I. COURSE INFORMATION

Fall 2016
FILM 1390 – Intro-Art of Motion Pict. (3.0 credits), CRN# 12478
This course is web-enhanced. You will need access to a computer and the Internet.

Text:
ISBN-13 978-0-393-26519-4


Materials:
Active UTEP email account
A BLACKBOARD account
All work turned in must be typed in a 12pt. single-spaced Times New Roman format.

II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Name: Ramón Villa
Office Location: Education Rm. 102C – Screenwriting Lab
Office Hours: W 1:30pm – 4:30pm or by appointment (via Blackboard)
Telephone Number: 915-747-5129 (leave message)
Email: rvilla2@utep.edu & via Blackboard email

II. COURSE CONTENT
A. Course Description:
Understanding and appreciating film as a unique medium for communication and artistic expression. Introduces students to a broad range of types of film. Basic theory presented in class. Films viewed in class and on campus and discussed in class.

The focus throughout the semester will be on film form, or the ability to critically analyze narrative patterns and expressive techniques. This critical analysis includes an emphasis on the difference between writing about film form and film content.

B. Course Objectives:
1. Breakdown the basic elements of film form.
2. Learn basic film theories.
3. Understand the difference when writing about film content and film form.
4. Practice the interpretation of techniques and aesthetics of a movie.
5. Screen feature and short films for evaluation.

C. Learning Outcomes:
1. Participate in weekly online group discussions.
2. Write weekly feature film evaluations.
3. Evaluate short film form via weekly online journal entries.
4. Describe films from a traditional and a critical perspective.
5. Demonstrate disciplinary knowledge.

D. Assigned Readings:
Chapter 1 - 11 from *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film* 5th Ed.
Part 1 – 3 from *Writing about Movies* 3rd Ed.

E. Assignments:
Attend class lectures; participate in class and online.

Blackboard
I will use Blackboard to post quizzes, grades, announcements, and other relevant information. Please look at this page everyday.

Individual Quizzes (Chapter/Interactive Tutorials/Video Tutorials)
These are designed to keep you on your toes, chapter to chapter. You will take an individual quiz on the assigned chapter/tutorials. The best way to study for these quizzes is to read the chapters. Each individual quiz is worth 10 points.
Quizzes are due on Mondays by 11:59pm.

Late work will not be accepted.

Feature Film Evaluations
DO NOT WRITE A SUMMARY.
Every week you will evaluate a film I assign for class by discussing (3) three specific moments of interest.

Commentaries may include all sorts of observations, but they will contain the following minimum elements:
- (3) three specific moments of interest (Using chapter/supplemental-reading concepts)
- What you think are the main point(s) of the film (structure, theme, or theoretical framework)

DO NOT WRITE A SUMMARY.

Here are different questions to consider when discussing cinema:
What questions or ideas do the filmmakers ask us to consider?
What is the purpose of this artform?
What themes or patterns emerge? Social issues? Camerawork? Editing?
Each evaluation is worth 10 points.
These are due on Tuesdays by 11:59pm.
Times New Roman 12pt.
Double Spaced.
100 words min and no more than 250.

Late work will not be accepted.

Video Tutorial Questions
Every week you will answer a question that pertains to the video tutorials that are accessible via Blackboard.
Each response is worth 5 points.
Responses are due on Tuesdays by 11:59pm.
Short Film Questions
Every week you will answer a question that pertains to the short films that are accessible via Blackboard.
Each response is worth 5 points.
Responses are due on Tuesdays by 11:59pm.

Short of the Week (SOTW) Journal Entries
You will use the Short of the Week website to evaluate
NARRATIVE FILMS ONLY!
Don't evaluate
DOCUMENTARIES, EXPERIMENTAL FILMS, MUSIC VIDEOS, etc.
This information will be shared amongst the class. DO NOT PLAGARIZE!
The website is at: www.shortoftheweek.com and you can also download the app online for your phone.
You may NOT explore alternative sources for this Journal.
You will use the same premise as writing a FEATURE FILM EVALUATION.
You must cite the movie correctly by using the title of your film as your title so I can look for it on the website as well as attaching your name after the title.
ENTRIES DUE THURSDAYS by 11:59pm
Late work will not be accepted.

Writing About Movie Presentation
This will consist of each group member standing in front of the class to discuss assigned sections from the book.
You will be required to take questions from other classmates for the understanding of the chapter concepts. Presentations should (a) illustrate the main purpose and argument of the readings; (b) point to and comment on two to three important passages and two to three key terms; and (c) propose at least two topics for discussion in class.
This is NOT meant to be just a summary of the assigned readings. Rather, it should function as a guide to the pivotal issues raised in the readings and as a catalyst for generating class discussion, which may include bringing in your own relevant outside examples.
On the day you present, turn in a detailed outline of your presentation that clearly explains what you will talk about—who does what in what order, etc.
Please keep up with the reading. Book must be read by Wed. Sept. 14th.

This assignment is worth 100 points.

**Midterm Paper**
You must write a 1-3 pg. formal analysis approach towards a short film you have written about in your SOTW journal.


**DO NOT USE A TITLE PAGE.**

This assignment is worth 50 points.

Due Oct. 12th via Blackboard by 11:59pm.

**Final Paper**
You must write a 3-5 pg. cultural analysis approach towards a short film you have written about in your SOTW journal.


**DO NOT USE A TITLE PAGE.**

This assignment is worth 50 points.

Due Dec. 7th via Blackboard by 11:59pm.

**F. Grading Scale:**

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<th>Average Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>900 – 1000 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>800 – 899 points</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Incomplete</td>
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**1. Evaluation:**
In order to achieve a grade of “C” for this class you must keep up with all the work assigned as an individual as well as group assignments.

Your grade for the class will be determined by your performance on the following assignments:

30 Online quizzes = 300
Feature Film Evaluations = 150
SOTW Entries = 100
Writing about Movies Group Presentation = 100
Attendance/Participation = 100
Video Tutorial Questions = 75
Short Film Questions = 75
Midterm = 50
Final Paper = 50

Total Points Possible 1,000 points

Specific Deadlines:

Online Quizzes = 300
10 pts. (30 total)
Due Mondays by 11:59pm

Feature Film Evaluations = 150
10 pts. (15 total)
Due Tuesdays by 11:59pm

SOTW Entries = 100
10 pts. (10 total)
Due Thursdays by 11:59pm

Group Presentation = 100
Writing About Movies 3rd Edition book
Please read the entire book by Friday Sept. 14th

Attendance/Participation = 100
Please look at Attendance policy:

Video Tutorial Questions = 75
5 pts. (15 total)
Due Tuesdays by 11:59pm

Short Film Questions = 75
5 pts. (15 total)
Due Tuesdays by 11:59pm

Midterm Paper = 50
Due Oct. 12th by 11:59pm

Final Paper = 50
Due Dec. 7th by 11:59pm

IV. RULES, CLASSROOM POLICIES/ ETC.

Late work will not be accepted.

- Attendance and participation is mandatory. No chatting/texting during lecture or presentations.
- Two (2) unexcused absences before the drop date will result in an automatic drop.
- Read assigned materials/pages prior to meeting for classes.

A. Cheating/Plagiarism:

All of your work must be original. Plagiarism is defined in Webster’s New
Collegiate Dictionary as; “to steal or pass off (the ideas or words off another) as one’s own; i.e., submitting someone else's work under your name or not citing the source of your information”. Cheating consists of obtaining information from someone other than the instructor during an exam, or on other assignments; or having someone else complete your assignments. The instructor and the college take cheating very seriously. At the very least a student will receive an “F” for the assignment if it has been plagiarized or if the student has cheated. The Student Code of Conduct addresses these issues. The instructor will deal with plagiarism and cheating on an individual basis. Consequences can range from receiving a failing grade on the assignment to being dropped from the course. The instructor will follow the Student Code of Conduct in dealing with these issues.

B. Attendance:

Attendance is taken at the beginning of the scheduled class time. If you are late and the attendance book is closed, you run the risk of not being counted present. If students have a documented illness or emergency they may be excused. It is the student's responsibility to attend class and be on time.

- Unexcused absence is defined as any absence without any valid documentation to waive your absence.
- Excused absence is defined as any absence that is waived by the instructor at his own discretion.
- Two (2) late arrivals/early departures will be considered as an unexcused absence. Two (2) unexcused absences before the drop date will result in an automatic drop.
- Attendance will be taken for each class. After attendance has been taken and you arrive late you will be considered absent unless you have previously received permission from the instructor.
- Students leaving before the end of the class without the approval of the instructor will be considered absent.

C. Drops:
The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses 2 class periods in a row without contacting the instructor and/or does not complete a major assignment with excessive absences (quizzes, discussions, presentations, & papers) and does not contact the instructor. The instructor will attempt to contact the student before dropping them. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor if they have a problem and need to be dropped. It is also the student’s responsibility to be aware of the drop date, in order to drop the class before the withdrawal date.

D. Conduct and Grievances: See the student handbook for the proper procedures for addressing student complaints. You are expected to conduct yourself in a courteous and respectful manner. You are required to turn off and stow away all technology including cell phones and laptops, which means NO TEXTING! It is distracting for your instructor and actually, the people around you as well. Your instructor has no problem calling this to your attention and asking you to leave if your use of technology disrupts the class. If you have an emergency arises please step outside.

E. The classroom as a safe haven: This classroom is a safe haven for all ideas. Respect not only your instructor, but also guest speakers and your peers as equals. We are all unique individuals entitled to our own opinions and beliefs. Therefore, any comments, jokes, or remarks that denigrate the worth of an individual’s physical or mental ability, physical appearance, religion, race, creed, ethnic background, sexual preference, or gender are inappropriate and detract from your effectiveness as a speaker and from your credibility as a person.

F. Disruptive Behavior
- Walking in late to class.
- Lack of supplemental materials.
- Leaving electronic devices on during class.
- Taking credit for a thought, opinion and knowledge from sources and claiming them as your own (plagiarism).
- Chatting or talking during a presentation.
- Using vulgarity.
V. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

VI. 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.