

# FILM 130 – Introduction to Film

## Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2021	Instructor Name:	I D Patterson, PhD
Course #:	FILM 130	Email:	james.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20525	Webpage:	http://faculty.imperial.edu/james.patterson
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	2795
		Office Hours:	Monday – Thursday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Units:	Three (3)	Office Phone:	760.355.6486

## 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

- 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
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: 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, 5 June 2020.

**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.

### 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* (16 February) and on the *Census Roster* (27 February).
- The student is responsible for withdrawing officially from the course. The deadline to drop with 'W' is **15 May 2021**.
- 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 importance 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 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.

**Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar Spring 2021 online**

Week 1	Introduction to the Course / Early filmmaking	
Week 2	<b>Pre-1920s:</b> Early and Experimental Films	Quiz
Week 3	<b>1920s:</b> The Phantom of the Opera (1:31:39)	Quiz
Week 4	<b>Lighting:</b>	
Week 5	<b>1930s:</b> Little Caesar (1:38:39)	Quiz
Week 6	<b>1940s:</b> Mermaid: Lake of the Dead (1:26:54)	Quiz, Lighting Design paper
Week 7	<b>Sound:</b>	
Week 8	<b>1950s:</b> Supersize Me (1:38:40)	Quiz
Week 9	<b>1960s:</b> Killer Legends (1:24:58)	Sound Design essay, Quiz, <b>Midterm examination</b>
Week 10	<b>Cinematography:</b> “The Cinematographer Project”	Quiz
Week 11	<b>1970s:</b> Stagecoach (1:34:43)	Quiz
Week 12	<b>Propaganda:</b> Food Inc. (1:33:45)	Cinematography paper, Quiz
Week 13	<b>1980s:</b> <i>TBD</i>	Quiz
Week 14	<b>1990s:</b> <i>TBD</i>	Propaganda paper, Quiz
Week 15	<b>2000s:</b> A Frosty Affair (1:36:11)	Quiz
Week 16	Course Evaluation & Final Examination	<b>Final Examination</b>

Karime Ambriz

Dr. Patterson

Film 130

9 May 2017

### Cinematography Essay

Cinematography is an essential component to any film, especially a film in which the director and cinematographer wish to not only record a narrative but also transport the audience to the time period the film takes place in. This is especially true in the 2005 film *Pride and Prejudice*, particularly the use of long shots, medium shots, depth of field, and close ups in the sixth scene of the movie. During this scene, known as the Netherfield Ball, cinematographer Roman Osin and director Joe Wright use these devices to establish the dynamics of the 18<sup>th</sup> century narrative.

The long shot is applied throughout the scene. The character of Elizabeth Bennet, played by Keira Knightley, enters Netherfield Hall and begins spinning in the room while the camera keeps track of her movements using a medium shot. Elizabeth maintains the point of focus, but the depth of field is shown as the audience can see the rest of the Bennet family in the background. The camera maintains a medium shot of Elizabeth as she walks down a corridor. The depth of field is once again shown as Mr. Darcy, played by Matthew MacFadyen, appears in the background unfocused without her noticing but the audience seeing him behind her. As Elizabeth enters the Netherfield ballroom, the camera begins moving backwards following her in a long shot. The camera moves left, forward, and right, always following her and keeping her the center of focus despite the characters and props coming in between the camera and Elizabeth.

The long shot comes to an abrupt end as the focus is placed on a man both by capturing him in a medium shot and establishing a close up to reveal his identity to be Mr. Darcy.

The cinematography in Joe Wright's *Pride and Prejudice* both allows the audience to immerse themselves in the era and helps tell the conflicting love between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship and interactions with both her friend Charlotte Lucas and with her family. The use of cinematographic techniques stimulates the viewers with unique shots that highlight the scenery, color, props, clothing, lighting and all sorts of visuals of the film.

#### Works Cited

*Pride and Prejudice*. Dir. Joe Wright. Universal, 2005.