



FILM 3390

Cinematic Directors: Billy Wilder

Spring 2016

Thursdays

Old Main 214

Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Sherry Lewis, M.A.

Office: QUIN 104

Office Phone: 747-5914

Office Hours:

M 10:30 am-2:00 pm

T 8-10 am & 12-3

W 10:30 am-12 pm

R 8-11:30 am

F 10:30- 2 pm

Or by appointment

The text for this course is: Billy Wilder, Movie-Maker: Critical Essays on the Films, edited by Karen McNally

This course seeks to increase your familiarity with a specific film director, with a goal of both enlightenment about filmmaking and exercising critical thinking. You will be asked to watch films and critique them.

You should write your daily critique with the goal of expressing an opinion about the film, director, screenwriting, acting, casting, theme, lighting or other important aspect and substantiate your opinion with reasons. Since we are all watching the film together, do not include a summary of the film; I will believe you watched it if you answer the questions I ask and support your ideas well.

In this class, we will watch a movie every week, and you will write a critique weekly. There will also be classroom discussions to help you formulate your opinion(s). I typically have questions to answer specific to the film, which you should incorporate into your critique.

I will have posted a guideline for analyzing these films on Blackboard, **The Annotated Critique Sheet**: These are suggestions to guide you in expressing your own opinion on various aspects of each film. You should also use the Library's resources to support your analysis/critique. Give specific examples from the film to support your critique. You may always include best/worst scene or character/actor in any of your critiques.

Students with Disabilities: If you need ADA-related or special accommodations, please contact CASS at (915) 747-5148, or email cass@utep.edu or get additional information at sa.utep.edu/cass, by Jan. 31st.

Solo Critique: You must also watch at least one other Wilder film on your own, and write a 3 page critique.

Here is a list of approved Wilder films:

- 1942- The Major and the Minor, the first U.S. film Wilder directed.
- 1948- A Foreign Affair, the first U.S. film made in post-war Berlin.
- 1948- The Emperor Waltz: Bing Crosby does his thing.
- 1954- Sabrina, with an all-star cast: William Holden, Humphrey Bogart & Audrey Hepburn.
- 1957- The Spirit of St. Louis, a long movie with Jimmy Stewart.
- 1957- Love in the Afternoon: Audrey Hepburn is back, with Gary Cooper & more.
- 1970- The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes: a more mature Wilder.
- 1972- Avanti: Jack Lemmon again, a little bitter. Also starring Juliet Mills.
- 1974- The Front Page, a remake of a remake, with the gender roles restored.
- 1978- Fedora, starring William Holden. A very understated comedy.
- 1981- Buddy, Buddy: A final outing with Jack Lemmon, adding Walter Matthau for laughs.

These films may be available through Netflix or other film sites for additional home viewing. Some are also available in the Library for overnight checkout, or viewing on site.

If for some reason I am unable to show you any scheduled film, it will automatically qualify for a Solo Paper. Check with me to be sure I am not reserving it for later.

Grade Key

1800-2000.....A

1600-1799..... B

1400-1599..... C

1200-1399..... D

0-1199..... F

Now you can keep track of your grade! Simply divide the points you have accrued by the number of points offered.



Action!

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