



FILM 130 – Introduction to Film

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2025	Instructor Name:	Jennifer Patterson, PhD
Course Title & #:	FILM 130	Email:	jenn.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20258 and 20893	Office #:	Office 2795
Class Days & Times:	Asynchronous	Office Hours:	Mon. & Wed. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday 11:00-Noon Thursday 11:00-Noon (Zoom only)
Units:	3 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 Learning Objectives for a Passing Grade

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 TimDirks.
- Sharman, Russell. *Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Cinema*. LibreTexts Projects, 2023.
- Optional Textbook: *Film Art: an Introduction*. David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson. *Purchase a used copy of an earlier edition.*

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 (14).....	140
Lighting essay	10
Cinematography essay.....	10
Midterm examination	20
Final examination.....	30
Total Possible Points.....	[210]

Minimum points necessary for a passing **grade of C: 160 points**

Film Quizzes: For each of the 14 films shown in class, the student will complete a short objective quiz in Canvas.

- **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**.

**California Common Core Standards, Grades 9-10
Writing Standards #4**

The student will “produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.”

In each essay, the student will discuss the lighting or cinematographic elements for one scene in a selected film. In each essay, the student is expected to use clear and correct English grammar and punctuation.

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, TimesNew 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 encouraged to not conduct any outside research. 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 Tutor feedback. The IVC Tutoring 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, 30 May 2025.

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 half of the semester/term; the final examination will cover the last half of the semester/term.

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.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through *DSPS*, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Decorum

What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, and (9) use appropriate language

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 bibliographic documentation) is plagiarism.
- The use of any AI-generation software is plagiarism.

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty or plagiarism.

The student 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; and/or
- (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped from the Opening Day Roster by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. A student who fails to attend the second meeting of the class will be dropped on the Census 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. The deadline to drop with “W” is **10 May 2025**.
- Dr. Patterson only drops students on the Opening Day Roster and the Census Roster.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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	Topic
Week 1	Early Technology & Key Actos
Week 2	Narrative and Non-narrative Filmmaking
Week 3	U.S. Film Industry in the 1920s
Week 4	Lighting Design
Week 5	U.S. Film Industry in the 1930s
Week 6	U.S. Film Industry in the 1940s (Lighting Design essay due)
Week 7	Cinematography
Week 8	<i>Casablanca</i>
Week 9	Sound Design (Cinematography essay due)
Week 10	U.S. Film Industry in the 1960s and Foreign Films
Week 11	U.S. Film Industry in the 1970s
Week 12	Propaganda in Film



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Week	Topic
Week 13	Documentary Filmmaking
Week 14	African American filmmakers
Week 15	Filmmaking in the 2000s
Week 16	Final Examination

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****