FILM 130 – Introduction to Film

Basic Course Information

Semester:	**Fall 2017**	Instructor Name:	**James Patterson, PhD**
Course #:	**FILM 130**	Email:	james.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	**10529**	Webpage:	http://faculty.imperial.edu/james.patterson
Classroom:	**413**	Office #:	**406**
Class Days:	**Tuesday**	Office Hours:	Monday through Thursday 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Class Times:	6:30-9:40 p.m.	Office Phone:	760.355.6486
Units:	3 Unit		

Course Description

This course will introduce the art, technology, language, and appreciation of film. Students will examine form and content, aesthetics and meaning, and history and culture. Students also will learn about basic cinematic techniques and structures as well as the roles of producer, director, actor, and cinematography.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze film as a technology, business, cultural production/artifact, entertainment medium, and art form.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, interpret, and write about film using film-specific language.
3. Demonstrate visual literacy through the application of analytical tools of categories, theories, and ideologies of cinematic arts.
4. Recognize and analyze formal elements of cinematic arts (i.e., cinematography, editing, mise-en-scene, sound, lighting, etc.).
5. Write analytical essays regarding technical aspects of filmmaking.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify iconographic elements pertaining to western film, horror film, and musical film genres.
2. Write short essays offering a reasoned critique of selected films.
3. Recognize and analyze contribution(s) of key members of the film production company.

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Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Textbook materials for this course will make use of online sources such as the AMC Filmsite, "Film History by Decade," written and edited by Tim Dirks.

- Optional Textbook: *Film Art: an Introduction.* 10th edition. David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The measurable learning objectives for this course will be addressed in objective quizzes and various writing assignments.

Film quizzes (12)	120
Lighting essay	10
Sound design essay	10
Cinematography essay	10
Sociological/Political essay	10
Midterm examination	20
Final examination	30

Minimum points necessary for a passing **grade of C: 165 points**

Film Quizzes: For each of the twelve films shown in class, the student will attempt a short objective quiz in Blackboard. At the end of a given class period, the quiz for that evening's film will be opened for students to attempt. Each quiz will be available for 48 hours.

Out-of-Class Assignments: In the event of instructor absences, certain class periods will need to be covered with an out-of-class assignment. For each scheduled non-class period, the student will view a selected feature film and develop and submit ten (10) multiple choice quiz items for the selected film. For each question, the student should note the correct answer and provide at least three distractors.

Essays: The student will write three short essays to demonstrate her/his understanding of three aspects of film production: cinematography, lighting, and sound design. In each essay, the student is expected to use clear and correct English grammar and punctuation. In each essay, the student will discuss the cinematography, lighting design, sound design, or sociological/political elements for one or more selected films.

1. Select a film you have seen recently or will watch again for this assignment.
2. Select one scene from the film for your analysis.

3. Analyze the scene based upon your understanding of cinematography, lighting, or sound (as appropriate).
4. Type your analysis paper in MLA format, double-spaced, left-aligned, Times New Roman 12 pt. font.
5. The paper should be more than one page but not longer than two pages of text.
6. Make sure you include bibliographic documentation for the film selected.
7. The student will save the essay as a Microsoft Word document or in PDF and upload the essay into Canvas ('Assignments').
8. Extra Credit is available for students who submit their essays for NetTutor feedback.

Late Essays or Out-of-Class Assignments will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17.

Examinations: The students will be given a midterm examination and a final examination covering all films and course content provided in class. The midterm examination will cover the first nine weeks of the semester; the final examination will cover weeks ten through fifteen of the semester.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

August 15	Introduction to the Course:	
August 22	**Pre-1920s**: Early and Experimental Film	Quiz
August 29	**1920s**: Musical: Singing in the Rain	Quiz
September 5	**1930s**: Musical: Phantom of the Opera	Quiz
September 12	Lighting: Western: True Grit	Quiz
September 19	*Instructor Absence* (Out-of-class assignment due September 26)	
September 26	Western: Open Range	Lighting Design essay, Quiz
October 3	Sound: Animation: Snow White & the Seven Dwarves	Quiz
October 10	Animation: Big Hero 6	Sound Design essay, Quiz
October 17	Cinematography & Film Production	Midterm Exam (online)
October 24	**1960s**: Horror: Halloween	Cinematography essay, Quiz
October 31	**1970s**: Horror: Trick 'r Treat	Quiz
November 7	**1980s**: Documentary: American Movie	Quiz
November 14	**1990s**: Documentary: Waiting for Superman	Political essay, Quiz
November 28	**2000s**: Super Hero: Iron Man	Quiz
December 5	Course & Instructor Evaluation	Final Examination (online)

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Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped by the instructor as of the Opening Day Roster. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absence exceeds the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. However, Dr. Patterson drops students only on the Opening Day Roster (15 Aug.) and on the Census Roster (28 Aug.).
- The student is responsible for withdrawing officially from the course. The deadline to drop with 'W' is **4 November 2017**.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices may be turned on during class. Please step out of the classroom to make or receive a call or text message. Students who bring laptop computers to class are expected to sit in the back of the classroom so their screens do not distract other students. **WARNING**: *the films shown in class are protected by international copyright law; any unauthorized recording of audio and/or visual content is a violation of copyright law.*

- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

- **WARNING**: Some of the films selected for classroom viewing will include graphic language and/or images. Students should communicate with the instructor for an alternate assignment.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. As a general rule, any three words or more taken in sequence from a published source must be identified with correct punctuation and documentation (in text and bibliographic).

- You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly cite a source, you must ask for help. <u>There is no difference between accidental and intentional plagiarism</u>.

- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- CANVAS LMS. Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: Canvas Student Login. The Canvas Student Guides Site provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- Learning Services. There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your Campus Map for the Math Lab; Reading, Writing & Language Labs; and the Study Skills Center.
- Library Services. There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center**. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services**. Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

Veteran's Center

The mission of the IVC Military and Veteran Success Center is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness

- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.

- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog.

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library Department provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this endeavor.