

FILM 130 – Introduction to Film

Basic Course Information

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|---------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Semester: | Fall 2022 | Instructor: | J D Patterson, PhD |
| Course Title: | FILM 130 | Email: | james.patterson@imperial.edu |
| CRN #: | CRN 10251 | Office #: | Office 2795 |
| CRN #: | CRN 10890 | Office Hours: | TBA |
| CRN #: | CRN 10894 | | |
| Days & Times: | Asynchronous | | |
| Units: | 3.0 units | Office Phone #: | 760-355-6486 (message only) |

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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- This is a ZTC (zero textbook cost) class. 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*. David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson. *Purchase a used copy of an earlier edition.*

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.

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|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Film quizzes (12)..... | 120 |
| Lighting essay | 10 |
| Sound design essay..... | 10 |
| Cinematography essay..... | 10 |
| Sociological/Political essay..... | 10 |
| Midterm examination | 20 |
| Final examination..... | 30 |
| Total Possible Points..... | [210] |

Minimum points necessary for a passing **grade of C: 150 points**

Film Quizzes: For each of the twelve films shown in class, the student will complete a short objective quiz in Canvas. 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.

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

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. NOTE: the student is not required to include any additional research; however, any research included in the essay will require complete and accurate bibliographic information.

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 NetTutorfeedback.

Late Essays or Out-of-Class Assignments will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 2 December 2022.

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.

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.

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.

Course Policies

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 August) and on the *Census Roster* (27 August).
- The student is responsible for withdrawing officially from the course. The deadline to drop with 'W' is **5 November 2022**.
- 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.
- Quoting from a source without identifying the quoted words with quotation marks is plagiarism.
- Failing to provide accurate and complete bibliographic information for research materials (*in-text citations and bibliography documentation*) is plagiarism.

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. There is no difference between accidental and intentional plagiarism.

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.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

| Week | Presentation | Quizzes & Due Dates |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction to Course and Early Filmmaking | |
| Week 2 | Pre-1920s: Early and Experimental Filmmaking | Quiz |
| Week 3 | 1920s: <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> [1:31:39] | Quiz |
| Week 4 | Lighting: Basic Lighting Techniques and Strategies <i>1920s: Within Our Gates</i> [1:20:04] | |
| Week 5 | 1930s: <i>Little Caesar</i> [1:38:39] | Quiz |
| Week 6 | 1940s: <i>The Stranger</i> [1:34:58] | Quiz, Lighting Design |
| Week 7 | Sound: Basic Sound Recording and Production | |
| Week 8 | 1950s: <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> [1:43:00] Musical | Quiz |
| Week 9 | 1960s: <i>True Grit</i> [2:08:00] Western | Quiz, Sound Design, and midterm exam |
| Week 10 | Cinematography: Elements and Techniques | Quiz |
| Week 11 | 1970s: <i>Halloween</i> [1:31:00] (1978) Horror | Quiz |
| Week 12 | Propaganda in Film: <i>Casablanca</i> [1:42:00] | Quiz, Cinematography |
| Week 13 | 1980s: <i>Before Stonewall</i> [1:27:00] (1984) Documentary | Quiz |
| Week 14 | 1990s: <i>Boyz N the Hood</i> (1991) John Singleton's debut [1:52:00] | Quiz, Propaganda |
| Week 15 | 2000s: <i>Amores Perros</i> [2:34:00] (2000) | Quiz |
| Week 16 | Course Evaluation & Final Examination | Final Examination |

Subject to change without prior notice



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