



## ENG 026: Introduction to Film

**Term: 2020 Summer Session**

**Instructor: Staff**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**Classroom: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Class Sessions Per Week: 5**

**Total Weeks: 5**

**Total Class Sessions: 25**

**Class Session Length (minutes): 120**

**Credit Hours: 4**

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to film aesthetics and provides students with a fluency in and understanding of film's unique language as it evolves technologically and generically. It will cover five main parts, including film production, distribution, and exhibition, film form, types of films, film style, and critical analysis of films. During the courses, short and feature films will be shown and analyzed, so as to more rigorously study their formal grammar. Through the courses, students will be able to understand the basic concepts related to films and master the methods to write film analysis.

### **Course Materials:**

#### **Required Textbook:**

Film Art (Eleventh Edition), David Bordwell and Kristen Thompson

\* Other readings and film clips have been prepared and will be distributed by the instructor. These are a blend of primary and secondary materials that complement lectures and provide the foundations for classroom discussions.

### **Course Format and Requirements:**

Please refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during the class time, unless you are using them for course-related work. Please respect our time in class by refraining from texting, emailing, or surfing the web during our class meetings. If I see you habitually using



electronic devices for non-course-related work, your participation grade will be lowered.

### **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:**

#### **Attendance and Participation: 10%**

Students are expected to attend all class. If you miss a class session, it is your responsibility to follow up on what you have missed. You are required to read the readings and watch the clips listed on the course schedule in advance of class meetings. Please ensure you are thoroughly prepared for class. When in class, active participation in whole group and small group discussions, and activities are essential to your success in this course. Do not wait to be called upon – be ready to voluntarily contribute comments and questions.

#### **Film Analysis: 30%**

You are responsible for two film analyses, each of which will account for 15%. The five-page paper (double-spaced) film analysis will take a single film seen in class and identify, make an observation about and analyze three specific formal choices or techniques discussed at this point in the semester (narrative architectures, point-of-view narration, and mise-en-scene). These examples should all serve towards supporting the analysis of a central theme or idea you see advanced by the film.

#### **Quizzes: 10%**



On any day of the course, the lecturer may give you a quiz during lecture or section. There will be five quizzes in total. Quizzes will test material covered in class up to that day (including films and readings you were to prepare for that day) and are likely to focus on terminology from Film Art and from the additional readings.

**Midterm Exam: 20%**

Midterm examination will be composed of essay questions that test your ability to apply concepts discussed through the exam date. The exams consist of some combination of short answers, multiple choices, identifications, and essays. You are responsible for adequate preparation before the exams. It is close-book, non-cumulative. There are no make-up exams for any reason.

**Final Paper: 30%**

The final paper is a ten-page essay, which should advance an original, well-argued, clear thesis on a topic relating to the formal choices we have discussed over the course of the semester. Students will be required to submit an abstract for their papers one week before their final draft. More detailed instructions will be provided by the instructor.

**Course Assessment:**

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Attendance and Participation | 10%         |
| Film Analysis 1              | 15%         |
| Film Analysis 2              | 15%         |
| Quizzes                      | 10%         |
| Midterm Exam                 | 20%         |
| Final Paper                  | 30%         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>100%</b> |

**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.

### **Course Schedule:**

| Week                     | Topics   | Activities   |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Week 1<br>(Class 1-5)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Introduction</b></li><li>• <b>Film Production, Distribution, and Exhibition</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Mechanics of the movies</li><li>✓ Bringing the film to the spectator</li><li>✓ Making the movie: film production</li><li>✓ Modes of production</li></ul></li><li>• <b>The Significance of Film Form</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The concept of form in film</li><li>✓ Principles of film form</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 1</li></ul>                           |
| Week 2<br>(Class 6-10)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Narrative as a Formal System</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Principles of narrative construction</li><li>✓ Narration: the flow of story information</li><li>✓ The classical Hollywood cinema</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Film Genres</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Understanding genre</li><li>✓ Three genres</li></ul></li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 2</li><li>• Film Analysis 1</li></ul> |
| Week 3<br>(Class 11- 15) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Documentary</li><li>✓ Experimental</li><li>✓ Animated Films</li></ul></li><li>• <b>The shot: Mis-en-Scene</b></li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 3</li><li>• Midterm Exam</li></ul>    |



|                         |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Realism</li><li>✓ Aspects of Mis-en-Scene</li><li>✓ Putting it all together: Mis-en-Scene in space and time</li></ul>  |  |
| Week 4<br>(Class 16-20) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The shot: Cinematography</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The photographic image</li><li>✓ Framing</li><li>✓ Duration of the image: the long take</li></ul></li><li>• <b>The relation of Shot to Shot: Editing</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ What editing is</li><li>✓ Dimensions of film editing</li><li>✓ Continuity editing</li><li>✓ Alternatives to continuity editing</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Sound in the Cinema</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The power of sound</li><li>✓ Fundamentals of film sound</li><li>✓ Dimensions of film sound</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 4</li><li>• Film Analysis 2</li></ul> |
| Week 5<br>(Class 21-25) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Style as a Formal System</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The concept of style</li><li>✓ Analyzing film style</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Film Criticism: Sample Analyses</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The classical narrative cinema</li><li>✓ Narrative alternatives to classical filmmaking</li><li>✓ Documentary form and style</li><li>✓ Form, style, and ideology</li></ul></li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 5</li><li>• Final paper</li></ul>     |