Humanities & Religious Studies 180: The Film

CSUS spring 2007

Thursday 6.0-8.50  MND 4004
call number 22928  section 1

Richard Cooper
TAH 3095
office hours  Monday, Wednesday 1:30-2:30, Thursday 3.0-5.0
telephone:  278-4076
e-mail:  rcooper@saclink.csus.edu

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm or final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>reading</th>
<th>topic</th>
<th>film</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>introduction</td>
<td>Maltese Falcon</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>Giannetti 1</td>
<td>photography</td>
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<td>2/15</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>mise en scène</td>
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<td>2/22</td>
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<td>movement</td>
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<td>G8</td>
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<td>5/24</td>
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<td>final exam</td>
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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
- F's may be anywhere from 0 to 59
- A- = 92 and so forth