

## Winter 2017: FILM 131

### Film Analysis

Monday and Wednesday 10:00-11:50

Lincoln Hall 331

Instructor: Dr. Dave Colangelo

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Office: Lincoln Hall 143C

Office Hours: Monday 12 pm – 1 pm, Wednesday 12 pm – 1 pm, or by appointment

#### Course Description:

This is an introductory course in the analysis of film. It is designed to help students understand how cinematic images are constructed. Students will learn the fundamental vocabulary of film analysis. Elements to be considered will include narrative form, mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, genre, etc.

#### Course Objectives

This course concentrates on the foundational concepts of film analysis required for the study of film by Film Majors and Film Minors. We will examine how film images are constructed, and we will learn how to read the formal construction of film images through the study of mise-en-scène, cinematography, sound, narrative form, genre, etc. Additionally, we will begin to study concepts such as culture and ideology as they intersect with narrative film and other film forms such as documentary and experimental.

**Please note** that films that we might view include material that some might find unsettling or objectionable, such as representations of violence, discrimination, prejudice, or aspects of sexuality. Such elements and their histories/context will be part of our discussions. If you have specific concerns that you want to discuss, I am happy to talk with you, so please schedule a meeting with me.

By the end of this course, students will be able to (KSA – Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes):

- Demonstrate an understanding of foundational concepts of the cinematic experience and film analysis (K)
- Apply foundational concepts of the cinematic experience and film analysis in thinking, reading, writing, and talking about film (S)
- Formulate opinions and arguments about film, filmmakers, and audiences and the importance of an analytical and critical approach to film (A)

#### Required Text:

David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, & Jeff Smith. *Film Art: An Introduction*, 11th Edition, 2016. (10<sup>th</sup> Edition is okay too!)

## Assignments:

1. In-class Participation (10%)

Being able to talk about course material is a vital part of learning it, and the ability to contribute to in-group situations is an indispensable skill. I expect everyone to participate actively in the discussions during our meetings. This is your time to ask questions and voice opinions and reactions related to the content of the course.

2. Weekly Blog on D2L (25% = 5 blogs x 5% each)

**From Week 2 to Week 6**, after the weekly lectures, you will write a 200-300 word response that demonstrates a clear understanding of course materials by applying them to your own film example. Your chosen film should not be the one discussed in class or the textbook. For instance, in Week 3, we study *mise-en-scène* and you can discuss one still, shot, or scene of a film that you believe demonstrates the use of *mise-en-scène* and related content covered in class. This assignment will help you improve analytical skills and give you ideas for your group presentation.

Blogs are due each Sunday by 11:59 p.m. **No late blogs will be accepted. (System will automatically shut down at midnight.)**

3. Collaborative Project (15%)

As a team (4-5 per group), you will present your group investigation of a chosen film. You will sign up in class in Week 4. Each team should get approval for their project proposal from the instructor before beginning the project. The proposal will be reviewed during group meetings with an instructor in Week 6. The presentation format is free, but I recommend you use diverse visual tools. Presentations will start in Week 8.

4. Take-Home Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm exam will include short-answer or short-essay questions. It will be distributed in Week 6, and will be approximately one week later on D2L. See schedule for details.

5. Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will include short-answer or short-essay questions. The date and time of the exam will be confirmed in class.

## Grading Standards:

A 93-100	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69
A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62

### Advising

Advising is essential to your success as a Film Major or Minor. Meeting with your advisor will help to make sure that you are making timely progress towards your degree, provide you with a valuable connection, and increase your opportunities to participate in school activities and in professional film and television opportunities, such as internships. See the school website for all advising information.

## Schedule

*Course schedule and reading is subject to change. You will be notified in advance if/when such changes occur. Be sure to check the course website (D2L) and your school email account for updates!*

		Topic	Reading
WEEK 1	Mon (1/9)	Introduction	Ch. 1
	Wed (1/11)	Film Form	Ch. 2
WEEK 2	Mon (1/16)	Narrative Form	<b>Blog Due Sunday at Midnight</b> No Class, MLK Day
	Wed (1/18)		Ch. 3
WEEK 3	Mon (1/23)	Mise-en-Scene Group Presentation Guide	<b>Blog Due Sunday at Midnight</b> Screening in class: The Birds (1963)
	Wed (1/25)		Ch. 4
WEEK 4	Mon (1/30)	Cinematography	<b>Blog Due Sunday at Midnight</b> Screening in class: Her (2013)
	Wed (2/1)		Ch. 5
WEEK 5	Mon (2/6)	Editing Group Meeting Week	<b>Blog Due Sunday at Midnight</b> Screening in class: Water (2005)
	Wed (2/8)		Ch. 6
WEEK 6	Mon (2/13)	Sound and Film Style Take-Home Midterm Posted to D2L  Group Proposal Due Group Meeting Time	<b>Blog Due Sunday at Midnight</b> Screening in class: Do The Right Thing (1989)
	Wed (2/15)		Ch. 7
WEEK 7	Mon (2/20)	Critical Analysis of Films	Screening in class: Chunking Express (1994)
	Wed (2/22)	<b>Take-Home Midterm due Friday (2/24)</b>	Ch. 11 (pp. 400–432)
WEEK 8	Mon (2/27)	Genres and	Ch. 9, Ch 10 (pp. 350-369)

		Documentary	
	Wed (3/1)	Group Presentation I	
WEEK 9	Mon (3/6)	Experimental	Ch. 10 (pp. 369–386)
	Wed (3/8)	Group Presentation II	
WEEK 10	Mon (3/13)	Animated	Ch. 10 (pp. 387–398)
	Wed (3/15)	Group Presentation III	
FINAL WEEK	TBA	<b>Final Exam (TBA)</b>	

## University and Course Policies

- ❖ Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students in accordance with Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility, Procedures for Complaints of Academic Dishonesty. See <http://www.pdx.edu/dos/conductcode.html>.
- ❖ Requirements of this class may include class meetings, assignments and/or performances that will be held off-campus. Students/participants will provide his/her own method of transportation to the off-campus location, UNLESS the department arranges for van/bus transportation as part of the particular trip/event/activity
- ❖ Any student who, because of religious beliefs, is unable to attend classes on a particular day shall be excused from attendance requirements and from any examination or other assignment on that day. The student shall make up the examination or other assignment missed because of the absence. Students should make arrangements with their instructors prior to the holy day.
- ❖ Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities  
PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu), <http://www.pdx.edu/drc>.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
  - Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
  - Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
  - For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage (<http://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety>) for information.
- ❖ As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find [a list](#) of those individuals. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module [Creating a Safe Campus](#) in your D2L.