

CO 228 · Film and Television Criticism

Course Syllabus

Derek Smith, Assistant Instructor of Theatre
PH: 671-735-2700 | **Email:** smithd15994@triton.uog.edu
Office Location: EC117H | **Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs/Fri 2pm – 4pm
Class Times: Thurs 4:00 - 6:50 pm | **Location:** EC201

BASICS ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is as an introduction to the theoretical and historical approaches to cinema creation and TV narrative programming. The class is specifically an exploration of the critical tools that help interpret meaning from film and television. Students will develop visual literacy and research skills as they analyze, discuss, research and write about acclaimed films and filmmakers as well as select TV genres. **Students will also create an original short film script to develop awareness of narrative techniques. The best screenplays will be chosen for potential production in CO398 (Independent Narrative Filmmaking).**

Prerequisites – EN110 and EN111

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This course will be taught through lectures, film screenings and online forum responses, class discussions, textbook readings and related quizzes and mid-term exam. Other outcomes include a short script, a current film/TV show Evaluative Review and a final Film Criticism research paper.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Because this course has required reading assignments it is important that you obtain the required text as soon as possible so that you do not fall behind in the reading.

Required Text: Corrigan, T & White, P. *The Film Experience: An Introduction Sixth Edition* (2020). Bedford/St.Martin's

This reading content is also used to provide a conceptual foundation for discussions, as well as for class activities and projects. Please make sure to read the required content before coming to class. Reading assignments listed in the calendar correspond to the day they are assigned, with the goal to discuss the reading the following week.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ALIGNMENT MATRIX

Course SLOs	PLOs	ILOs	Assessments
Assess the cultural, historical, technical and economic value of filmmaking and TV programming.	Apply basic logic, reasoning, ethics and interpretation in producing and consuming messages	Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving	Final research paper project with effective title, thesis statement defended by relevant main points with specific examples using MLA style.
Compose written criticism that investigates the varied approaches to filmmaking or TV programming from a theoretical perspective. Also create a short film script that captures understanding of genre and other cinematic needs.	Construct and express a cohesive idea across multiple platforms, drawn from multiple sources of information that arrives at a rational conclusion expressing a defensible point of view.	Effective oral and written communication	Final research paper as above and also mid semester Current film written evaluation paper. A final short script of 7 - 10 pages.

Compare aural, visual and other technical approaches used to create meaning in narrative films as well as specific TV genres.	Utilize contemporary and understand developing communication technologies	Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology	In class discussions, online reviews, mid semester Current Film evaluation and final research paper.
Develop visual literacy skills by surveying critically acclaimed films and TV programs utilizing various analytical frames.	Articulate the theories of perception, interaction, and the creation of shared meaning in individual, group, intercultural, mass and digital communication settings.	An appreciation of the arts and sciences	In class discussions, quizzes and exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Thursday, August 15th

Introductions, Course Syllabus

Assigned Reading for Week 2:

Chapter 2

Pg 42 – 43 (56 – 57 in 5th Ed.)

Pg 50 – 62 (64 – 74 in 5th Ed.) [stop before Cinematic Globalization]

PDFs of earlier editions on Moodle

Week 2 Thursday, August 22nd

Lecture: Classic to Post War (WWII) Cinemas &

Consideration of identification, cognition, and expectations

Watch: 400 Blows (99 minutes)

Saturday, August 24th

*Respond to 400 Blows questions on Moodle by 11:30pm

Assigned Reading for Week 3:

Chapter 3, Revisit Chapter 2

Pg 44 – 49 (58 – 63 in 5th Ed.)

Week 3 Thursday, August 29th

Lecture: Discuss 400 Blows

Mise-en-scène and its importance to cinema

Watch: Beasts of the Southern Wild (93)

Saturday, August 31st

*Respond to BSW questions on Moodle by 11:30pm

Assigned Reading for Week 4:

Chapter 12

Pages 433 – 435 (432, 434 & 435 in 5th Edition)

Week 4 **Thursday, September 5th**
Lecture: Discuss aspects of BSW and complete mise-en-scène

Saturday, September 7th
**Quiz #1 on Chapter 3 and elements of Chapter 2*

Assigned Reading for Week 5:
Chapter 4, including Technology in Action: Color in Film on Page 139
(Pages 129 – 151 in 5th Edition – not including Movement)

Week 5 **Thursday, September 12th**
Lecture: The Shot I: The image and the frame

Watch: *Far from Heaven* (107)

Saturday, September 14th
**Respond to *Far from Heaven* questions online by 11:30pm*

Assigned Reading for Week 6:
Complete Chapter 4

Week 6 **Thursday, September 19th**
Lecture: Discuss *Far from Heaven*. Other aspects of Cinematography

Watch: *Children of Men* (109)

Saturday, September 21st
**Respond to *Children of Men* questions online by 11:30pm*

Assigned Reading for Week 7:
Chapter 5

Week 7 **Thursday, September 26th**
Lecture: Discuss *Children of Men*
Complete cinematography
Combining Images: The Purpose of Editing

Watch: *The Cutting Edge: The Magic of Movie Editing*

Saturday, September 28th
**Quiz #2 on Chapter 4*

Assigned Reading for October 3rd:
Chapter 1

Week 8 **Thursday, October 3rd**
Lecture: Scriptwriting and narrative structure
Discuss Film Script Project

Watch: *Dunkirk* (106)

Saturday, October 5th
**Respond to *Dunkirk* questions online by 11:30pm*

Assigned Reading for Week 10:
Chapter 7

Week 9 **Thursday, October 10th**
NO CLASS – Fall Break

Week 10	<p><u>Thursday, October 17th</u> <i>Lecture:</i> Discuss <i>Dunkirk</i>, Complete Editing More on narrative and narrative elements</p> <p>Assign Film Script Project & Final Paper Midterm Review available online</p> <p><i>Watch: The Red Balloon</i> (34 minutes)</p> <p><u>Saturday, October 19th</u> *Respond to <i>The Red Balloon</i> questions online by 11:30pm</p> <p><u>Assigned Reading for Week 11:</u> Chapter 6</p>
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Week 11	<p><u>Thursday, October 24th</u> <i>Lecture:</i> More on narrative; scriptwriting / script Listening to the Cinema</p> <p><i>Watch: The Graduate</i> (106 minutes)</p> <p>*Pitches due 11:30pm</p> <p><u>Saturday, October 26th</u> *Respond to <i>The Graduate</i> questions by 11:30pm *Quiz #3 on Chapter 5</p> <p><u>Assigned Reading for Week 12:</u> Chapter 10</p>
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Week 12	<p><u>Thursday, October 31st</u> <i>Lecture:</i> Discuss <i>The Graduate</i> and finish sound More on narrative and scriptwriting and use of genre</p> <p><u>Saturday, November 4th</u> *First two pages of script due 11:30 pm</p> <p><u>Assigned Reading for Week 13:</u> Chapter 1, Chapter 11, Chapter 12 Pages 375 – 386 to end of Genre Theory (377 – 388 5th Edition)</p>
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Week 13	<p><u>Thursday, November 7th</u> <i>Lecture:</i> Script reading and discussion on final project Genre versus Auteur criticism Hitchcock as auteur and master of suspense, and <i>The Birds</i> as horror</p> <p>Final Criticism Project discussed</p> <p>*Midterm due by 11:30pm</p> <p><u>Saturday, November 9th</u> *Outline for Script due 11:30pm</p>
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Week 14	<p><u>Thursday, November 14th</u> <i>Watch: The Birds</i> (118 minutes)</p> <p><u>Saturday, November 16th</u> *Respond to <i>The Birds</i> questions by 11:30pm</p>

Week 15	<p><u>Thursday, November 21st</u> <i>Lecture:</i> Discuss <i>The Birds</i> Discuss Film business and TV criticism Brief look at Killer of Sheep</p> <p><i>Watch:</i> Original <i>Twilight Zone</i> episode (25 minutes)</p> <p><i>Twilight Zone</i> new version (45 minutes)</p> <p><u>Saturday, November 23rd</u> *Complete Draft of Script due by 11:30 pm *Respond to <i>Twilight Zone</i> questions by 11:30pm</p>
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Week 16	<p><u>Thursday, November 28th</u> NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break</p> <p><u>Saturday, November 30th</u> *Current Film Review due by 11:30 pm.</p>
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Week 17	<p><u>Thursday, December 5th</u> <i>Lecture:</i> Catch up day/ Research paper day.</p> <p>Discuss <i>Twilight Zone</i> Reflections and Faculty Evaluations.</p> <p><u>Saturday, December 7th</u> *Quiz 4 on Chapters 1, 6, 10 and 11 *Submit final Film or TV criticism paper due by 11:30 pm</p>
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Week 18	<p><u>Thursday, December 12th</u> Final Exam Day – [TBD]</p> <p>Final Script Reading</p>

PROJECTS

Short “Silent” Film Script:

Students will be split into pairs and will write a 7 – 10 page film script that will use no dialogue. The script will be worked on throughout the semester, with feedback both from the instructor and peers.

On the day of the final exam, completed scripts will be read and assessed by a small panel of “judges” and the script with the highest rating will earn an additional 15% to the script’s grade. The highest rated scripts will be placed into a selection pool to be considered for production in CO398 (Independent Narrative Filmmaking), so it is advised to consider storylines and settings that are possible to produce on island.

Current Film Evaluation Review:

As a class we shall select a current film or TV show being streamed to watch. During the show notes can be taken and each student will do either a written or video review of the film encouraging or discouraging other viewers from attending.

Auteur or Genre Film or TV genre final criticism paper:

A five-page research paper that discusses a specific, well-respected director and two of his films. Alternatively you will select a film or TV show from a specific genre and discuss their place in the genre.

MOODLE

Quizzes, midterms, and written responses will be completed online via Moodle. Any links or texts relating to the class will also be uploaded to the Moodle Forum if able.

GRADING

For this course, the grading for activities and assignments is listed in the following table. This course is worth 1,000 points.

• <u>Attendance</u>	<u>100</u>
• <u>Online Responses (4 total)</u>	<u>100</u>
• <u>Short Film Script</u>	<u>200</u>
• <u>Current Film Review</u>	<u>150</u>
• <u>Film Criticism Paper (Auteur/Genre/TV Genre)</u>	<u>250</u>
• <u>Quizzes – 4 total</u>	<u>80</u>
• <u>Mid Term Exam</u>	<u>120</u>

Grade	Points	Description
A+	98 - 100	Outstanding Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	93-97	
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Adequate Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
C	70-76	
D	60-69	Deficient Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
F	0-59	Failure Inadequate to receive credits.

COURSE POLICIES

- Attendance** Students are expected to be prepared and participate in every class. The quality of discussions is dependent on each student having some familiarity with the material.
- **Three tardies (coming in 15 minutes late to class) will equal to one absence.**
 - **Two absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted**, each one after that will **dock 5% from your attendance grade**, unless explained in writing with appropriate documents.
 - **Anyone missing more than 10 classes will potentially receive a Failing grade for the class.** If you plan to Withdraw, please ensure to do so officially and timely with the correct forms, otherwise you will receive an F or worse a UW.
- Behavior** You will respect everyone’s opinions and ideas no matter how different from your own. Lack of respect toward classmates will not be tolerated. If you consistently fail to respond during class sessions it will impact your attendance score.

Late Work	Late work is accepted but it will receive a reduction penalty of 5% (up to one day late); 10 -20 % for later work. I will not accept work that is over two weeks late.
Accommodation	For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a student with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Accommodations Office to discuss your confidential request. Please provide an accommodation letter form the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit the Student Center, Rotunda office #6, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/(TDD) 671-735-2460.
Plagiarism Policy	The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (UOG Student Handbook, p. 49). Cases of plagiarism are referred to the Student Discipline and Appeals Committee. In this course the penalty for plagiarism results in you having to fix and re-submit the assignment for a significantly lowered grade. If plagiarism occurs again it will F grade for the assignment. A third occurrence will result in an F grade for the entire course.
AI	The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool is allowed, but it must not replace the student's original ideas, creativity, and critical thinking. AI should be used only as a tool to assist in research, and proper attribution must be given to any AI-generated content. All work submitted for grading must be the sole product of the student's endeavors. Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with accordingly.
Smoke-Free	UOG is a tobacco-free, smoke-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, and for helping make UOG a healthy learning and living environment.
Food/Gum	No eating is allowed in class, unless required due to health-related issues. Drinks are permitted, though spills must be cleaned promptly. Chewing gum is not accepted during class whatsoever.
Communication	University policy states that official communications will be sent using university assigned (@gotriton or @triton) email addresses. University electronic mail and messaging is to be used to enhance and facilitate teaching, learning, scholarly research, support academic experiences, and to facilitate the effective business and administrative processes of the University (OIT policy manual, 3.10, p. 36).