COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey and analyze cinema including history, film techniques, production procedures, selected motion pictures, and cinema’s impact on and reflection of society.

REQUIRED PARTICIPATION IN CLASS

Students who do not attend class before census date will be reported as never attended and dropped from the course.

TEXTS, REFERENCES, AND SUPPLIES

Flashback: A Brief History of Film (5th ed.) by Giannetti and Eyman
On-line materials found at: http://www.midland.edu/canvas

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students successfully completing DRAM 2366 will be able to:

1. Analyze film through written responses.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of film history, form, and genre.
3. Describe the collaborative nature of cinema and the many jobs required to develop a motion picture.
4. Discuss/Describe the relationship of cinema to society as it relates to his/her perspective.
5. Discuss the elements of film and the art of film production;
6. Analyze a screenplay’s dramatic structure, theme, characters, plot, dialogue, and rhythm;
7. Criticize a film in terms of its spectacle and performance elements;
8. Participate in the creation of a film;
9. Research and present a written analysis integrating and synthesizing sources to explain a film's aesthetic and historical significance, its role as a transmitter of cultural values, and its role in the student’s emotional and intellectual life;
10. Work effectively in teams;
11. Demonstrate social responsibility by attending a film presentation;
12. Demonstrate the ability to explore global/cultural diversity in film;
13. Demonstrate an understanding of the social responsibilities of film making, including responsibilities regarding ethics and culture.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND CLASS POLICIES
Films shown in class
Through the course of the semester you will view approximately 6 films in class covering a wide range of genres. Each film will be preceded by a brief lecture on the genre and followed by a group discussion. Contributions to discussions will be credited toward your participation grade.

Reading assigned chapter
Instead of lecture over the development and history of film in the US, you will be responsible for reading chapters from the book. Chapters assigned are 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18 & 20

Chapter Quizzes
Ten quizzes will be given over each chapter assigned for reading. Quizzes will be available online from 8:00 a.m. on Monday through 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday during the week they are to be taken. Worth a maximum of 20 points each.

Exams
Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1,2,3,5,6 and 8 as well as all movies seen in class and lectures given up to the exam. Worth 100 points
Final Exam will cover chapters 10,12,16,18 and 20 as well as all movies seen in class and lectures given after the midterm. Worth a maximum of 100 points

Plagiarism
Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material from books, encyclopedias, and other reference works (including the Internet) or from the themes, reports, or other writing of anyone, is guilty of plagiarism.
Students cheating or committing plagiarism are liable to serious consequences, which may include suspension and/or a grade of “F”.

Special Class Rule
Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mv part.

We do not accept excuses about computers and/or printers breaking down, dogs eating papers, missed performances due to sell-outs, leaving the work at home, etc. Plan your semester now! Do not wait until the last minute to do your work! You need not ask permission to miss a class, leave a class early, or present a late assignment.

Special testing instruction
All online tests win be given a time limit. Time limits will be announced online with the test instructions. You will be penalized one point for every minute you exceed the time allowed. All quizzes and exams must be taken as scheduled- no make-ups allowed.


Film Critiques
In addition to the films seen in class, you are required to view and critique four additional films. These two-page critiques will focus on at least two important aspects that made the film either a success or failure. Critique films must be either first-run films or appear on the AFI top 100 list found on the link provided on the website. Worth a maximum of 50 points each.

Film Script
In order to reach a better understanding of the importance of the script and how film narrative differs from literature and theatrical narrative, you will write a short (4 pages maximum) script. You will base this script on a short story found on the website. Worth a maximum of 50 points.

Story Board
To better understand how a script is turned into a film, you will create a storyboard that pictorially outlines a script. Worth a maximum of 50 points.

Term Project
To prove your understanding of the art of film making, you will take part in the creation of an original film. Your participation level and your results will determine the final grade. Worth a maximum of 200 points: 100 points participation and 100 points results.

Participation
Continual and effective class participation factors include, but may not be limited to, joining class discussions, regular and timely class attendance, and completion of all assignments. Worth a maximum of 100 points.

Written Work
All written work must be typed using double-spaced, Courier font of no greater than 12 point. Margins should be 1-inch on all sides. Papers are to be left-justified only! All work must adhere to formatting requirements. Pages must be stapled together. All assignments must have your name in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the paper (DO NOT USE A TITLE PAGE). Your name may be written neatly by hand. If this information is missing and/or the assignment is formatted incorrectly, the grade will be lowered. For specifics on the film script formatting, see the in-class hand-out.

Attendance
Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Arriving late or leaving early is equivalent to an absence. Extra work to erase absences is not permitted. You may miss one class during the semester without penalty. Your participation grade will be lowered 50% for your 2nd missed class, and reduced to 0 for your 3rd missed class. Upon the 4th missed class, you should withdraw from the course. Because you receive “free” absences, absences, including illness, transportation problems, and other commitments are not generally excusable. Arrange
appointments with doctors, exams for other classes, etc., at times other than
during this class.

❖ THE PROFESSOR WILL NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHDRAW STUDENTS
FROM THE COURSE. SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO DROP, IT IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO THROUGH THE REGISTRAR.

Academic Integrity
Cheating — Dishonesty on examinations and quizzes or written assignments,
illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an
examination or quiz, obtaining information during an examination from the
examination paper or otherwise from another student, assisting others to cheat,
alteration of grade records, illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office
are instances of cheating.

choice!

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

Grading
Keep a copy of written assignments and graded assignments. Any assignment
not turned in on the day it is due, will be considered late. Late assignments will
receive only 1/2 credit, and will only be accepted until the beginning of the next
class.

Assignments and exams will be graded on a sliding scale in terms of quality,
content, spelling, grammar, and adherence to formatting rules. Receiving all
points for an assignment is equal to getting a score of 100%

Quizzes 10 @ 20 points each maximum of 200 points
Exam 2 @ 100 points each maximum of 200 points
Critiques 4 @ 50 points each maximum of 200 points
Script maximum of 50 points
Story Board maximum of 50 points
Term Project maximum of 200 points
Participation maximum of 100 points

Total of 1000 points
FINAL GRADE SCALE  
A= 900+; B= 800-899; C= 700-799; D= 600-699; F= 0-599

Student Profile and Final Grades

An "A" student completes all assignments, grades average “A,” participates frequently and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude toward the subject matter and fellow students, and misses class no more than once.

A “B” student completes all assignments, grades average “B,” participates frequently and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude towards the subject matter fellow students, and misses class no more than 2 times.

A “C” student completes all assignments, grades average “C,” participates occasionally and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude toward the subject matter and fellow students, and misses class no more than 3 times.

A “D” student completes all assignments, grades average “D,” participates infrequently and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude toward the subject matter and fellow students, and misses class no more than 4 times.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name:
Email:
Office Location:
Office Phone:
Office Hours:

Music and Drama Department Chair: Rabon Bewley
Fine Arts and Communications Division Dean: Dr. William Feeler
Secretary: Ms. Lula Lee
Division Office: 141 AFA
Phone: 432/685-4624
Division Office hours: 8-5, M-F

Note: Students are encouraged to visit during office hours, or call or e-mail at any time regarding class information or for assistance.