**ENGLISH 110: FILM STUDIES**

**Fall 2019 – Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:50 PM – North Santiam Hall 206**

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| **Instructor:** Matt Usner  **Office:** NSH-213 | **Email:** usnerm@linnbenton.edu  **Office Phone:** 917-4283 | **Office Hours:** Tue/Thur 1:00-2:00 and by appointment |

This syllabus contains all the vital information about this course—what you’ll be learning, what will be expected of you, and what you can expect from me. In short, it states what is required of both of us during the term. This is a valuable document, so keep it handy and refer to it often. **The better you know the syllabus, the better the chance that you’ll do well in the course.**

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** ENG 110: Film Studies “Explores the power of film to shape and reflect culture and ideology; raises questions about film and its relationship to self, others, and social values; studies film genres and styles, aesthetics, film history, film as a collaborative medium, Hollywood, independent and international cinema, techniques and grammar of film, and major film theories. 3 class hours/week, 3 credits.”

**PREREQUISITE:** A “C” or better in Writing 121 is **strongly recommended** for success in this class.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course will introduce you to the academic study of film. We will watch lots of film excerpts, as well as some full-length features, and we’ll closely examine their visual and narrative elements, as well as its cultural impact. A main goal of this course will be to train you to watch movies *actively*, rather than *passively*, and move beyond the typical reactions of liking or disliking them. The goal of actively watching a movie is to think critically about it, regardless of whether you find the movie entertaining or not. In short, our goal will be analysis, not entertainment. (Of course this is not to say that analysis can’t be a form of entertainment.) Because this is a discussion-based course, your active participation will be expected, and I will do everything I can to make sure our classroom is a welcoming space to exchange ideas respectfully. The best way to be an active participant in class is to complete the reading assignments thoroughly and come to class prepared to discuss them.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**: Students who complete this course will be able to:

* Analyze the major compositional elements of film, including mise-en-scéne, cinematography, editing, and sound.
* Analyze the major elements of narrative film, including plot, character, setting, and theme.
* Analyze the major conventions used in select film genres.
* Apply key vocabulary terms used in film studies.
* Interpret and evaluate films based on their compositional and narrative elements.

**REQUIRED READINGS**: Required readings are an important element of this course. It’s simply not possible to do well if you don’t take the time to read carefully and take notes. **Reading quizzes and response papers are part of the graded assignments.** Because there is no required textbook for this course, readings will be posted online in our Moodle site (explained below).

**MOODLE:** Important course materials—such as readings, assignment instructions, class agendas, and your grades—will be posted on our course site on Moodle. An easy way to get to Moodle is to start at the [LBCC homepage](http://www.linnbenton.edu/), and then click on the yellow Moodle logo at the top right. Alternatively, you can go directly to [the sign-in screen](https://moodle.linnbenton.edu/). If you’ve never logged-in to Moodle before, you may first have to claim your account at<https://identity.linnbenton.edu/>. If you have any problems logging, please contact the Student Help Desk; they can be reached at 541-917-4630 or [student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu](mailto:student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu).

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

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| * ***Various In-Class and Out-of-Class Assignments (25% of final grade):*** There will be **6-8** graded assignments that will be completed either in class or for homework. These can include in-class reading and vocabulary quizzes, response papers, collaborative tasks, and other “project-y” assignments. The goal of these assignments will always be to explore the concepts we are studying in class. * ***Midterm Exam (25% of final grade):*** You will take a midterm exam around Week 5. It will consist of vocabulary terms from class readings and an in-class scene analysis exercise. * ***Scene Analysis Essay (25% of final grade):*** This essay (4-6 typed pages) will ask you to analyze the cinematic elements of a short scene from a film we watch in class. You will have the option of revising this paper for the chance at a higher grade, as long as the original paper is submitted on time. * ***Final Exam (25% of final grade):*** The final exam will be held on **Tuesday of Finals Week from 12:30 to 2:20**. Details on the final exam will be discussed after midterm. |

**GRADING:** You can earn up to **500 points** in this course:

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| **ASSIGNMENTS** | **POINTS** | **% OF FINAL GRADE** |
| Various In-Class and Out-of-Class Assignments | 125 | 25% |
| Midterm Exam | 125 | 25% |
| Scene Analysis Essay | 125 | 25% |
| Final Exam | 125 | 25% |
| **POINT TOTAL** | **500** | **100%** |

Your final grade will be determined by the following point breakdown:

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| **GRADE** | **TOTAL POINTS** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| **A** | 500 to 448 points (89.6% and up) | Passing work that is excellent |
| **B** | 447 to 398 points (89.4% to 79.6%) | Passing work that is good |
| **C** | 397 to 348 points (79.4% to 69.6%) | Passing work that is average |
| **D** | 347 to 298 points (69.4% to 59.6%) | Non-passing work that is below average |
| **F** | 297 and below (59.4% and below) | Non-passing work that is fundamentally lacking |

**IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES AND CAMPUS RESOURCES:**

* **No-Show Policy:** Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, students not attending the first two class sessions will be dropped from the course and not reinstated.
* **Attendance Policy:** Missing class means missing valuable instruction time. In short, you give yourself the best chance to do well by attending every class. In-class graded activities cannot be made up if you are not present. Likewise, for out-of-class assignments, an absence is not an excuse for missing a due date. If you must miss a class, it’s wise to contact me as soon as possible. **I reserve the right to deduct 25 points from your final point total for each absence beyond 2.**
* **Electronic Devices in the Classroom:** Most of us are attached to our phones, but human beings have survived without them for tens of thousands of years; I’m confident that you can survive without yours for our two weekly class periods. Please silence your phone and put it in your pocket or bag--not in your lap, not face down on your desk. Using your phone in class distracts yourself and others, including me. I also strongly prefer that students do not use laptops or tablets in the class unless instructed to, but if you feel that you must, please talk to me before doing so.
* **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Presenting someone else’s ideas in writing as if they are your own is plagiarism, and it is a serious academic offense. **Any plagiarized elements in your writing will result in, at minimum, a zero for the assignment and, at maximum, automatic course failure.** If you ever borrow information from an outside source to put in an essay, you must cite it properly. If you’re not sure how to do this, please ask me for help before submitting your paper. Once you submit a paper, the policy mentioned above will be enforced.
* **Policy on Late Work:** Policies for late work will be included with assignment instructions.
* **Office Hours:** Feel free to visit me during my office hours (listed at the top of this syllabus) to discuss any questions or concerns you have. It’s best to schedule a time in advance, but I won’t mind if you stop by unannounced.
* **LBCC Student Email:** Please make sure that you check your student email regularly throughout the term. Should I need to contact you, I will be emailing your student account. You can find information about accessing your LBCC email here: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail>
* **The LBCC Writing Center:** The LBCC Writing Center (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students. Get more info about the WC here: [http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/study/learning-center/writing-assistance/)
* **The LBCC Library:** The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall. Get more information here: <http://library.linnbenton.edu/home>
* **Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR):** LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.
* **Non-Discrimination Policy:** Everyone in the LBCC community has the right to think, learn, and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill, and we will honor that right in our classroom.
* **Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu or [www.linnbenton.edu/RRC](http://www.linnbenton.edu/RRC) . I am also happy to put you in touch with them.
* **Last Day to Withdraw:** Each term, the Friday that concludes Week 7 is the last day for students to withdraw from a course. If you are still enrolled after this point, you must receive a grade. Be aware that withdrawing from a course can impact your financial aid, so be sure to consult with the [Financial Aid Office](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/money-matters/financial-aid/) if you have questions before withdrawing.
* **Student Printing:** Some assignments in this course may require you to turn in a printed hard copy. LBCC uses a pay-to-print system called GoPrint that charges .10 cents per printed page. If you do not have a GoPrint account, you can sign up for one in any college computer lab. You can find more information at <http://www.linnbenton.edu/computer-resources-and-labs>.
* **Food and Drink in the Classroom:** Drinks are fine, but please do not eat during class.
* **Our Classroom’s “Golden Rule”:** To maximize learning by minimizing distractions from it.

**COURSE CALENDAR:** The week-by-week schedule below is a key to success; follow it carefully!

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| **DATE** | **TOPICS** | **WHAT TO DO BEFORE CLASS** |
| ***WEEK 1***  TUE 10/1 | Course introduction, the academic study of film, best practices for good reading, vocabulary list | --- |
| THUR 10/3 | Representation and reality, written and visual language, analysis vs. entertainment | • Read [“It’s Just a Movie”](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3uFYRxCVRH7Snd0akY2WTVRTDg) (pp. 1-7)  • Read [*Film Analysis* Intro](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a-MuikhoP3m7gRHaTuXAjd6coA2DJ7xu/view?usp=sharing) (pp. 1-6)  • Read *Yale Film Analysis* [“Part 1: Basic Terms”](https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/basic-terms/)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| ***WEEK 2***  TUE 10/8 | Film form: mise-en-scène | • Read *Film Studies* [Intro (pp. 1-4)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=978752&ppg=18) and [ch. 1 (pp. 5-23)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=978752&ppg=22)  • Read *Yale Film Analysis* [“Part 2: Mise-en-scene”](https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/mise-en-scene/)  • Watch [“Composing the Frame”](http://youtu.be/EnTL4bndlkc) (8:23 min)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| THUR 10/10 | Film form: cinematography | • Read *Film Studies* [ch. 2 (pp. 24-37)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=978752&ppg=41)  • Read *Yale Film Analysis* [“Part 3: Cinematography”](https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/cinematography/)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| ***WEEK 3***  TUE 10/15 | In-class practice analysis (mise-en-scene and cinematography) | • Watch [*The Language of Camera Motion*](http://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu:2048/login?url=https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=102565&xtid=168470) (55 min)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| THUR 10/17 | Film form: editing | • Read *Film Studies* [ch. 4 (pp. 55-73)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=978752&ppg=72)  • Read *Yale Film Analysis* [“Part 4: Editing”](https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/editing/)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| ***WEEK 4***  TUE 10/22 | Film form: sound | • Read *Film Studies* [ch. 5 (pp. 74-88)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=978752&ppg=91)  • Read *Yale Film Analysis* [“Part 5: Sound”](https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/sound/)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| THUR 10/24 | Review film form elements and vocabulary; practice in-class analysis for Midterm Exam | • Review for midterm  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| ***WEEK 5***  TUE 10/29 | **Midterm Exam** | • Review for midterm  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| THUR 10/31 | Genre | • Read [“The Canon in Practice” (pp. 3-9)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yCeub6R5A6iiL6aevXPnvYWNZvbpnUOT/view?usp=sharing)  • Read *Film Studies* [ch. 10 (pp. 143-157)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=978752&ppg=160)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| ***WEEK 6***  TUE 11/5 | **Assign Scene Analysis Essay**; begin film #1 | • Read [“The Idea of Genre in American Cinema”](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19d1LnzlWs1pIB1XRrD8AapqbrC1wtVbz/view?usp=sharing)  • Work on any assignments discussed in class |
| THUR 11/7 | Conclude film #1; review scene analysis guidelines | • Readings to be announced |
| ***WEEK 7***  TUE 11/12 | **Scene Analysis Essay due** (bring printed copy AND submit on Moodle) |  |
| THUR 11/14 | **REMAINDER OF THE CALENDAR WILL BE UPDATED AROUND MIDTERM** |  |
| ***WEEK 8***  TUE 11/19 |  |  |
| THUR 11/21 |  |  |
| ***WEEK 9***  TUE 11/26 |  |  |
| THUR 11/28 | **NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** | --- |
| ***WEEK 10***  TUE 12/3 |  |  |
| THUR 12/5 |  |  |
| ***WEEK 11***  TUE 12/10 | **Final Exam 12:30-2:20** |  |