

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2025	Instructor Name:	Ryan Brothers
Course Title & #:	Introduction to Film, FILM 130	Email:	ryan.brothers@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15169	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	ONLINE	Office #:	Online
Class Dates:	1/5/26 - 2/04/26	Office Hours:	Online by appointment
Class Days:	M,T,W,TH,F	Office Phone #:	619-987-7835
Class Times:	4:00-6:15 pm	Emergency Contact:	Carol Hegarty (760) 355-6198
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	ONLINE

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. (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

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 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



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Bordwell, David, Kristin Thompson, and Jeff Smith. Film Art: An Introduction. 13th ed., New York: McGraw Hill LLC, 2024. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-1264296095 (hardcover), also available in e-book and loose-leaf formats.

Other readings will be available on Canvas, our collective annotation platform.

Our main “texts” for the semester will be our films. Most films will be made available digitally either through course reserves, which you can access via the left-hand menu on our Canvas course page, or through YouTube.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

1. Screenings & Viewings

- **Assigned viewings:** I will assign a film for you to watch on your own time for each lecture.
- **Clips for analysis:** Short clips tied to topics like mise-en-scène or editing will be screened in class to better illustrate the lecture.

2. Creative Projects

- **Creative assignments:** These projects will provide you with hands on experience in a particular field, e.g. editing, cinematography, etc.

3. Participation

- **Participation grading:** Based on class discussion, in-class writing, group work, sometimes short reading/viewing quizzes.

4. Additional Components

- **Extra credit assignments:** In class assignments for easy extra credit, rewarding those who attend class.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives (subject to change)

Component	Approx. %
Participation	10%
Assignments	50%
Midterm	15%
Final Project	25%
Optional Extra Credit	up to 5%

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

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 unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.



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

Screenings Viewing: entire films, as well as film clips, will be screened in class. Students are expected to attend these screenings. Outside screenings of these films/clips are encouraged only as supplements to class showings—not as substitutes!

‘R’ Rating: several films selected for this course contain ‘adult’ themes, including what may be considered objectionable violence, language, and/or sexual content. Some of these texts also carry an ‘R’ rating.

Online etiquette: I expect cameras to be on during remote lecture. Please mute your microphone until speaking. Please raise your digital or physical hand if you have a comment. If your hand is up and I haven’t noticed, please feel free to unmute your mic and interject.

Attendance: You are allowed two absences during the term for whatever reason, though it is strongly recommended that you strive for perfect attendance. Three absences without a documented excuse (such as a doctor’s note) can be grounds for failure. Students in this situation may want to consider withdrawing from the course and taking it again under better circumstances.

Promptness: Since coming in late for class often disrupts discussion, it should be avoided at all cost. You are allowed no more than two instances of tardiness during the semester. If you come in late on more than two occasions, your grade will suffer accordingly.

Class Participation and Etiquette: You will be expected to arrive in class ready to take part in the conversation about the materials under study. Failure to participate in a vigorous manner will compromise your final grade. While in class you are not allowed to use laptops or cell phones. You are expected to be respectful of your peers and instructor and not partake in any activity unrelated to discussion while the class is in session.

Submission: All assignments (projects, essays, quizzes) must be completed in order to pass this course. The assignments should also be submitted on time. Late submissions will have a negative effect on your grade, and may be grounds for failure.

Other Course Information

As an introduction to film studies, this course teaches students how to analyze rather than merely summarize a film, engaging style and poetics. It is not a “film appreciation” course. Thus, you will be provided a working knowledge of film form and film vocabulary. FILM 130 introduces and develops these analytic tools in the context of film criticism and analysis, with a bit of film history and film theory. Upon completing this course, a student should have a sense of film form and some critical/theoretical perspectives for analyzing film. This course also teaches the basics of academic writing about film with a focus on analytical, argumentative composition.



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

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Readings/Screenings/Assignments
1/5	Introduction: What is Film? Why Study It?	Review syllabus.
1/6	A Brief History of the Origins of Film & Cinema Clips: Early actualities and silent era films.	Reading: <i>Film Art</i> , Introduction, pg. 1-10
1/7	History of Film & Film Criticism and Theory Watch in Class: Lumiere Brothers Early Films	Reading: "It's Just a Movie" by Greg M. Smith
1/8	Film Form	
1/9	No Class – Watch <i>Citizen Kane</i>	Readings: See Assignments Section on Canvas
1/12	5 Stages of Filmmaking (pt. 1)	Reading: <i>Film Art</i> , "Making the Movie: Film Production" pg. 17-48
1/13	5 Stages of Filmmaking (pt. 2)	In-Class Viewing <i>Empire of Dreams: The Story of the Star Wars Trilogy</i> (2004)
1/14	5 Stages of Filmmaking (pt. 3)	Assignment: Re-Market a Classic Film Remarket a film from before the year 2000 using modern marketing techniques.
1/15	Mise-en-scène	Reading: <i>Film Art</i> , "Mise-en-Scene" pg. 112-158
1/16	No Class – Watch <i>Rashomon</i>	Readings: See Assignments Section on Canvas
1/19	Holiday – No Class	
1/20	Cinematography	Reading: <i>Film Art</i> , "Cinematography" pg. 159-215
1/21	Editing	Reading: <i>Film Art</i> , "Editing" pg. 217-262
1/22	Sound	Reading: <i>Film Art</i> , "Sound" pg. 263-302
1/23	No Class – Watch <i>Cleo from 5 to 7</i>	Readings: See Assignments Section on Canvas
1/26	Genre	
1/27	Animation & Experimental Film	
1/28	Documentaries	
1/29	Lecture TBD	
1/30	No Class – Watch <i>Do the Right Thing</i>	Readings:



Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Readings/Screenings/Assignments
		See Assignments Section on Canvas
2/2	Video Game Theories	
2/3	Lecture TBD	
2/4	Turn in Final Project	FINAL DUE: Short Film Project (2–4 min) Create a short film, alone or with classmates, in the style of an auteur filmmaker or recognizable genre. Final video + 1-page director's statement.

Subject to change without prior notice