

**CINEMATIC AUTEURS: ALFRED HITCHCOCK**  
**17454 - FILM 3390 - 002**  
**FALL 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Nakisha Acosta

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm by email

**LOCATION:** Online

**DATE AND TIME:** Fridays

**EMAIL:** ntacosta@utep.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An examination of Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic works using auteur theory and film analysis.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

After completing this course a student can expect to understand auteur theory and why Alfred Hitchcock is known as one of the great cinematic auteurs. Students will also learn the importance of film sequence analysis, and how it provides deeper meaning to film.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**

Attendance is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements.
- Participating in engaging discussions with your peers on the discussion boards.
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly Blackboard assignments.

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**GRADING:**

If you take your assignments and screenings seriously, and participate in the class discussions, (i.e. asking questions, and sharing your opinions) you can expect to do well in this class.

Grading Scale: 100

100 – 90 = A

89 – 80 = B

79 – 70 = C

69 – 60 = D

59 and below = F

### **GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

Attendance / Participation (weekly Blackboard forums and assignments): 20%

Mid-Term Paper: 30%

Mise-en-scene Presentation: 20%

Final: 30%

### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

*Hitchcock*, Revised Edition

by François Truffaut

This textbook is available in the UTEP bookstore.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Mid-Term:** Choose any Hitchcock film that we have screened so far, and write a 7 page paper explaining 3 or 4 important scenes in the film. Why is the scene special? What makes it scary, suspenseful, comical? What choices does Hitchcock make in directing the scene? Make sure to discuss the mis-en-scene, camera movement, and story points for the particular scenes. Include a works cited page. Note: Citations from the **course book is necessary**, but outside research can also be beneficial to your paper. Include at **LEAST one** outside source aside from the textbook.

**Note:** If you email your paper to the writing center for help I will give you 5 points to your mid-term paper grade. You must forward to me proof that the paper was reviewed by the writing center.

**Mise-en-scene Presentation:** Choose any 5 minute sequence from one of the films we have screened so far, and describe the mise-en-scene.

**Final:** In an 8 – 10 page paper explain why Alfred Hitchcock is considered an auteur. You can use up to 5 of Hitchcock's films for your analysis. You should reference the theories discussed in class, and Andrew Sarris' criteria for auteur theory. Include at **LEAST THREE** outside sources aside from the course textbook.

**Note:** If you email your paper to the writing center for help I will give you 5 points to your final paper grade. You must forward to me proof that the paper was reviewed by the writing center.

## **PAPER GUIDELINES**

The paper **MUST** have a cover page and works cited page done in MLA format. The cover page should include your name, date, class number, and topic. The page should have a maximum of 1-inch margins all around. The font should be size 12, and commonly used like Times New Roman or Arial. Double spaced.

### **Requirements**

Students need a computer and internet access throughout the semester to stream movies, turn in assignments, and participate in weekly discussion boards on Blackboard.

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION: HOW WE WILL STAY IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER**

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Office Hours: We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held through email at the following times.

Mondays: 2 – 4 p.m.

Wednesdays: 2 – 4 p.m.

- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question.
- Discussion Board: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it under the “questions” sections of the discussion board on Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.
- Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

## **ETIQUETTE**

You will be giving feedback to student's comments and presentations so please keep in mind the following rules:

- All communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.

- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates, and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on these online spaces is intended for classmates and the professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

## **DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

### Major Assignments

- Major assignments (midterm, mise-en-scene presentation, final) will be due on Fridays at 4:30 pm.

### Weekly Blackboard Discussions / Assignments

- All weekly Blackboard assignments will be due on Thursday at midnight (11:59 pm). No late work will be accepted.

Assignments will be posted to Blackboard a week in advance. If you miss one of these weekly assignments you will receive a 0 for your attendance / participation grade. I will only accept late work for the major assignments (midterm, mise-en-scene presentation, final), but 10 points will be deducted for every day it is late up to 3 days, at which point you will receive a 0. It is important to contact me if you are having any issues completing an assignment.

## **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all of your Blackboard postings in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

## **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

- STAY AT HOME and REPORT [screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu) if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.
- If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus.

While on campus:

- Wear face coverings when in common areas or when others are present.
- Maintain a minimum separation of six (6) feet between yourself and others when possible, and arrange spaces to make this possible in almost all circumstances.
- Adhere to room / space limitations on number of occupants.
- Wash and/or sanitize hands frequently.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP)*, and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at [www.utep.edu/dos](http://www.utep.edu/dos), may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

### **CASS POLICY:**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

You need to make sure to contact me the first week of the semester so we can discuss your accommodations for the course.

### **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Note: This course calendar may change at any time under the discretion of your instructor. Chapters should be read before the class date in which they are assigned.

### **WEEK 1**

**AUG. 26** Course Introduction and syllabus  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

### **WEEK 2**

**SEP. 2** Introduction to mise-en-scène

### **WEEK 3**

**SEP. 11** Introduction to auteur theory

### **WEEK 4**

**SEP. 18** Read Ch. 1 – 2  
Watch *The Lodger* (1927)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

### **WEEK 5**

**SEP. 25** Read Ch. 5 – 6  
Watch *Suspicion* (1941)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

### **WEEK 6**

**OCT. 2** Read Ch. 7 – 8  
Watch *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

## WEEK 7

**OCT. 9** Read Ch. 9 – 10  
Watch *Rope* (1948)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

## WEEK 8

**OCT. 16** **MIDTERM PAPERS DUE AT 4:30 PM**  
**Send pdf copies to my email.**

Read Ch. 11  
Watch *Rear Window* (1954)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

## WEEK 9

**OCT. 23** Read Ch. 12  
Watch *Vertigo* (1958)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

## WEEK 10

**OCT. 30** Read Ch. 13  
Watch *Psycho* (1960)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

## WEEK 11

**NOV. 6** Work on mise-en-scene presentations. You can feel free to email me for help, or if you have any questions on the project.

## WEEK 12

**NOV. 13** **MISE-EN-SCENE PRESENTATIONS ARE DUE AT 4:30 PM.**  
There will be two groups on the discussion forum. Upload your presentations to the group where your name is listed. View and give

comments to 3 projects from group 1. View and give comments to 3 projects from group 2.

**WEEK 13**

**NOV. 20** Read Ch. 14  
Watch *The Birds* (1963)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

**WEEK 14**

**NOV. 27** Read Ch. 15 – 16  
Watch *Frenzy* (1972)  
Answer the questions on the Blackboard discussion board.

**WEEK 15**

**DEC. 4** Work on final papers. Email me any questions. Get help from writing center.

**WEEK 16**

**DEC. 11** **FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 4:30 PM**  
**SEND ME A PDF COPY THROUGH EMAIL**