English 110: Introduction to Film Studies

Fall 2020, CRN 26693, 3 credits Stephen Rust, PhD

Web-only (asynchronous) Office Hours: T/R 1:30-2:30pm via email

Canvas (not Moodle) course site ([rusts@linnbenton.edu](mailto:rusts@linnbenton.edu)) and/or Zoom

People respond to movies in different ways, and there are many reasons for this. We have all stood in the lobby of a theater and heard conflicting opinions from people who have just seen the same film. Some loved it, some hated it, some found it just OK. Disagreements, however, can reveal a great deal about the assumptions underlying these various responses. In this course we will see that there are many ways of thinking about movies and approaches that we can use to analyze them. We will cover key aspects of film criticism, theory, and history in the spirit of intellectual investigation of visual culture. Overall, the goal of this course is to introduce you to the basic skills necessary for a critical knowledge of the movies as art, culture, and industry.

**Canvas Course Site:** This course will use the Canvas learning platform rather than Moodle.

**Required Technology:** You’ll want to have a broadband internet connection fast enough to stream movies and video lectures. A computer with 256+ G of memory and 8+ G of RAM is recommended.

**Textbook:** Your instructor is committed to lowering the cost of your education by adopting a free Open Educational Resource (OER) textbook: [***Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Cinema***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/)by Russell Sharman.

*From the homepage you can access the online eBook with embedded videos or download a printable PDF.*

**Films:** All films for this course are provided for streaming for free. LBCC library has provided you free access to the Sony Pictures Classics library, which will be our primary streaming site this term.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students who complete all required readings and assignments will be able to:

* Understand how film works as collaborative art form, as industrial practice, and as cultural form;
* Deploy the basic language of film aesthetics - including cinematography, mise en scène, editing, and sound – to closely analyze film and media texts;
* Demonstrate knowledge of ideological forces at work in film representation and industrial practice based on cultural and historical contexts;
* Communicate ideas about film culture through spoken and written analysis.

**Evaluation:** LBCC does not offer +/- grades: A= 90% and above, B=80% and above, etc.).

Course grades will be based on:

Weekly Discussion Boards 25 %

Group Vocabulary Project 25 %

Midterm Exam 20 %

Shot List and Analysis Essay 30 %

Detailed instructions and evaluation rubrics will be provided in the weekly modules on Canvas.

**Late Work Policy:** All assignments for this course with the exception of the final essay project and the group vocabulary project will be accepted for one week without penalty and then for 50% credit. The group vocabulary project and final essay project will be penalized 10% per day they are late.

**Weekly Discussion Boards:** Each week you will complete post answers to discussion board prompts over the assigned movies and readings; giving you a chance to share and learn with your classmates. Discussion boards will include two parts; first, an initial post due each Thursday answering questions over the movies and readings, and second, follow up peer replies to your classmates due each Sunday. Instructions and a grading rubric provided.

**Group Vocabulary Project:** Movies are a collaborative profession. To learn how to work with others to produce something better than you could complete on your own, you will work in teams of 3-4 people to define a set of vocabulary terms (10 per person) using your course textbook, provide visual examples from film texts of your choice, and annotate your examples with brief description and analysis. Examples will be available. Solo projects may be completed for up to 90% credit.

Midterm Exam: For the midterm exam you will have a week to write two short essays of 500-700 words each. I will provide you with a range of prompts to choose from. Essays will ask you to analyze elements of the reading and cite specific passages from the text and supplemental videos to support your answers. You will also be expected to analyze specific scenes, techniques, and other elements of the course films.

Shot List and Analysis Essay: The final essay will be a 5-page double-spaced essay examining a specific scene from a film from any film of your choice from the LBCC Sony Pictures Classic Library or a free movie website like Tubi (so I can access the full film you write about). You will take shot-by-shot notes using the Yale University Film Analysis Guide as a model. A sample essay with an instructional guide will also be provided as a model for how to organize and approach your essay.

Extra Credit: Submit an early draft of your midterm exam essays (one or both), your final essay, or even one of your discussion board posts to the Linn Benton Online Writing Lab to earn 30 extra credit points. Forward the feedback email from the lab to Dr. Rust. Add an additional 10 points by writing a 200+ word reflection on how the feedback helped improve your writing.

**What I Expect From You:** I expect you to succeed in this class. To do that you will need to complete all reading homework, film screenings, and assignments on time and to the very best of your ability. I expect you to come to class prepared, awake, sober, and fully-engaged. Do your homework, study for exams, and bring your books to class. Turn off your phone while doing your course reading and viewing to reduce distractions. Ask questions, engage in online discussion, and embrace the diversity of your classmates.

**What You Can Expect From Me:** I will respond to your questions and concerns as clearly and sincerely as possible and am always happy to talk about any aspect of the class. I will be on-time to class and office hours and respond to emails within 48 hours (except weekends and holidays). I will provide you with the same level of instruction as students I have taught at Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. I will listen to you and treat you with the utmost respect. I will grade fairly and inclusively.

**Academic Honesty & Plagiarism:** Linn-Benton Community College values academic integrity. You are responsible for understanding and adhering to the standards of academic honesty outlined in the student handbook. Document ALL sources consulted in preparing your work. At a minimum, documented plagiarism will result in course failure. See the Library website for resources and information on citation styles and practices.

**Request for Special Needs or Accommodations**

Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4789 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

**LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination**

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. For further information see Board Policy P1015 in our [Board Policies and Administrative Rules](http://linnbenton.edu/42145BA0-3DCC-11E3-AA36782BCB47BBE7). Title II, IX, & Section 504: Scott Rolen, CC-108, 541-917-4425; Lynne Cox, T-107B, 541-917-4806, LBCC, Albany, Oregon.  To report:  [linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public\_report](http://linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report)

**Screenings:** The screening of complete film texts is a vital component of this class. You are required to complete the screenings each week analyze the movies in your assignments. Watching films in a classroom requires different ways of seeing (and note-taking), as you will need to pay close attention to *how* the events unfold on screen and *why* each film takes its own specific form. A few films are R rated or TV-MA and may contain material that is objectionable for some viewers. Please do some basic research on each film and see me in advance you have an issue.

Class Schedule

**Week One: Introduction to Film Studies and a Brief History of Movies**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 1***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/a-brief-history-of-cinema/)

Screening: [***Jodorowsky’s Dune***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/jodorowsky-s-dune) (US/France, Frank Pavich, 2014)

Assignment: Discussion Board #1 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Two: How to Watch a Movie**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 2***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/how-to-watch-a-movie/)

Screening: [***Persepolis***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/persepolis)(France, Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud, 2007)

Assignment: Discussion Board #2 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Three: Mise-en-Scène and Narrative**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 3***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/mise-en-scene/)and[***Moving Pictures: Chapter 4***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/narrative/)

Screening: [***The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/the-imaginarium-of-doctor-parnassus)(UK/Canada/France/US, Terry Gilliam, 2009)

Assignment: Discussion Board #3 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Four: Cinematography and Action**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 5***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/cinematography/)

Screening: [***The House of Flying Daggers***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/house-of-flying-daggers) */* 十面埋伏 (China, Zhang Yimou, 2004)

Assignment: Discussion Board #4 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Five: Editing and Comedy**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 6***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/editing/)

Screening: ***Planes, Trains, and Automobiles***(US, John Hughes, 1987) – link provided on Canvas

Assignment: Midterm exam due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Six: Sound and Perception**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 7***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/sound/)

Screening: [***The Lives of Others***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/the-lives-of-others)(Germany, Florian Henckel von Donnersmark, 2006)

Assignment: Discussion Board #5 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Seven: Acting and Directing**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 8***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/acting/)

Screening: [***Orlando***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/orlando)(UK, Sally Potter, 1992) or [***Volver***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/volver)(Spain, Pedro Almodóvar, 2006)

Assignment: Discussion Board #6 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Eight: Representation: Race and Gender**

Reading: [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 9***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/women-in-cinema/)and [***Moving Pictures: Chapter 10***](https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/chapter/african-americans-in-cinema/)

Screening:[***Sunshine State***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/sunshine-state)(US, John Sayles, 2002) or [***Quinceañera***](https://ezproxy.libweb.linnbenton.edu/login?url=https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/quinceanera) (US, Glatzer and Westmorland, 2006)

Assignment: Discussion Board #6 due Thursday, 11:59pm; Peer Replies due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Week Nine: Vocabulary Project**

No Reading or Screening this week due to Thanksgiving

Assignment: Group Vocabulary Project due Tuesday, 11:59pm

**Week Ten: Scene Analysis: Finishing Up Strong**

Reading: Sample Student Analysis Essay – link provided on Canvas

Assignment: Scene Analysis Essay and Notes due Sunday, 11:59pm

**Finals Week:** No assignments due; the Scene Analysis essay and notes are your final for the course.