HUM 140  
Introduction to Film  
3 credits

I. **Catalog Description:** This course is designed to give an overview of historical, artistic, social, and technological developments in motion picture. Study of techniques, movements, and major figures in film as well as critical considerations for analyzing films.

II. **Prerequisites, pre-/co-requisites, co-requisites, recommended:** None

III. **Rationale for Course Level:** This course is designed for beginning level students, providing an introductory background to film and its history.

IV. **Suggested Textbooks:**
MOVIE HISTORY: A SURVEY (2nd Ed)  
Authors: Douglas Gomery & Clara Pafort-Overduin  

V. **Other Requirements and/or Materials for the Course:**
A spiral notebook for journal writing which will be part of the final exam and required to be turned in during Final Exam Week.

VI. **Student Learning Course Objectives:**

**Institutional Learning Goals:**

1. Demonstrate competency in reading, writing, oral communication, and numerical literacy
2. Be able to evaluate information
3. Consider multiple perspectives from the diversity of human experience

**Student learning outcomes:**

1. Analyze and evaluate the evolution of film and its genres.
2. Describe the social, political, economic, and artistic background necessary to understand the development of the American and international film industries from their origins to the present day.
3. Explain how films can reflect, reinforce, exploit, and/or challenge the prevailing cultural values and shifting social attitudes of their audiences.
4. Recognize and articulate the history of the medium and the classics of the art form.
5. Identify visual communication techniques which may aid in critical thinking activities.
VII. Suggested Course Outline:

Week 1

How to watch a movie
Birth of the Movies—early films by Edison, Porter, Melies, etc.

Week 2

D.W. Griffith and the development of the Silent Cinema
The Birth of a Nation and the Southern Plantation myth

Week 3

American Silent Cinema in the 1920s
Chaplin, Keaton, and the Silent Movie Comedians

Week 4

Silent European Cinema: Expressionism, Surrealism, and the Art of Montage
Metropolis

Week 5

Transitions I: Breaking the Sound Barrier
The Jazz Singer & Singing in the Rain

Week 6

The Hollywood Studio System
Hollywood Genres of the 1930s
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Week 7

Film Genres of the 1940s/ Film Noir
Citizen Kane and its impact

Week 8

Midterm Exam

Week 9

Transitions II: The threat of Television
Hollywood genres of the 1950s
To Catch a Thief

Week 10
French and European new Wave
  *Breathless*

**Week 11**

The American New Wave an the 1960s Counterculture
  *The Graduate*

**Week 12**

Hollywood genres of the 1970s: Blockbusters and “Personal” Films
  *Jaws*

**Week 13**

Trends in Contemporary Global Cinema
Hollywood Genres of the 1980’s and 1990’s
  *The Breakfast Club*

**Week 14 ** **Presentations**


**Week 15**

*Avatar*

**Week 16**

Final Exam

**VIII. Suggested Course Evaluation**

Exams (2) 60% (150pts each)

Pop Quizzes (5) 10% (10pts each)

Paper 20% (100 pts total)

Class participation & attendance 10% (50pts)

**Exams  60%**

In this course, reading is one of the most important elements. While we will discuss chapter/article topics in class, I still expect you to have a general knowledge of the topic being discussed each class period. We will have 2 exams throughout the semester: a midterm given week 8 and a final given week 16. Exams will account for 60% of your final grade. No make-ups will be given for missed exams unless scheduled in advance.
Pop Quizzes  10%
There will be a total of 5 quizzes given throughout the semester, each accounting for 2% of your total grade. Quizzes will be based on textbook readings. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.

Paper   20%
All students will be required to complete a paper project based on an assigned topic. Students will complete a research project consisting of three components: paper (1500-2000 words), power-point, and presentation. Topics will be assigned by week four. Final projects will be due week 14 of the semester. Paper portion of project should be written in MLA format, and include a works cited list in proper format for the sources used.

Attendance and Participation   10%
This course is primarily lecture and discussion format. Therefore, preparation, participation and attendance are the paramount requirements. Students will be allowed 2 absences without penalty. Each absence beyond the first 2 will result in the loss of a letter grade. (In other words, if your final grade is B+ but you have 4 total absences, your final grade is a B-).

Grading Scale:
Grades will be given as letter grades. Letter grades and numerical equivalents are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 – 94%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86 – 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 – 85%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 – 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 – 65%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 62%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 &amp; below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VIII. Bibliography


Syllabus Prepared By:

Kori Clark-Tuzas, History M.A. & Humanities M.A.

2015