

**Course Outline**

COURSE: HUM 4                      DIVISION: 10                      ALSO LISTED AS:

TERM EFFECTIVE: Fall 2018                      CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE: 03/12/2018

SHORT TITLE: INTRO TO AMERICAN CINEMA

LONG TITLE: Introduction to American Cinema

Units	Number of Weeks		Contact Hours/Week		Total Contact Hours
3	18	Lecture:	3	Lecture:	54
		Lab:	0	Lab:	0
		Other:	0	Other:	0
		Total:	3	Total:	54

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This introductory course in film studies is a survey of the American film industry as an art form, as an industry, and as a system of representation and communication. The course explores how Hollywood films work technically, aesthetically, and culturally to reinforce and challenge America's national self-image.  
 ADVISORY: English 440

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion

05 - Hybrid

72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of American film history from the silent cinema to the present day.  
 Measure of assessment: Written exam

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2013

2. Demonstrate a recognition of and use of the basic technical and critical vocabulary of motion pictures.

Measure of assessment: Written paper.

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2013

3. Show an ability to identify and understand the economic structure of the film industry.

Measure of assessment: Written exam

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2013

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of genre in American film history.

Measure of assessment: Written paper.

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2013

## **CONTENT, STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES, OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Curriculum Approval Date: 03/12/2018

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Orientation. Overview of the course. course objectives.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Prepare for the course. Observe silent films.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Watch assigned silent films. Read assigned chapters.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Studio System: The Golden Age of Hollywood

Students will observe Casablanca.

STUDENT

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Describe the studio system in economic terms.

Identify the corporate structure and interrelated nature of the major studios

Recognize the significance of the Justice

Department's actions against the studios in the 1930's and 1940's.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapters.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: An introduction to film language.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Recognize basic film terminology. Recognize the broad changes in American society and world culture that enables Hollywood to emerge as an entertainment institution.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read

assigned chapters and provided supplemental materials.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Hollywood Style. Students will observe Citizen Kane.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Recognize shot types and the

reasoning behind their uses

Distinguish between various types of editing techniques and transitions

Recognize and define different camera movements in film.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned

chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Combat Film. Students will observe a combat film such as From Here to Eternity, Bridge on the River Kwai, Paths of Glory, Apocalypse Now, or Saving Private Ryan.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Identify the different thematic trends in the films associated with war

Explain and describe aesthetic and expressive nature of the war genre

Understand the impact of propaganda and the government on films during wartime

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Western.

Students will observe western such as True Grit, Open Range, or Unforgiven.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Identify the common themes of western films and the traits of the American Cowboy.

Identify

the great directors and stars of the genre.

Explain the historical and artistic development of the Western film and how it was influenced by and influenced changes in society.

OUT OF CLASS

ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Film Noir. Students will watch a Film Noir such as Maltese Falcon, Double Indemnity, Chinatown, The Usual

Suspects, or L.A. Confidential.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Recognize the historical antecedents of film noir.

Describe how film noir films reflected the social and cultural changes that took place during and after World War II.

Identify the specific characteristics of the film noir aesthetics.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT:

Cinematography & Mis-en-scene. Students will watch a contemporary film that demonstrates aspects of mis-en-scene such as The Graduate.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Define the duties of the director of photography.

Identify the 3-point lighting technique.

Identify the different lighting schemes for different genres.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Suspense and Intrigue Film. Students will observe a contemporary suspense film such as Rear Window, Vertigo, North by Northwest, Cape Fear, Fight Club, Memento, Misery, Seven, or Silence of the Lambs.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Define the suspense genre and its defining film traits.

Name and describe the great suspense filmmakers and their films.

Define and

describe the unique characteristics and techniques used in Hitchcock's films.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Adventure. Students

will observe a modern adventurous film such as Raiders of the Lost Ark, The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, Romancing the Stone, Crocodile Dundee, Jurassic Park, or National Treasure.

STUDENT

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Understand and define the traits of an Adventure film.

Name the prominent Adventure film directors and their films.

Understand the evolution of the Adventure film genre.

OUT OF

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Horror / Science Fiction. Students will observe a modern science fiction film such as Inception, District 9,

Minority Report, Terminator, Alien, Total Recall, Blade Runner, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, The Thing, Star Wars, etc.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Analyze the genre and all of its intricacies.

Name and describe the great Fantasy / Horror filmmakers.

Identify the evolution of the genre from its early begins to the present day.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Film in the Television Age

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Recognize television's historical and cultural impact on the American film industry.

Explain how

television impacted Hollywood both artistically and economically.

Describe the breakdown of the studio system and the cultural changes that came with it.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Editing. Students will observe a contemporary film that showcases modern editing and post production techniques such as Crash, Traffic,

Memento, Argo, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, or The Social Network.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Explain the 180 degree rule.

Identify transitions such as cuts, dissolves, wipes, etc.

Identify

the different cuts such as match cuts, jump cuts, etc.

Identify all the jobs of post production.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The

Musical. Students will observe a contemporary musical such as Singing in the Rain, The Sound of Music, Grease, La Bamba, Chicago, Hairspray, or Les Miserable.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Identify

the evolution of the musical.

Identify the major composers, singers, directors, of this genre.

Discuss and analyze how the genre has evolved over time.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

**CONTENT:** Sound & Music in film. Students will observe a film that demonstrates the importance of sound and music such as Psycho, Jaws, etc.

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

**OBJECTIVES:**

Identify the terms used for the tools and techniques of sound recording and manipulation.

Describe how sound and music accompanies film.

Understand all the layers of sound in film such as sound design, music, dialogue, and foley.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

**CONTENT:** The American Comedy. Students will watch a contemporary comedy such as Some Like It Hot, The Jerk, Best In Show, Wedding Crashers, This Is Spinal Tap, City Slickers, or Bridesmaids.

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:**

Identify and describe the great silent

screen comedians: Chaplin, Keaton, Lloyd, etc.

Recognize the term "screwball comedy," and identify the classic screwball films

Describe the influence of both the Great Depression and the Production

Code of Ethics on screwball comedy.

Identify the theme of social integration in American Comedy.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Read assigned chapter and write Film Response paper

3 HOURS

**CONTENT:** The

Documentary. Students will watch a contemporary documentary such as Hot Coffee, Who Killed the Electric Car?, Sicko, Planet Earth, Winged Migration, An Inconvenient Truth, Baseball, or Hoop

Dreams

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:**

Understand the difference between narrative and documentary filmmaking.

Recognize the different types of documentaries.

Identify the successful documentary films

and filmmakers of the time.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Prepare for final. Finish Research Paper and Written Film Response

2 HOURS

**FINAL EXAM**

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lectures and class discussion. Out-of-class writing assignments. Videotapes; homework; journal; exams; conferences.

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

Required Outside Hours: 20

Assignment Description: An original short movie.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Writing assignments

Percent of total grade: 40.00 %  
40% - 50% Written homework; Reading reports; Term papers  
Skill demonstrations  
Percent of total grade: 10.00 %  
10% - 20%  
Objective examinations  
Percent of total grade: 50.00 %  
50% - 60% Multiple choice; True/false; Matching items

**REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:**

Required Representative Textbooks

Lucia, Grundmann, & Simon. American Film History: Selected Readings, 1960 to the Present. New York: Wiley-Blackwell,2015.

ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-1118475126

Reading Level of Text, Grade: 13 Verified by: Verified by:Grant Richards

**ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

Associate Degree:

GAV C2, effective 200530

CSU GE:

CSU C2, effective 200530

IGETC:

IGETC 3B, effective 200530

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU, effective 200530

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC, effective 200530

**SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:**

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

CAN:

CAN Sequence:

CSU Crosswalk Course Department: HUM

CSU Crosswalk Course Number: 4

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Maximum Hours:

Minimum Hours:

Course Control Number: CCC000090078

Sports/Physical Education Course: N  
Taxonomy of Program: 061200