ARH 2740

Cinema Appreciation

Course Syllabus

Term: Spring 2014
Credits: 3 credits
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Course overview

ARH 2740 is a survey course, which introduces aesthetic, technological, and ideological aspects of cinema with an emphasis on critical appreciation of the influences that shape cinematic art.
Course Competencies

Competency 1: The Student will demonstrate knowledge of the Humanities by:
a. Identifying perspectives, views and content of the Humanities
b. Relating those issues to specific art works
c. Recognizing the various forms that comprise the discipline

Competency 2: The Student will demonstrate knowledge of terminology from each of the Humanities areas by:
a. Recalling and defining selected terms, which are essential for understanding the subject matter
b. Relating those terms to specific films and genres

Competency 3: The Student will demonstrate knowledge of the Humanities by:
a. Relating chosen major works to their creators, eras, and cultures
b. Describing the characteristics that determine those choices

Competency 4: The Student will demonstrate knowledge of philosophers and their thinking by:
a. Recognizing the tenets of their theories
b. Applying those tenets to societal issues

Competency 5: The Student will demonstrate comprehension of facts and concepts pertaining to the Humanities by:
a. Stating them in his or her own words
b. Relating those concepts to specific works, directors, and genres
c. Identifying those concepts in specific works, directors, and genres
d. Explaining specific works in each of these areas

Competency 6: The Students will demonstrate application of knowledge of terms and concepts by:
a. Relating this knowledge to an aesthetic or intellectual experience
b. Relating this knowledge to specific films

Competency 7: The Students will demonstrate analysis of selected examples of works in the Humanities by:
a. Comparing and contrasting forms, media technologies, styles, and philosophies
b. Recognizing and describing differing styles and artistic movements

Competency 8: The Students will demonstrate analysis of arts and philosophies of various western and non-western cultures by:
a. Comparing and contrasting major creative contributions
b. Recognizing characteristics and patterns common to differing cultures
Competency 9: The Students will demonstrate analysis of the relationship among the Humanities by:
   a. Interrelating philosophic and artistic developments of various historical periods
   b. Identifying those differences in specific films

General Education Outcomes:

Learning experiences from this course will actively improve students’ abilities to:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.  
   *Students will watch different types of films and write aesthetic critiques in class.*

2. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
   *Students will learn how to locate qualitative information about cinema.*

3. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives. 
   *Investigation of diverse cultures and historical context occurs while experiencing cinema from all over the world and multiple historical contexts.*

4. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively. *Students are to use social media such as Instagram (#MDCFilmImThere) to give their opinion of local art cinema screenings and film festivals.*

5. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities. *Students will build an appreciation for different forms and contexts for creative expression in the local community.*

Course Requirements

In order to earn a passing grade in this course, you will have to complete two exams, as a GORDON RULE CLASS you must complete three papers (two in class, one out of class). Your final grade will be based on the following:

Attendance/ in-class participation: 10%

Tests: 70% Papers: 20%

Extra Credit Art Events: You Decide, up to 10% (see section below on extra credit)

There will be many opportunities during the semester to earn extra credit that will bolster your final grade-point average. These extra-credit activities will be announced throughout the semester. For some of these activities, you will have to write a short, one-page description of your experience. If you have a smart phone, you should send out a #MDCFilmImThere on Instagram with your opinion. For the guidelines for these writing assignments see the end of this syllabus.

Your final numerical grade-point average will be based on adding your two exams with your three papers (along with the percentage of extra-credit) that you have earned during the semester and then dividing the sum by three. Your attendance grade can alter the final letter grade you receive. The final grade-point average will then be equated to a letter
grade as follows:

90 – 100  A
80 – 89   B
70 – 79   C
60 – 69   D

Please note that I do not “give” you your final grade; I am merely the person who inputs your grades during the semester. In other words, you will be earning your final grade.

Tests will be multiple-choice and based on the required textbook reading assignments as well as classroom lectures and discussions. You must buy the textbook. Repeat, you must buy the textbook. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR EITHER IN-CLASS QUIZZES OR EXAMS.** If you miss an exam or quiz, I will record a zero (0) for that assignment.

Finally, I encourage you to visit me in my office, where you can find me during my office hours to answer questions as well as to assist you with completing course requirements.

**Cell Phones are not welcome in class!**

… if they go off during class. If your cell phone, pager or other electronic device goes off in class, you must leave for that day. **Need to send / receive an important text message? Please do so outside of class time or you will be asked to leave for the day.** The second time your cell phone, pager, electronic device goes off in class or you send / receive a text message, your course grade will drop one full letter. So, turn them off, or keep them on a soundless setting if you are expecting a critical message.

**Reading assignments**

You are expected to come to each class with all reading and out-of-class assignments completed prior to the beginning of class.

**Missed work and make-up policy**

You are responsible for all instruction presented in class. If you have an excused absence, you must contact the instructor to reschedule your missed assignments. Again, for in-class quizzes there will be no makeups. Furthermore, if you miss an exam, there will be no makeups unless you have a doctor’s excuse.

**Attendance**

Attendance is required. Furthermore, it is of direct benefit to your final grade to be present at each class session and to be prepared to participate in class activities.
Absences

Absences will be permitted only with prior permission of the instructor, doctors' excuses, or official college-approved activities. Unexcused absences will result in a "0" for any assignments due or completed during that class period. More than 6 unexcused absences will result in your being dropped from this course. Believe me, I will withdraw you from the course.

Tardiness and early departures

Tardiness and early departures will be treated as unexcused absences. Furthermore, I reserve the right to lower your final grade based on absences, tardiness, and early departures. Missed assignments will result in a grade of "0".

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:

A. cheating on an examination
B. receiving help from others in work to be submitted, if contrary to the stated rules of the course
C. plagiarizing, that is, the taking and passing off as one's own the ideas, writings and work of another, without citing the source
D. submitting work from another course unless permitted by the instructor
E. stealing examinations or course material
F. assisting anyone to do any of the above

Academic honesty is required. In the event that you are suspected of classroom cheating, plagiarism or otherwise misrepresenting your work, you will be subject to procedural due process. The specific steps involved are outlined in Procedure #4074 and may be found in the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Required Materials

The textbook can be bought in the bookstore or from Amazon.com.

1. **ONE Notebook with Cinema Appreciation written on the front.** This is for note taking. Always bring a pen. If you do not take notes, you will not pass the class. **REPEAT:** If you do not take notes, you will not pass this class. All exams are based on lecture notes. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from another student in class. Do not ask the instructor for the notes you missed.


3. **ONE #2 pencil and three Scantron Forms (only no.22250 ask at bookstore desk)** (and a good eraser) for test taking on exam days.

Student Withdrawal from Class
If you feel that you will be unable to complete the requirements for passing this class, you have the option to withdraw from the class by the College’s “drop date” of January 13th with refund, March 19th for a “W.” However, there are consequences of which you need to be aware if you drop a class or stop attending and you should always speak to your instructor or an advisor first. For example, you must earn at least two-thirds of 67% of the total credits for which you have registered and that failure to comply with this requirement will adversely impact your financial aid status at MDC. If after considering the possible consequences, you opt to drop the class, keep in mind that it is your responsibility to do so (not the instructors) and failure to withdraw will result in your earning a grade of “F” for the course you stop attending. If extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness, accident, change in employment situation, etc.) prevent you from continuing to attend your class before the drop date, speak to your instructor first and if needed, to the Chairperson to assess your options.

**Schedule**

*We will be watching films in class that you will need to know for the exams. I recommend that you get Netflix in the event you miss a class.*

**Week 1**

Syllabus overview, Introduction to Film History. Before next class read Chapter 12 “Synthesis: Citizen Kane”

**Week 2**

Read Chapter 12 for today’s screening and genre discussion of CITIZEN KANE

**Week 3**

Read Chapter 12 Lecture Film language and vocabulary. Discuss vocabulary and effective methods to describe film.

**Week 4**

Before this class read Chapter 8, STORY for today’s screening and discussion of narrative style in PULP FICTION

**Week 5**

EXAM.
Week 6

Before this class read Chapter 4, EDITING for today’s screening and discussion of editing techniques in OCEAN’S ELEVEN (IN-CLASS PAPER)

Week 7

Before this class read Chapter 4, EDITING for today’s screening and discussion of editing and storytelling techniques in PSYCHO

Week 8

Before this class read Chapter 1, PHOTOGRAPHY for today’s screening and discussion of production techniques and camera movement in THE CELEBRATION.

Week 9

Before this class read Chapter 3, MOVEMENT for today’s screening and discussion of production techniques, editing, and camera movement in BROTHERS.

Week 10

Before this class review Chapter 8, STORY for today’s screening and discussion of genre and Magical Realism in PAN’S LABYRINTH.

Week 11

IN-CLASS PAPER- Watch THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS and write review of themes/ camera and editing technique/etc.

Week 12

Before this class read Chapter 10, IDEOLOGY for today’s screening and discussion of ideology and symbolism in RAISE THE RED LANTERN.

Week 13

Before this class read Chapter 10, IDEOLOGY for today’s screening and discussion of ideology and symbolism in EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED
Week 14

Before this class read Chapter 9, WRITING for today’s screening and discussion of screenwriting in NORTH BY NORTHWEST.

Week 15

Before this class read Chapter 10, IDEOLOGY for today’s screening and discussion of humor and feminism in SIDEWAYS.

Week 16

Final Exam review. Before this class read Chapter 2, MISE EN SCÉNE for today’s screening and discussion of aesthetics, style, composition, symbolism in AMELIE.

Week 17

FINAL EXAM WEEK. ONE FILM REVIEW PAPER DUE & FINAL EXAM. No regular classes.

FILM REVIEW: 1000 words each, watch two films at home and compare the repeating motifs, themes, camera movement, ideology, and mood/style, and character development that you see in each film.
Extra-credit Assignments: How To

Instructions: You may also attend the Miami International Film Festival, a screening at the “O Cinema,” the Miami Beach Cinematheque, the Coral Gables Art Cinema, MDC’s Koubek Theater, the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, or the Jewish Film Festival.

YOU CAN EITHER:

1. Write a one-page description of the experience. You MUST staple and attach the ticket and/or program from the event or I will not accept your paper.

For the 500-word one-page essay your description should address the following:

1. One paragraph to describe the plot
2. What genre/style/tone/ideology/camera movement is this film?
3. How did your experience relate to the course? What is your opinion of the film?

The purpose of this extra-credit assignment is for you to experience the immediacy of a live screening and then write about what you learned. You are being asked to describe, analyze, and evaluate the experience in a one-page (printed in Word) short essay. Be sure to put your name AND class time (such as Mon 8:00am) at the top of your paper.

OR

2. Instagram about your experience #MDCFilmImThere. Be sure to own your Instagram post by putting your face in the photo. Be sure to mention where you are, tell your strong personal opinion/experience, and write one or two sentences using vocab you have learned in class in your social media post.

OR

3. Or Both write a paper and post to Instagram for maximum points. Papers are worth five Instagrams.

MID MARCH (around the 15th) IS THE CUT OFF. I WILL BE ASKING FOR ALL EXTRA CREDIT PAPERS AND A TYPED LIST OF ALL OF YOUR INSTAGRAM POSTS. (BE SURE TO UNLOCK YOUR INSTAGRAM SETTINGS SO THAT I CAN FIND YOUR POSTS.)