



ENG 026: Introduction to Film

Term: 2020 Winter Session

Instructor: Staff

Language of Instruction: English

Classroom: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Class Sessions Per Week: 5

Total Weeks: 3

Total Class Sessions: 15

Class Session Length (minutes): 240

Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the aesthetics of film that examine the elements making up a film: narratives, sound and image, mise en scene, cinematography, and editing. Topics covered also include genres, race, gender, authorship, ideology, and representation. We will discuss how these elements interact with one another to constitute a whole system that generates meanings and other effects. By completing the course, students are expected to gain general familiarity with the major aesthetic aspects of film and develop critical judgments and analyses about their film experiences.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify specific terms and apply appropriate terms to analyze a film.
- Gain a general knowledge of the social, cultural and technological transformation of film.
- Understand concepts in film theories.
- Understand how film works as an artistic, industrial, and cultural form.
- Communicate ideas about film culture through spoken and written analysis.

Course Materials:

1. **In-class Handouts:**



There is no required text for this course; most readings and viewing assignments are in-class handouts.

2. Optional Texts:

Film Art: An Introduction, David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, 11th edition.

Course Format and Requirements:

This course will be in the format of lecture, with film screening, in-class discussions and presentations.

Attendance:

Regularity in classroom attendance and punctuality is vital to academic success. After the 6th absence, the student's final grade will be reduced 5% for each successive absence.

Grading Scale:

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

Course Assignments:

5 Quizzes



Throughout the semester, students will have 5 in-class quizzes. The formats include group work, mini-papers, multiple choices and True/False. In-class writing assignments cannot be made up.

Group Presentation

Students will be assigned randomly to groups of two. Each group will choose a film from the film screening assignments listed in the course schedule and give a presentation. The presentation must include a introduction to the film, and the analysis of the film from different perspectives. Students will gain extra grades if they can perform one of the classic scenes in the film.

3 Film Reviews

Each student must select three movies from all the film screening assignments listed in the class schedule. For each movie selected, you must watch the whole movie and write a 2-3 page paper on it. Papers must be double spaced and in 12 point standard font with one inch margins. You will submit papers electronically. Analysis essays make a specific argument about a scene, image, shot, cut, narrative or other component of a film, a particular concept or technique from the reading, or a combination thereof. Essays should also communicate in the technical vocabulary of film production and analysis established in the reading assignments and lecture.

Midterm Exam

The midterm may contain identification, multiple choices, true or false, matching, and short answer. You will be tested on screenings, readings, and key concepts discussed in class. The midterm may include film stills and short clips. We will discuss the midterm in class the preceding week.

Final Exam

The final will be cumulative to allow you to demonstrate the breadth of knowledge you’ve acquired throughout the semester. In addition to the variety of questions listed as possible for the midterm, the final will likely include a larger analysis component. We will review for the final on the last day of class.

Course Assessment:

5 Quizzes	10%
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Film Review 1	10%
Film Review 2	10%
Film Review 3	10%
Group Presentation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Course Schedule:

Week	Topics	Activities
1	Course Overview Early Cinema's Pre-Histories The Root of Classical Hollywood Sound German Expressionism Russian Formalism Genres Elements of Narrative Film Screening: <i>Sherlock Jr.</i> (Keaton, 1924) <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> (Del Ruth, 1931) <i>Un Chien Andalou</i> (Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí, 1929) <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (Stanley Donen/Gene Kelly, 1952) <i>Mamma Mia!</i> (Phylida Lloyd, 2008) <i>Pulp Fiction</i> (Quentin Tarrantino, 1994)	Quizzes 1 and 2 Group Presentation Film Review 1



2	<p>Mise-en-Scene</p> <p>Cinematography</p> <p>Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema</p> <p>Acting and Performance</p> <p>Editing -- Continuity and Montage</p> <p>Sounding out the Image</p> <p>Film Screening:</p> <p><i>Run Lola Run</i> (Tom Tykwer, 1998)</p> <p><i>Blade Runner</i> (Ridley Scott, 1982)</p> <p><i>The Birds</i> (Alfred Hitchcock, 1963)</p> <p><i>Halloween</i> (Carpenter, 1978)</p> <p><i>12 Years a Slave</i> (Steve McQueen, 2013)</p> <p><i>Meshes of the Afternoon</i> (Maya Deren/Alexander Hammid, 1943)</p> <p><i>Invisible Adversaries</i> (Valie Export, 1977)</p> <p><i>Tout Va Bien</i> (Jean-Luc Godard, and Jean-Pierre Gorin, France, 1972)</p>	<p>Quiz 3 and 4</p> <p>Group Presentation</p> <p>Film Review 2</p> <p>Midterm Exam</p>
3	<p>Critical Theories</p> <p>Film Noir</p> <p>Race and Ethnicity</p> <p>Gender and Sexuality</p> <p>Avant-Garde Film</p> <p>Documentary</p> <p>Contemporary World Cinema</p>	<p>Quiz 5</p> <p>Group Presentation</p> <p>Film Review 3</p> <p>Final Exam</p>



	<p>Film Screening:</p> <p><i>The Four Feathers</i> (Kapur, 2002).</p> <p><i>Vertigo</i> (Hitchcock, 1958)</p> <p><i>Brokeback Mountain</i> (Lee, 2005)</p> <p>L'Âge d'Or (Buñuel, 1930)</p> <p><i>Waltz with Bashir</i> (Folman, 2008)</p> <p>Review for the Final Exam</p>	
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Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.