone else should watch without making oral comments to the class or to one another. Laughter is permitted.

The class may occasionally go a few minutes past the official class time.

Requirements

read the assigned text
discuss one of the reading assignments in class
write a short reaction paper about a film seen in class
write a review of a film not seen in class
take one of the two tests

Grades will be computed as follows:

Discussion	20%
Analysis paper	20%
Film review	20%
Midterm or final exam	<u>40%</u>
	100%

The attached grade scale (on a later page) shows the numerical values of letter grades.

Expectations

take the course seriously

- have the assignments ready on time

- attend class

- pay attention

don't disrupt the class

- be on time

- don't carry on private conversations, including during the movies

Taping

- do not tape the class

Laptop and cell phone regulation:

No photographing, recording or text messaging is allowed without permission of the instructor.

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty will be punished by a grade of zero on the particular assignment or failure in the course. See the Student Tutorial on how not to plagiarize: <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>

Disability

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955.

Please discuss your accommodations needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

Assigned text

Louis Giannetti, Understanding movies, 10th edition
course packet of assignments

Notice

The requirements as stated in this syllabus are subject to change.

SCHEDULE

	reading	topic	film
2/1		introduction	Maltese Falcon
2/8	Giannetti 1	photography	The Graduate
2/15	G2	mise en scène	Casablanca
2/22	G3	movement	Yojimbo
3/1	G4	editing	North by Northwest Birth of a Nation (clip)
3/8		midterm	Studio System; Western
3/15	G5	sound	Bonnie and Clyde
3/22	G6	acting	The Lion in Winter
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4/5	G7	drama	The Searchers
4/12	G8	story	Philadelphia Story
		analysis of film seen in class due 4/12	
4/19	G9	writing	A Room with a View
4/26	G10	ideology	Grand Illusion
5/3	G11	theory	Manchurian Candidate
		review of film seen outside class due 5/3	
5/10	G12	synthesis	Citizen Kane
5/17		review	Roger and Me
5/24		final exam	

Grade scale

grades will be calculated as follows:

93.3-100 = A

90.0-93.2 = A-

86.7-89.9 = B+

83.3-86.6 = B

80.0-83.2 = B-

76.7-79.9 = C+

73.3-76.6 = C

70.0-73.2 = C-

66.7-69.9 = D+

63.3-66.6 = D

60.0-63.2 = D-

0 - 59.9 = F

Letter grades will be converted to numbers as follows:

A+ = 98

A = 95

A- = 92 and so forth

F's may be anywhere from 0 to 59