

CINEMATIC AUTEURS: ALFRED HITCHCOCK
15806 - FILM 3390 - 001
FALL 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Nakisha Acosta

OFFICE HOURS: After class or by email

LOCATION: Quinn Hall 103

DATE AND TIME: Thursdays 12:00 – 2:50 PM

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.

DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION SEQUENCE OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate disciplinary knowledge
Assessment tool: Final paper in FILM 1390
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final paper
- Apply communication theories to communication events
Assessment tool: Final paper in COMM 3371
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final paper.
- Evaluate and employ various research methods
Assessment tool: Final exam in COMM 4372
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on the final exam
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in digital media preproduction and production
Perform competency in the preparations, processes, and practices of beginning and completing a digital media production project
- Perform competency in a variety of digital media production environments such as in a studio and on location
Perform competency in using production hardware and software

Assessment tool: film project in COMM 2342

Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on film project

- Demonstrate aptitude in storytelling techniques in terms of postproduction

Perform competency in conceptualizing, evaluating, and implementing filming and editing techniques

Assessment tool: Final exam and film project in COMM 3343

Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final exam and film project

- Demonstrate the ability to produce a film combining conceptual, creative, and technical skill sets

Apply all three phases of production

Aggregate various forms of communication to create a topical basis for a documentary film project

Pursue assorted outlets and venues to showcase a film

Assessment tool: Final exam and film project in COMM 3346

Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on their final exam and film project.

ATTENDANCE:

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.

Your attendance and participation are integral to the class curriculum. It is imperative that you attend class regularly and on time. Everyone is allowed one emergency absence. After that point your grade will be dropped one full letter grade for any unexcused absence acquired thereafter. Likewise, a student will be dropped after three unexcused absences. An unexcused absence is any absence without valid documentation explaining the reason for missing class. An excused absence will have valid documentation explaining why the student was absent. It is under the discretion of the instructor if an absence can be considered excused. Students will be considered absent if they are not present for roll call at the beginning of class. Likewise, if a student leaves during class the student will be considered absent.

Do not schedule doctors appointments or other activities during my class.

GRADING:

If you attend class on time, 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. Completion of a midterm paper, presentation, and final paper are required in order to pass this class. No late papers will be accepted after one week. You will lose one letter grade for each day your paper is late.

Grading Scale: 100

100 – 90 = A

89 – 80 = B

79 – 70 = C

69 – 60 = D

59 and below= F

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%
Mid-Term: 30%
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 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 books are necessary, but outside research can also be beneficial to your paper. Include at LEAST one outside source aside from the textbooks and the film.

Group Presentation: Choose any 10 - 15 minute film sequence and describe how the scene fits with what we have discussed as part of the attributes of auteur theory. The presentations should be the same length as your clip.

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 two outside sources aside from the textbooks and the film.

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. The font should be size 12, and commonly used like Times New Roman or Arial. Double spaced.

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, 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. 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. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

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. 31 Introduction
Syllabus

WEEK 2

SEP. 7 Introduction to auteur theory
Mise-en-scène
Ch. 1 – 3
The Lodger (1927)

WEEK 3

SEP. 14 Discuss *The Lodger*
Ch. 4 – 6
Suspicion (1941)

WEEK 4

SEP. 21 Discuss *Suspicion*
Ch. 7 – 8
Shadow of a Doubt (1943)

WEEK 5

SEP. 28 Discuss *Shadow of a Doubt*
Ch. 9 – 10
Rope (1948)

WEEK 6

OCT. 5 Discuss *Rope*
Ch. 11
Rear Window (1954)

WEEK 7

OCT. 12 Discuss *Rear Window*
Ch. 12
Vertigo (1958)

WEEK 8
OCT. 19 **MIDTERM PAPERS DUE AT 12 PM**
COTTON MEMORIAL MAIN OFFICE

WEEK 9
OCT. 26 Discuss *Vertigo*
Form groups
Ch. 13
Psycho (1960)

WEEK 10
NOV. 2 Discuss *Psycho*
Ch. 14
The Birds (1963)

WEEK 11
NOV. 9 *The Birds*
Ch. 15 – 16
Frenzy (1972)

WEEK 12
NOV. 16 Discuss *Frenzy*
Discuss final paper

WEEK 13
NOV. 23 **THANKSGIVING**

WEEK 14
NOV. 30 Group Presentations
Groups 1 – 3

WEEK 15
DEC. 7 Group Presentations
Groups 4 – 6

WEEK 16
DEC. 14 **FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 12 PM**
EMAIL BOTH A WORD DOCUMENT AND PDF