

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
DIVISION OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

COURSE SYLLABUS

CIN140 Introduction to Cinema

Semester:

Meeting times:

Office:

Phone:

Email:

Office Hours:

All students are subject to the rules, regulations, and policies set forth in the current Bergen Community College Catalog.

Course Description

Introduction to the Cinema is an introduction to both the analysis and the cultural significance of film. Topics covered include how films are made; the specialized analytic vocabulary used in writing and talking about film; film genres and movements; important filmmakers and critical perspectives on film. 3 credits. Prerequisites: none. Humanities Elective. 3 credits. General Education course.

Student Learning Objectives

1. learn how movies are made;
2. know the use the special vocabulary needed for film analysis;
3. identify and define different film genres;
4. know how, why, and when Hollywood has changed the culture of cinema in powerful ways;
5. summarize and paraphrase--both in class discussion as well as in paper assignments--the literal and figurative aspects of specific films;
6. learn how to write a film "formal analysis" paper;
7. recognize and interpret recurring themes in films;
8. learn the proper way to view a film.

The Student Learning Objectives in this course are intended to be consistent with the college's Core Competencies and General Education Goals.

Critical Thinking

The Instructor of this course teaches critical thinking skills such as how to analyze a film; what interpretation means; how a student can challenge his/her own assumptions; what it means to support a hypothesis; what “point of view” means; how to write in the critical mode.

Required Textbook (sample)

Barsam, Richard and Dave Monahan, *Looking at Movies* 4th ed. New York: Norton, 2013. Make sure you buy the *fourth* edition (with the purple cover, NOT orange or blue). The DVD that comes with some books is recommended.

You **must** buy or rent the book for the course and bring it to class every time.

You may wish to subscribe to netflix during the 15 weeks of the Fall semester.

Grading (sample)

Your final grade for this course is based on three papers, five quizzes, and class participation/attendance. Quizzes (multiple-choice questions on the required readings) will be held at the beginning of class. If you miss a quiz because you are late or absent, you may take a make-up in my office during regular office hours (see page 1 of this syllabus) *prior* to the next class meeting. There are no exceptions to this rule. You are allowed one make-up.

Papers – 40 points (the first two papers are worth 10 points each and the third is worth 20) A separate assignment sheet will be issued for each one.

Quizzes - 50 points (10 points each; lowest score out of 6 quizzes will be dropped)

Class Participation/Attendance – 10 points

Keep all graded work at least until the end of the semester. If you claim to have completed a test or handed in a paper but cannot produce it, your grade for that assignment will be zero. If I suspect a paper of plagiarism, I will ask you to submit it to turnitin.com, or I will require an appointment with me in which we will go over every sentence of the paper.

If you are absent, you are still responsible for knowing information that was conveyed in the missed class such as changes in the schedule, due dates, quiz dates, etc.

Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements

If you use someone else's ideas, words, phrases, paragraphs, without giving that person credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. If you copy even a small passage from another text and present it as your own, this is plagiarism. The penalties for plagiarism can be severe, from course failure to expulsion from the college.

SAMPLE COURSE CALENDAR

The calendar is subject to change if necessary.

All page numbers listed (for required readings) are from *Looking at Movies*, 4th ed.

Quizzes and paper due dates are provided on the calendar. I may not announce when a quiz is going to be given the following week, so be prepared for a quiz if it is on the calendar.

Note: Most of the required viewings are on reserve in the library.

Week One	Introduction to Film Analysis
Class Screening	DVD tutorial – selections from Chapters 1 and 2
Week Two	Elements of Narrative
Class Screening	<i>21 Grams</i> (dir. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003) DVD tutorial selections from Chapter 3 and 4
Reading due for class	Chapter 1 (pp. 2-34) Chapter 4 (pp. 122-169)
Week Three	Quiz 1 (10 points) on Chapters 1 and 4
	Acting
Class Screening	<i>On the Waterfront</i> (dir. Elia Kazan, 1954)
Reading due for class	Chapter 7 (pp. 288-338)
Week Four	Mise-en-Scene
Class Screening	<i>Lost in Translation</i> (dir. Sophia Coppola, 2003) DVD tutorial Chapter 5
Reading due for class	Chapter 5 (pp. 172-223)

Week Five	Quiz 2 (10 points) on Chapters 7 and 5
	Cinematography
Class Screening	<i>Seconds</i> (dir. John Frankenheimer, 1966) DVD tutorial selections from Chapter 6
Reading due for class	Chapter 6 (pp. 226-286)
Week Six	PAPER 1 due (10 points) (formal analysis of mise-en-scene)
	Cinematography/Lighting
Class Screening	<i>Citizen Kane</i> (dir. Orson Welles, 1941) DVD tutorial selections from Chapter 6
Reading due for class	Chapter 6 (pp. 226-286)
Week Seven	Quiz 3 (10 points) on Chapter 6
	Editing - Continuity
Class Screening	<i>Imitation of Life</i> (dir. Douglas Sirk,, 1959) DVD tutorial selections from Chapter 8
Reading due for class	Chapter 8 (pp. 340-386)
Week Eight	Editing - Discontinuity
Class Screening	<i>Taxi Driver</i> (dir. Martin Scorsese, 1976) DVD tutorial selections from Chapter 8
Reading due for class	Chapter 8 (pp. 340-386)
Week Nine	Quiz 4 (10 points) on Chapter 8
	Types of Movies: Documentary Movies
Class Screening	<i>The Plow that Broke the Plains</i> (dir. Pare Lorentz, 1936)

Night and Fog (dir. Alain Resnais, 1976)
Law and Order, selections (dir. Frederick Wiseman, 1969)

Reading due for class

Chapter 3 “Types of Movies” (pp. 66-119, especially pp. 70-75)

Week Ten

PAPER 2 due (10 points) (formal analysis paper on cinematography)

Types of Movies: Experimental Movies

Class Screening

Nostalgia (dir. Hollis Frampton, 1971)
Stan Brakhage – selections

Reading due for class

Chapter 3 “Types of Movies”: (pp. 66-119, especially pp. 75-82)

Week Eleven

Types of Movies: Genre Films

Film Noir

Class Screening

Double Indemnity (dir. Billy Wilder, 1946)

Reading due for class

Chapter 3 “Types of Movies” pp. 66-119, especially pp. 87-90 and pp. 93-96)

Week Twelve

Quiz 5 (10 points) on Chapter 3

Types of Movies: Genre Films

Science Fiction

Class Screening

Blade Runner (dir. Ridley Scott, 1982)

Reading due for class

Chapter 3 “Types of Movies” pp. 66-119, especially pp.87-90 and pp. 96-99)

Week Thirteen

Types of Movies: Genre Films

The Musical

Class Screening

Singin in the Rain (dir. Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, 1952)

Reading due for class

Chapter 3 “Types of Movies” pp. 66-119, especially pp. 105-108)

Week Fifteen

Sound Design

Class Screening

The Conversation (dir. Francis Ford Coppola, 1974)

Required Reading

Chapter 9 “Sound” pp. 388-430

Week Fourteen

Optional Make-up Quiz 6 (10 points)

PAPER 3 due (20 points) (genre analysis paper)