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| **ENGLISH 110: FILM STUDIES**  **Fall 2016 – Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:20 PM – North Santiam Hall 209**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Instructor:** Matt Usner  **Office:** NSH-213 | **Email:** usnerm@linnbenton.edu  **Office Phone:** 917-4283 | **Office Hours:** Tue/Thur 11:30-12:00 and 2:30-3:00 |   **THE PURPOSE OF THIS SYLLABUS:** 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. Essentially, this syllabus is a contract that states what is required of both of us during the term. Since this is a valuable document, you should study it 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 a variety of film excerpts, as well as some full-length features, and while we won’t be learning the “hands-on” art of film production, we will be closely examining film’s narrative and visual elements, as well as the cultural impact its history has had on both our country and the larger world. Because we'll be watching some film selections from earlier historical periods, from countries other than the U.S., and from directors making films that are noticeably different than typical Hollywood blockbusters, it will be important to keep an open mind while watching them, realizing that even if a particular selection doesn't appeal to you, this class will still require you to study it closely and think critically about it. Because this is a discussion-based course, your active participation will be expected. The best way to be an active participant in class is to thoroughly read the textbook selections and come to class prepared to discuss them. Because our minds work best when they’re open, our classroom will be a safe space to exchange ideas respectfully. Film is a lively art, and we’re obligated to treat it with lively attitudes in class.(**NOTE:** Some of the films we watch may contain adult language, depictions of violence, and/or sexual situations. If you do not wish to view these elements, it’s best for you to drop this course.)  **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 TEXTBOOK**: *Film Studies: An Introduction* by Ed Sikov (Columbia University Press, ISBN 9780231142939). The textbook is available at the LBCC bookstore and through online vendors; required readings will begin on the second week of class. Textbook readings are a very important element of this course. It’s simply not possible to do well in the course if you don’t read the textbook and read it carefully, which means *taking notes* on the readings, not simply using a highlighter. Other readings from online sources will also be required periodically. All required readings are listed on the course calendar.  **MOODLE:** Important course materials—such as assignment instructions, class agendas, and your grades—will be posted on our course site on Moodle (<http://elearning.linnbenton.edu/>). **You will need to access these online materials regularly; please plan accordingly.** If you need help getting started with Moodle, let me know during the first week of class.   |  | | --- | | **ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES:**   * ***Final Exam (28% of final grade):*** The final exam will be held on the **Tuesday of Finals Week from 2:30 to 4:20** (room to be announced), and it will test you on vocabulary terms from the textbook readings and require you to answer an essay question. * ***Take-Home Midterm Exam (20% of final grade):*** Your take-home midterm exam will present you with 3 different tasks, and you will select the one that most appeals to you. All 3 options will ask you to explore fundamental course concepts in different ways. Instructions for the take-home midterm will be given on Thursday of Week 2, and the completed exam will be due in class on Tuesday of Week 6. * ***Scene Analysis Essay (20% of final grade):*** This essay (4-5 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. * ***Group Presentation and Individual Report (20% of final grade):*** The class will be divided into groups early in the term, and each will be required to make a class presentation on a film of their choice (from a list I provide). Additionally, each group member will be required to write a summary of his or her contributions to the team project. * ***Quizzes (12% of final grade):*** Quizzes will be unannounced, and they will usually be given at the start of the class period, although occasionally they may occur later in the period. Quizzes will be short, less than 10 minutes, and they will ask a question about the particular textbook chapter we are covering at that time. For example, you may be asked to define a vocabulary term or two or apply a key concept to a short film clip. **There will be 7 reading quizzes, but your lowest score will be dropped. If you are not present for a quiz, you cannot make it up.** The best way to prepare for quizzes is to read every textbook selection thoroughly, and take notes that define key terms and summarize important concepts. |   **GRADING:** You can earn up to **500 points** in this course:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **ASSIGNMENTS** | **POINTS** | **% OF FINAL GRADE** | | Final Exam (in-class essay + vocab section) | 75 + 65 = 140 | 28% | | Scene Analysis Essay (can be revised) | 100 | 20% | | Take-Home Midterm Exam | 100 | 20% | | Group Presentation + Individual Report | 75 + 25 = 100 | 20% | | 6 Quizzes (out of 7, lowest score dropped) | 10 each = 60 | 12% | | **POINT TOTAL** | **500** | **100%** |   Your final grade will be determined by the following point breakdown:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **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:**   * **Attendance Policy:** Missing class means missing valuable instruction time, which means that you give yourself the best chance to do well by attending every class. **Because due dates for assignments are always announced in advance, an absence is not an excuse for missing a due date.** If you must miss a class, contact me before the next class to make arrangements for getting me the work that was due on the day of your absence. * **Policy on Late Work:** In fairness to all students, an assignment that is submitted after its deadline will either lose points or not receive credit. Specific policies for late work will be included with assignment instructions; read them carefully. * **Incompletes:** Incompletes will not be awarded in this course except under extraordinary circumstances and only with the approval of the English Department chair. * **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. * **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. 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: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center> * **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:** Please speak to me during the first week of class if:   + you have a documented disability and need accommodations,   + your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or   + you need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.   If you think you may need accommodation services, please, contact the Center for Accessibility Resources at (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. * **Our Classroom’s “Golden Rules”:** In the classroom, we want to maximize our learning and minimize distractions from it. With that idea in mind, please honor the following common courtesies:   + Arrive to class on time and stay the entire period.   + Silence your electronic devices and put them away--don’t let them distract you, me, or your fellow students. If you want/need to use a device for class purposes, please talk to me about it first.   + Drinks in class are fine, but no eating please.   + Give your full attention to whomever is addressing the class; no side conversations.   **COURSE CALENDAR**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **DATE** | **TOPICS, MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES** | **READING DUE BEFORE CLASS** | | ***WEEK 1***  TUE 9/27 | Course introduction; Discuss film studies as an academic discipline; Watch film analysis tutorial | None | | THUR 9/29 | Discussion representation and reality; Contrasting written and visual language; First reading quiz? | Film Studies XI-XIII (Preface) and 1-4 (Introduction); also on Moodle | | ***WEEK 2***  TUE 10/4 | Discuss mise-en-scène within the image (form/composition and camera shots and angles) | Film Studies 5-23 (chapter 1) | | THUR 10/6 | Mise-en-scène activity; Assign group project (begin Week 7) and form teams; Give instructions for Take-Home Midterm (due 11/1) | None | | ***WEEK 3***  TUE 10/11 | Choose initial film selections for presentations; Select dates for presentations; Discuss camera movement | Film Studies 24-37 (chapter 2) | | THUR 10/13 | Discuss cinematography; Camera movement activity | Film Studies 38-54 (chapter 3) | | ***WEEK 4***  TUE 10/18 | Film selections due for group projects; Discuss editing | Film Studies 55-73 (chapter 4) | | THUR 10/20 | Watch clips and review mise-en-scene, cinematography, and editing | None | | ***WEEK 5***  TUE 10/25 | Discuss sound | Film Studies 74-88 (chapter 5) | | THUR 10/27 | Discuss film genres; Focus on film noir | Film Studies 143-157 (chapter 10) | | ***WEEK 6***  TUE 11/1 | Take-Home Midterm due; Assign Scene Analysis Essay (due 11/8); Start film selection; Active viewing activity | Film Studies 169-185 (chapter 12) | | THUR 11/3 | Conclude and discuss film selection; Continue active viewing activity; Review guidelines for scene analysis essay | Read/review Film Studies 169-185 (chapter 12) again | | ***WEEK 7***  TUE 11/8 | Scene Analysis Essay due (submit on Moodle); Group collaboration time; Progress check | None | | THUR 11/10 | Begin group presentations | None | | ***WEEK 8***  TUE 11/15 | Group presentations | None | | THUR 11/17 | Group presentations; In-class poll for international film choice | None | | ***WEEK 9***  TUE 11/22 | Group presentations | None | | THUR 11/24 | **NO CLASS - COLLEGE CLOSED** | None | | ***WEEK 10***  TUE 11/29 | Post final exam info; Start international film selection; Narratology activity | Film Studies 89-115 (chapters 6-7) | | THUR 12/1 | Conclude international film selection | None | | ***WEEK 11***  TUE 12/6 | Final Exam 2:30-4:20; Optional revision of Scene Analysis due | None | |