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| **ENGLISH 223: Difference, Power, and Oppression in Film** **Fall 2023, Hybrid: Meets Wednesdays 6:00-7:50pm in NSH 109 and online via Moodle**

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| **Instructor:** Stephen Rust, PhD**CRN:** 26375 | **Email:** rusts@linnbenton.edu **Office:** RCH 210  | **Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10-12 via Zoom; email ahead for a link |

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Explores cinematic representations of difference, power, and/or oppression in American film. Emphasizes the sociocultural analysis of film by focusing on race, class, gender, and/or sexuality. Specific themes may change term to term to highlight a particular topic, genre, director, or historical period. 4 credits.

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| ***Like any story, a movie plot is told through the lives of characters, which raises the question of not only what is the story about, but whose lives are used to tell it. Who are the human beings having these human experiences? And who, in being left out and made invisible, are not?***  **--Allan Johnson, sociologist** |

**PREREQUISITE:** A grade of “C” or better in Writing 121 is required before taking this class. If you are not sure that you meet this prerequisite, please email me before the end of the first week of class.**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**: Students who complete this course will be able to:* Explain how difference is socially constructed.
* Using historical and contemporary examples, describe how perceived differences, combined with unequal distribution of power across economic, social, and political institutions, result in discrimination and oppression.
* Analyze ways in which the interactions of social categories, such as race, ethnicity, social class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and age, are related to difference, power, and oppression in the United States

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:** A laptop or desktop computer with access to the internet and a microphone and (optional) webcam. Check Moodle and LBCC email regularly and use your [LBCC Google drive](https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/email/index.php) to save assignments. You can also download a free version of [Office365-at LBCC](https://sites.google.com/a/linnbenton.edu/office365-at-lbcc/home/staff-install-instructions).**TEXTBOOKS**: * ***America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality at the Movies*** (3rd ed.) by Benshoff and Griffin. eBook available in Moodle via Direct Digital Access.
* [***Difference, Power, and Discrimination in Film & Media: Student Essays***](https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/dpdfilm/), a free online resource

**DPD CONTENT:** Our class will be a space to respectfully exchange ideas--some of which you may find controversial and/or uncomfortable--and to evaluate (and reevaluate) your own viewpoints on these important, thought-provoking issues. Trigger Warning: Some of the films discussed or screened for class will be rated R or TV-MA and may contain offensive language, nudity, violence, and/or sexual situations (including sexual assault). Alternative films available upon request, please ask ahead.

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| **ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES:*** ***Participation and Homework (40% of final grade):*** Attendance and participation in class discussions are a key component of the class and graded as such. Responses to our reading and your weekly film selections will take various forms throughout the term, including weekly film and reading discussions and homework assignments as well as discussions of the group presentations and peer reviews of the DPD Essays. If you are absent, an alternative participation assignment will be available for 85% credit.
* ***Final Essay Project (40% of final grade):*** This 8-paragraph essay will ask you to analyze the representation DPD in a motion picture, television show, video game, or comic book of your choice. You will take shot-by-shot notes on one scene to capture a sense of the aesthetics and use these notes and conduct library research to inform your analysis. You will have the option of contributing your essay to a student publication project after getting feedback from your peers, instructor, and the Writing Center.
* ***Presentations (20% of final grade):*** You will complete two group presentations during the term, one over Race and Ethnicity in film and one over Gender and Sexuality in film. You will use or Google slides or Powerpoint to create slides. You can use your LBCC gmail drive to save your slides and meet in person or via Zoom to divide up the sections of the your assigned chapters and practice your presentation together. Presentation slides must be posted to Discussion boards before your presentation for peer viewing and engagement. You will also submit peer reviews of your group members and a self-evaluation of your own contributions to reflect on the process. Submitting Zoom recorded presentations will be an allowable substitute for those unable to present in class.
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**GRADING:** You can earn up to **1000 points** in this course:

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| **ASSIGNMENTS** | **% OF FINAL GRADE** |
| Participation and Homework | 40% |
| Presentations | 20% |
| DPD Essay Project | 40% |
| **TOTAL** | **100%** |

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

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| **GRADE** | **TOTAL POINTS** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| **A** | 900 points (90% and up) | Passing work that is outstanding |
| **B** | 800 points (80%) | Passing work that is highly proficient |
| **C** | 700 points (79.4% to 69.6%) | Passing work that is proficient |
| **D** | 695 to 595 points (69.4% to 59.6%) | Non-passing work that is below requirements |
| **F** | 594 and below (59.4% and below) | Non-passing work that is incomplete |

**COURSE POLICIES AND CAMPUS RESOURCES:*** **No-Show Policy:** Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, students who do not attend class during Week 1 or complete the first assignment online will be dropped from the course.
* **Policy on Late Work:** All weekly homework assignments will be accepted until Wednesday of Week 9 for 85% credit. During Weeks 10- Finals Week late work is penalized 25% and accepted only up to Wednesday of Finals Week.
* **Attendance and Participation**: Class attendance is required. Students with more than 2 absences will be penalized 3% from their final course grade for each additional absence. Participation points will also be earned each week. If absent, email Dr. Rust to find out how to make up these points.
* **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. I will also be available after class. If you need to meet at a different time, please email me to schedule.
* **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 is a fantastic free resource for students. Tutors are available to assist you with all aspects of your writing assignments. The Writing Center also offers online tutoring services as well. Get more information here: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/learning-center/writing-support/index.php>
* **The LBCC Library:** The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall. Get more information here: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/library/index.php>
* **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 me 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.
* **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 concern. 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 for help before submitting your paper. Once you submit a paper, the policy mentioned above will be enforced.

**COURSE CALENDAR** (Scheduling changes will only happen with advanced notice)

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| **DATE** | **TOPICS AND READING** | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| ***WEEK 1*** | **Introduction to Film Form and Representation*** Reading: [***America on Film***](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=819377&ppg=34)**(AoF)*:*** [**Chapter 1**](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/reader.action?docID=819377&ppg=34)
* Film: ***Barbie***(2023), screened in class
 | * HW 1 due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 2*** | **Ideology the Structure of Classical Hollywood** **•** Reading: *America on Film* (AoF)*:* Chapter 2**•** Film: [***Body and Soul***](https://www.kanopy.com/en/linnbenton/video/278632)(1925), screened in class and short films by [Sky Hopinka](http://www.skyhopinka.com/) screened online | * HW 2 due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 3*** | **Race and Ethnicity in American Film****•** Reading:AoF: Intro to Part 2andthe chapter for your presentation: Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7* Film: Groups watch a film from their chapter
 | * Group presentations in class on Wednesday (group sign ups during class Week 2)
* Group presentation self-reflection and peer evaluation due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 4*** | **Class and American Film****•** Reading: *AoF:* Intro to Part 3 and Chapters 8-9• Film: ***Snowpiercer*** (2013) | * HW 3 due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 5*** | **Ability in American Film** **•** Reading: *AoF:* Intro to Part VI and Chapter 16 • Before class, watch any film of your choice that features disability; good options include [*Children of a Lesser God*](https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/linnbenton378976/watch/03E80D88C9782976?referrer=direct), *My Left Foot*, [*Murderball*](https://tubitv.com/movies/499637/murderball), *Peanut Butter Falcon,* [*Crip Camp*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4)*,* and *CODA*  | * HW 4 due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 6***  | **Gender and Sexuality in American Film****•** Reading:*AoF*: Intros to Part 4 and Part 5**•** Also read the chapter for your presentation group: Chapter 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15* Film: Groups watch a film from their chapter
 | * Group Presentations in Class (group sign ups during class Week 5)
* Group presentation self-reflection and peer evaluation due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 7*** | **DPD Essay Project: Research*** Reading: [*Difference, Power, and Discrimination in Film & Media: Student Essays*](https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/dpdfilm/)
 | * DPD Essay Project Annotated Bibliography due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 8*** | **DPD Essay Project: Notes and Drafting*** Reading: [Yale University Film Analysis Website](https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/analysis/)
 | * Class via Zoom this week (Meeting link on Moodle)
* DPD Essay Shot list Notes due Sunday by 11:59pm
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| ***WEEK 9*** | **Catch-up Week** | * Catch-up Week: Last chance to submit late work from Weeks 1-8 by Wednesday by 11:59 pm
* No Class meeting – individual conferences available
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|  ***WEEK 10 & FINALS*** | **DPD Essay Project: Drafting, Feedback, and Publishing*** Film: *Illusions* (1983) screened in class
 | * DPD Essay First Draft due Wednesday by 6:00pm; Bring a copy to class for peer review
* Writing Center feedback due by Friday by 11:59pm
* Final Draft due Monday of Finals Week by 11:59pm
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