

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
HUM 224: Introduction to Film
HUM-224-100-4175
SUMMER
Dr. Ann C. Hall

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Office Hours: Before Class and by appointment

Course Description

HUM 224 introduces students to the fundamentals of film form and film content, including narrative, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, genre, acting, and sound, with emphasis on relationships between these elements and diverse cultural contexts.

Course Materials

Readings and films/videos/digital files will be required throughout the semester and provided as hard copies, posted on Blackboard, emailed out, or made otherwise available.

Statement of General Education/Cultural Diversity Learning Outcomes and Assessments: This course fulfills a General Education requirement in Humanities, which means that this course strives to foster active learning by asking students to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to understand and appreciate cultural diversity. Key elements of critical thinking include: identifying the question or problem; analyzing evidence and developing arguments; integrating knowledge and demonstrating an awareness of multiple points of view; and drawing conclusions based upon reasons, arguments, and evidence. Key elements of effective communication include: articulating a clear purpose, employing a tone appropriate to the assignment and audience, implementing clear and rational organization, demonstrating analysis and/or synthesis that reveals a sophistication of thought, and using appropriate conventions and styles of writing. Because this course fulfills a General Education requirement in Cultural Diversity (CD2), students will have a broad exposure to a variety of social systems, cultures, and subcultures, both within the United States and the rest of the world. This portion of the curriculum encourages an appreciation of the realities of a racially and culturally diverse world. Key elements related to this goal include: recognizing ways that culture shapes our behaviors and attitudes, demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between culture and environment, recognizing the diversity within cultural groups, and analyzing the impact of cultural diversity on problems and societal issues. The table below details the learning outcomes associated with this course, with General Education and UofL's Cultural Diversity outcomes in bold type. The outcomes listed in this table will be assessed through the required course assignments which include, but are not limited to, essays; written, oral, group, and other projects; quizzes; the digital poster; exams; presentations; and class participation.

Emphasis	Outcomes
<p>Rhetoric: Filmmakers and film critics use specific vocabulary and techniques to make meaning from sounds and images. Films function as rhetorical interventions in the social construction of cultural discourses.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate an understanding of vocabulary, concepts, materials, techniques, and methods of intellectual inquiry within the arts and/or humanities. 2. Communicate an understanding of the ways in which race, ethnicity, and/or gender are socially constructed. 3. Demonstrate comprehension and mastery of film vocabulary through written and spoken communication. 4. State and defend specific evaluative claims through rhetorical analysis of words and images.
<p>Culture, History, and Genre: Films reflect the diverse cultures that produce and receive them, and they relate to the history of film as a whole as well as the conventions of specific film genres.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze and synthesize texts, recognizing the diversity of cultures and historical contexts. 2. Recognize that social and cultural systems develop out of adaptation to environmental and historical circumstances. 3. Analyze and explain ways history, genre, and cultural diversity affect film form, narrative, reception, and interpretation. 4. Discuss how personal knowledge of and experience with films relate to the cultures, histories, and genres introduced in class.

Emphasis	Outcomes
<p>Critical Thinking: Understanding and interpreting films requires both attention to form (film strategies and methods such as lighting, framing, and editing) and content (the narrative or plot of the film—or lack thereof in the case of the avant garde)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe and evaluate texts using primary and secondary materials. 2. Communicate an understanding that different cultures may hold different views of the same issues. 3. Evaluate pertinent information and assertions for relevance, bias, stereotyping, manipulation, and completeness. 4. Analyze films through papers and presentations. 5. Synthesize perspectives and information through unified argument

Course Policies.

1. This course will adhere to the University Policies indicated on the following page: <http://louisville.edu/delphi/resources/syllabus/samples>

These include the Clery Act, the Disabilities Statement, the Diversity Statement, and the Academic Dishonesty Statement.

2. Plagiarism Policy

UofL's Student Handbook, Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Section 5E, de-fines plagiarism as representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, such as:

- Submitting as one's own a paper written by another person or by a commercial "ghost writing" service,
- Exactly reproducing someone else's words without identifying the words with quotation marks or by appropriate indentation, or without properly citing the quotation in a footnote or reference.
- Paraphrasing or summarizing someone else's work without acknowledging the source with a footnote or reference.
- Using facts, data, graphs, charts, or other information without acknowledging the source with a footnote or reference. Borrowed facts or information obtained in one's research or reading must be acknowledged unless they are "common knowledge". Clear examples of "common knowledge" include the names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, and the meaning of fundamental concepts and principles in a discipline. The specific audience for which a paper is written may determine what can be viewed as "Common knowledge": for example, the facts commonly known by a group of chemists will differ radically from those known by a more general audience.

Students should check with their teachers regarding what can be viewed as “common knowledge” within a specific field or assignment, but often the student will have to make the final judgment.

When in doubt, footnotes or references should be used. **Students who plagiarize will fail the course and will be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences.** Students who “regift” papers (who use papers that have been turned in to other classes) will fail the assignment.

The U of L Writing Center is a useful resource when in doubt about citations: (<http://breeze.louisville.edu/plagiarism09/>) . We will also review MLA citation strategies in class.

3. Attendance is required. Missing more than two classes will result in a reduction of your final grade. Missing four classes will result in failure.

4. Class participation is required. Showing up for class does not constitute passing class participation. You are expected to read, prepare, and discuss the assignments and course materials. You must also come to class on time and return from breaks at the appropriate time. Please come to class prepared to take notes and participate. Bring writing equipment to every class.

5. Deadlines are part of life and the writing process. No late papers, assignments will be accepted. No Incompletes will be given. Assignments are due on the day that they appear on the calendar. Exceptions will be made for emergencies, but you must contact me either prior to or immediately following the delay. Incompletes will revert to failing grades if the work is not completed by the end of the semester following the course semester.

6. MLA. All papers must be typed according to the MLA method of citation as well as the page set up. See this link for an example: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf

7. Every assignment must be completed in order to pass the class.

8. Civility. Issues discussed in this class may be controversial. Students must treat the instructor, one another, the subject matter, and the assignments with respect. Arguments are part of the academic life, the life of the mind, but insults, name-calling, gossiping, and other behavior presented to us everyday on talk shows are inappropriate. Another component to civil discourse is active listening—so no cell phones, surfing, etc. while others are talking. Besides, using these devices recklessly is the fastest way to fail a class.

8. Feedback on Coursework: Students may request feedback on work (excluding assessments) prior to final submission. While reserving the right to provide emailed feedback, the instructor may require feedback discussions to be in-person during office hours or by appointment. The instructor reserves the right to establish time constraints/deadlines regarding when feedback can/cannot be obtained. Early/initial feedback and suggestions are not all-inclusive or exhaustive; student adherence does not guarantee specific grades/evaluative measurements. Failure to seek to feedback in a timely manner will not serve as reason for excusing/allowing make-up coursework

or grade alterations. Unless a student indicates otherwise (verbally or in writing), the instructor will provide written or verbal feedback on graded major written and oral assignments (but not always for assessments, minor assignments, and end-of-the-semester work). Students are responsible for ensuring that they receive this feedback and may request additional feedback on all completed/graded coursework. Students have the right to meet with the instructor to discuss grades received; however, such a discussion is not an opportunity to argue grades or request a grade change. The instructor reserves the right to require all related discussions to be in-person. Excluding specific and extreme situations as stipulated by formal and official University policies, all grades (including the overall final course grade and individual coursework grades) in this course are final.

9. Engagement. Please check your email and the Blackboard site frequently. Grades, notes, and other postings will be available. You are responsible for understanding the University rights/obligations and protocol, as well as the syllabus and calendar guidelines and expectations. You are also responsible for noting all course announcements and changes made by the instructor electronically, verbally, or in writing.

10. Cell Phones, Laptops, and Other Electronic Devices Policies: During class, cell phones should not be visible (e.g. on the desk, in the student's lap) or audible. All cell phone use (including texting) is forbidden during class time. If students have a special situation where they need to be on call, then they must make prior arrangements with the instructor and take the call outside.

Use of laptops and other electronic devices during class for any purpose other than class-specific note-taking, accessing electronic readings (non-laptop devices preferred), and/or furthering the entire class's learning experience is not allowed. Non-acceptable usage includes, but is not limited to, personal or non-course related activities (e.g., homework, social media sites, games) and working on non-approved coursework.

The instructor reserves the right to temporarily or permanently ban the use of laptops and other electronic devices for specific students and/or the entire class at any time. First-time violations will result in a warning and possible grade penalization. Subsequent violations may result in further penalization including, but not limited to, a 10% final grade reduction for each violation.

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, no electronic devices are allowed for in-class assessments and use of non-approved electronic devices will result in a zero on that assessment with no make-up possibility.

11. Reproductions of Course Materials: Except with written instructor permission, students are not authorized to reproduce, re-post, share, or distribute any course materials (including work posted by other students in the course) or to produce/create in-class recordings.

Assignments

Response Papers

Students will write 10 2-page (500 words) papers offering a thesis and analysis of film techniques and how they affect the larger issues of the film. Prompts will be provided by the instructor. More details in the course will follow. Papers should be headed and set up according to the MLA style. Here is a sample: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given out unexpectedly at the beginning of class. They are content quizzes, so it is best to review your notes from the previous day's class. They will be worth between 5 and 10 points each. You can expect at least 35 points in quizzes. In this way, you will be able to earn as many as 10 extra credit points.

Exams

We will have one cumulative final exam on the last day of the class. The exam will cover film terminology, genres, film techniques, as well as material on the specific films that were discussed during the course. The exam will take the form of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.

Group Project/Oral Presentation

Students will work together to offer an introduction to the film they are assigned. Information on the director, the cast, the historical or cultural context of the film, the genre, any reception history, and other important information that will help the class understand the film should be included. You will be required to do research for this presentation, so you will need to document your sources carefully and provide a bibliography to the class. Every group member must speak. Presentations should last no more than between **15 and 20** minutes. I will time the presentation, and I will stop it if it goes on too long. Please rehearse the presentation to make sure your presentation does not go over the time period allotted. A PowerPoint presentation should accompany the presentation and be submitted to the instructor. The Powerpoint will be emailed to the class or posted on Blackboard. Any notes should be made available to the rest of the class in addition to the bibliography. The information, not the bibliography, presented during these group presentations will become part of the material the class is responsible for during the Final Exam.

Class Participation

Class participation includes attending and being prepared and ready to discuss the films and the readings, as well as completing assignments on time.

Homework

Prior to every class and film screening, please find a cast list and a plot summary. Review those items before coming to class. Websites that are useful for this information are Wikipedia, IMDB, or TCM.

Grade Distribution

Papers 200 points

Exam 150 points

Quizzes 25 points

Group/ Oral Presentation 75 points

Class Participation 50 points

Total: 500 points.

Grading.

Grades	Points	Grade	Points
A+	97-100	C	74-76
A	94-96	C-	70-73
A-	90-93	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	D	64-66
B	84-86	D-	60-63
B-	80-83	F	59-0
C+	77-79		

Calendar.

CLASS ONE

Class Introduction/Horror

Brief History of Film.

Overview of film and film terms.

In-class viewing of *Nosferatu*

Response Paper #1 completed in class.

CLASS TWO

Narration/Genre/Social Satire

HW: Bring cast and plot summary to class.

Response Paper #2 Due.

Review of film history and film terms

Discussion of short film.

In-class viewing of *Get Out***There are some violent scenes in this movie towards the end.

CLASS THREE**Narration/Mise-en-Scene/Gangster****HW: Bring cast and plot summary to class.****Response Paper #3 Due.**In-class viewing of *The Godfather***There are some violent scenes in this movie.**CLASS FOUR****Acting/Lighting/Film Noir/Hays Code Group Presentation #1 HW:****Bring cast and plot summary to class. Response Paper #4 Due.**In-class viewing of *Double Indemnity***CLASS FIVE****The Shot/Framing/The Long Take Group Presentation #2 HW: Bring****cast and plot summary to class. Response Paper #5 Due.**In-class viewing of *Citizen Kane***CLASS SIX****Sound/Music/Hollywood Musicals Group Presentation #3 HW: Bring****cast and plot summary to class. Response Paper #6 Due.**In-class viewing of *Singin' in the Rain*.**CLASS SEVEN****Metafilm/Editing/Hitchcock Group Presentation #4 HW: Bring cast****and plot summary to class. Response Paper #7 Due.**In-class viewing of *Rear Window***CLASS EIGHT****Animation Group Presentation #5 HW: Bring cast and plot summary****to class. Response Paper #8 Due.**In-class viewing of *Persepolis* and other shorts**CLASS NINE****Global Cinema Group Presentation #6 HW: Bring cast and plot****summary to class. Response Paper #9 Due.**In-class viewing of *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*

CLASS TEN**Avant-garde****HW: Bring cast and plot summary to class.****Response Paper #10 Due.**

In-class viewing of short avant-garde films.

Final Exam.

This syllabus is subject to and welcomes change.