

## HUM 160: Introduction to Film

Fall 2015

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**Office hours:**

Mondays/Wednesday 11:00-12:30pm

### **Course Meetings**

Lecture & Screening: Mondays / Wednesday, 1:00-2:50pm

### **Course Overview**

This course is an introduction to film. Topics include basic concepts and terminology. This course is will move you from being a passive viewer to an active “reader” of film. The elements of cinematic language you will be using to analyze the way filmmakers: convey information, story, and meaning; develop style; and elicit audience response.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

Exhibit the ability to critically analyze, appreciate, and make cogent subjective judgments regarding artistic and literary works, using the appropriate conventions and language of the discipline.

Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the significance of major literary and film work and movements within their larger socio/historical contexts. [Critical Thinking, Diversity]

### **HUM 160 Specific Outcomes**

- Understand and use basic film terminology
- Understand and differentiate the various film genres
- Appreciate the role of North Carolina in the film industry
- Appreciate the various work roles that help create a finished film product
- Learn from the community atmosphere created by a film project
- Learn about the history of film
- Learn about the basics of storytelling through film and video
- Work independently on film-related research

### **Required Texts**

- *Looking at Movies*, Richard Barsam & Dave Monahan, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (W.W. Norton, 2013).

*Looking at Movies* DVD supplement (two discs that come with the book).

**Video recording device, flash drive, tripod, headphones with mouthpiece, high speed internet access.**

## **How You Will Be Graded**

Quizzes will be posted on Blackboard. They will cover material primarily from the text.

**Classwork**—This includes tests and exams, homework, classwork and pop quizzes. Your classwork equals **25% of your course grade**.

**Journal**—these essays, summaries and papers are assigned to you based on screenings and discussions held during the Monday afternoon class. Journal essays, summaries and papers assigned on Monday should be completed and in your journals by the following Monday and may be required to be presented in class. The completed journals are due at the end of the semester. Your journal equals **25% of your course grade**.

**Portfolio**—This includes essays, vocabulary lists and typed papers from the various chapters of the textbook, assigned typed papers from the various sections of the textbook's accompanying CD and inclusion of all glossary terms. Assignments should be completed and in your portfolios by Thursdays after Monday's class and may be required to be presented in class on the following Monday. Your portfolio equals **25% of your course grade**.

### **Film Production: Documentary/Experimental/ Narrative fiction**

Students will work in collaborative teams to complete the preproduction and production of short documentary, experimental or Narrative Fiction films. Students should be ready to present a project proposal for one of these three genres (or a hybrid) in the weeks preceding the first class meeting. Projects will be based on equipment availability, crew experience and the written project presentation. The short films, no longer than 10 minutes in length. **Equals 25% of your course grade**

**Another choice you have if you do not want to work in a group, you can choose to do the following assignment.**

### **Film Presentation**

Guidelines for Presentations: Presentations will take place the last day of the semester. Your presentation will relate to the textbook readings and terms assigned throughout the semester. You can bring in two clips but the clips together should be no longer than 4 minutes and it must relate to the reading/film that we learned about throughout the semester. (This clip could be from a film, YouTube, etc. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure our classroom technology can support the media you plan to show.) You will introduce and screen the clip or clips as well as prepare a 10 minute presentation related to the clip or clips as and which should include vocabulary terms we have discussed throughout the semester. Each student should prepare 8-10 slides using Prezi or PowerPoint that relates to the content of the presentation. Prepare a thesis and back it up with evidence from the text and film clips. You will spend time outside of class to decide on presentation topics, coordinate slides, and practice your presentation. You will have time in class to work on this project as well. Presentations will be cut off at 20 minutes max, even with class participation/ discussion.

**Grading Scale**

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = 59-0

**Make-up or Late Work:** Make-up work is not permitted, and projects may not be re-submitted for a better grade.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes acts such as cheating, plagiarism, knowingly furnishing false information, forgery and alteration. The instructor will take action to when academic dishonesty has been identified. Evidence of Academic dishonesty will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services, who will oversee disciplinary actions according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Students are expected to exhibit academic honesty and integrity in all aspects of this class and in all college endeavors. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism or taking test answers from someone else. If a student engages in academic dishonesty, the instructor has the option of awarding the student a failing grade on the assignment or awarding the student a failing grade in the class.

**Instructor's Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance and participation is an essential part of this learning experience. Thus, to be successful in this course, attendance is required, as this class has a particular focus on personal interaction and discussion. Please read, understand, and follow the College Attendance Policies, as provided below.

**College Attendance Policy:** Students must be in class on time and are expected to be at all classes. A student will be withdrawn automatically from any course when absent more than 30 percent of the total class. Three tardies in a class will be considered one class absence. Missing class for military assignment or for college-related activities will not constitute an absence if the instructor has given prior approval. The responsibility for issuing notice of class absence rests with the student. Any student facing a lengthy illness may apply for extended absences through ADA in Student Services. Students who cannot follow the attendance policy will officially withdraw from the class to avoid a failing grade

**Learning and Other Resources on Campus:** A diversity of learning support systems are available to support students. The Academic Skills Center (ASC) provides a Computer Lab, Writing Lab, and Math Lab.

**Classroom Decorum:** students are supposed to become familiar with and follow the Code of Conduct. The complete code of conduct can be found online.

**Accommodation of Disabilities:** If you are a student who has a documented disability, it is the students are to notify the instructor of his or her disability and to request academic accommodations. All accommodations are in obedience with the American Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

**Security Statement:** The Security Department will maintain a safe and secure learning atmosphere. Security personnel address the needs of the faculty, staff, students, and visitors. Security on campus is provides 24-hours a day, 7 days a week service. Campus Security enforces federal, state, and city laws, as well as college regulations.

**Instructor-specific expectations:** Building effective communication skills is a secondary goal of this class. Therefore, students are expected to contribute to classroom dialogues in a knowledgeable and respectful way. Successful contributions to discussions must indicate the completion of assigned readings, and assignments/projects.

**Film Content Warning:** This course will include films that deal with controversial topics, profane language, adult situations, violence, nudity, racism, sexism, homophobia and subject matter that may not match your ideology. I do not show films for any reason other than to support the material that we are covering. I will not change the material to fit your ideology. Your enrollment in this course indicates your awareness of this and your willingness to approach these films in an adult, critical manner.

**While we will be screening films in their entirety through the class, at times we will only be watching clips of the various films to shows examples of what we are highlighting throughout the chapters we go over.**

<b>Agenda</b>	
Monday, Aug. 17	Introduction to course. Syllabus, journals and portfolios explained; other Journal Assignment #1—In essay form, summarize the events of the first class meeting and identify what you expect from this class.
Wednesday, Aug. 19	Portfolio Assignment #1—Glossary terms, p. 235; 1 page typed summary of book's introduction pp xv-xxii; 1 page summary of CD's introduction
Monday, Aug. 24	Screening in the classroom : <b>Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (2014)</b> Journal Assignment #2—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Portfolio Assignment #2—Glossary terms, p. 236; 2 page summary of book's chapter one
Monday, Aug. 31	Portfolio Assignment #3—Glossary terms, p. 237; 2 page typed summary of CD's chapter one
Wednesday, Sept. 2	Screening in the classroom: <b>Jason Reitman's Juno (2007)</b> Journal Assignment #3—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Monday, Sept. 7	LABOR DAY
Wednesday, Sept. 9	Portfolio Assignment #4—Glossary terms, p. 238; 3 paged typed summary of book's chapter two
Monday, Sept. 14	Screening in the classroom: <b>Dial M for Murder (1954)</b> Journal Assignment #4—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Sept. 16	Portfolio Assignment #5—three paged typed summary of CD's chapter two
Monday, Sept. 21	Screening in the classroom: <b>A Girl Like Her (2015)</b> Journal Assignment #5—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Portfolio Assignment #6—three paged typed summary of book's chapter three TEST #1 TODAY
Monday, Sept. 28	Screening in the classroom: <b>Elephant (2003)</b> Journal Assignment #6—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Sept. 30	Portfolio Assignment #7—three paged typed summary of CD's chapter three <b>Film Project Presentation DUE</b>
Monday, Oct. 5	Screening in the classroom Journal Assignment #7—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Oct. 7	Portfolio Assignment #8—four paged typed summary of book's chapter four
<i>Syllabus or Agenda items subject to change.</i>	
<i>Syllabus changes will be communicated through written notification. Agenda changes or due dates will be communicated through oral communication.</i>	

<b>Agenda</b>	
Monday, Oct. 12	Screening in the classroom: <b>The Wizard of Oz (1939)</b> Journal Assignment #8—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Portfolio Assignment #9—four paged typed summary of CD's chapter four
Monday, Oct. 19	Screening in the classroom: <b>Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing (1989)</b> Journal Assignment #9—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Portfolio Assignment #10—six paged typed summary of book's chapter five
Monday, Oct. 26	Screening in the classroom: <b>Tim Burton's Sleepy Hollow (1999)</b> Journal Assignment #10—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.; <b>TEST #2 TODAY</b>
Wednesday, Oct 28	Portfolio Assignment #11—six paged typed summary of CD's chapters five, six and seven
Monday, Nov. 2	Screening in the classroom: <b>Jurassic world (2015)</b> Journal Assignment #11—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Nov. 4	Portfolio Assignment #12—four paged typed summary of CD's chapters eight and nine
Monday, Nov. 9	Screening in the classroom: <b>Whiplash (2014 )</b> Journal Assignment #12—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard.
Wednesday, Nov. 11	VETERAN'S DAY
Monday, Nov. 16	Portfolio Assignment #13—four paged typed summary of book's chapter six Screening in the classroom: <b>Gravity (2013)</b>
Wednesday, Nov. 18	Journal Assignment #13—In essay form, please answer the questions on the classroom chalkboard Screening in the classroom: <b>The Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)</b>
Monday, Nov. 23	COMPLETED PORTFOLIOS AND JOURNALS DUE TODAY!!!!!! Screening in the classroom: <b>Dark Places (2015)</b>
Wednesday, Nov. 25	Film Groups will meet today during class to discuss film presentation.
Monday, Nov. 30	Filming Groups will meet for filming/editing
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Preparation for final presentations/ Filming Groups will meet for filming/editing
Monday, Dec.7	Preparation for final exam

Wednesday, Dec 9	FINAL EXAM TODAY
Monday Dec. 14	LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER/ FINAL PRESENTATIONS TODAY