

FILM 130 – Introduction to Film

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2023	Instructor:	J D Patterson, PhD DBS
Course Title:	FILM 130	Email:	jenn.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10251 10890 10894	Office #:	Office 2795
Days & Times:	Asynchronous	Office Hours:	Will be announced during the first week of the semester
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.

Film quizzes (12).....	120
Lighting essay	10
Cinematography essay.....	10
Sociological/Political essay.....	10
Midterm examination	20
Final examination.....	30
Total Possible Points.....	[200]

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.

- **1st WARNING:** Most films viewed in this class are covered by copyright law. Students may not record any audio or video for their personal use.
- **2nd 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.

Essays: The student will write three short essays to demonstrate her/his understanding of two aspects of film production: **lighting** 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 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; in fact, Dr. Patterson prefers that students do not include any outside information in their papers. However, any research included in the essay will require complete and accurate MLA citations and bibliographic documentation.
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. The NetTutor feedback report should be uploaded along with the essay. Canvas is set to accept multiple submissions.

Late Essays or Out-of-Class Assignments will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 1 December 2023.

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 three weeks of the summer; the final examination will cover the last three weeks.

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* and on the *Census Roster*.

- The student is responsible for withdrawing officially from the course.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

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. IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning.

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. This includes AI-generated texts.
- 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.

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.

Tentative Schedule

This class will follow a roughly chronological review of the beginnings of filmmaking through the 20th Century of U.S. Film Industry and into the 21st Century.