

English 110: Intro to Film and Media, CRN: 34640
Spring 2014, MW 4:00pm – 5:50pm, MCK 214
<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/eng110spring2014>

Instructor: Daniel Platt

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Office Hours: Monday, 2 – 3:30; Wednesday, Noon to 1:30; and by appointment

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“There is another world, but it is in this one.”
-- Attributed to both W.B. Yeats and Paul Éluard

Course Objectives: This course provides an introduction to the study of film. In class, we’ll watch a range of feature films, spanning different countries and languages, historical periods, styles, and subject matters. We’ll look closely at the formal qualities of these films, such as their editing and cinematography, as a way to enrich our experience as viewers, and create new meaning from what we see on screen. We’ll study the different ways that scholars analyze films, and test their claims against our own interpretations. We’ll examine the history of film: the development of the film industry and filmmakers’ responses to social, technological, and economic change. Finally, we’ll talk about our own personal responses to films, and discuss the many ways that films can shape who we are, what we value, and what we imagine for the future.

By the end of the course, I hope that you will have made significant progress toward three goals:

- First, to master the critical terminology of film studies (including terms like *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, and editing);
- Second, to be conversant in some of the common critical discourses used to interpret films, such as feminist theory and auteur theory;
- Finally, to understand some of the basic narratives of film history, such as economic and nationalist histories, and to be able to use historical context as a tool for analyzing film.

Your progress toward these goals will be assessed through class discussion, quizzes and exams, and a mix of formal and informal writing assignments.

Required Texts: Barsam and Monahan: *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*. 4th Ed.

Note: This book comes packaged with DVDs. If you buy a used book, make sure that you get the DVDs, or make other arrangements to access that material.

Grading (assignment sheets will be distributed in class and posted to the course blog):

Quizzes	20% (5 quizzes @ 5% each, with the lowest dropped)
Course Blog	20% (4 posts @ 5% each)
Shot List and Essay	15%
Final Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

The English Department's assessment procedure is built around six desired learning outcomes:

1. Read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. Draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. Perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
4. Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. Employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

NOTICE: This course may screen films that contain violence, sex, disturbing images, offensive language, and unsettling themes and situations. If you think that this could pose a problem for you, please come talk to me about potential solutions or alternatives as soon as possible.

Assignment Overviews

Course Blog: 20%: Throughout the term, you will contribute posts to our course blog (four posts of 500 - 750 words), and responses to your classmates' posts (at least eight total comments: two for each time you post). Specific instructions and a grading rubric will be posted on the blog site.

Analytical Shot List: 15%: The first formal writing assignment, due at the end of week 3, will be a paper of 3-4 pages. It will also require you to do a shot list. More detailed guidelines will be distributed on Wednesday.

Quizzes: 20%: Throughout the term, I will give five quizzes, drawing from the readings, class lectures and discussions, and the films. Quizzes will usually occur during the first ten minutes of class and cannot be made up. Take home quizzes may occasionally substitute for in-class quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Final Paper Assignment: 20%: The final paper, due at the end of the term, will be a film analysis assignment of 5-7 pages. More detailed assignment guidelines—including essay prompts—will be distributed around mid-term.

Final Exam 25%: The final exam will include material from the entire course. Final exam questions will be similar to questions from the quizzes; there will also be some longer essay questions. **The final exam is on Monday, June 9th at 3:15 in McKenzie 214.**

Course Policies

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this class—including your posts on the course blog—must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. If you are in doubt about whether something needs to be cited or not, cite it. Please refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct in the *Schedule of Courses*. In cases where plagiarism has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice of the University of Oregon. **Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.**

Access: If you have a disability (physical or learning) that you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to all classroom activities. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Attendance: You may miss two classes without penalty. For each absence after your second, your grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a letter (for example, from a B to a B-), unless you have contacted me and we have agreed on other arrangements. If you need to miss a class, you are still responsible for turning in any assignments that are due on that day. If you miss a film screening, you are responsible for watching the film on your own. Three latenesses will count as one absence. I'll be passing around an attendance sign-in sheet every day during class; it's your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet before the end of class.

Blackboard, Blog, and Email: If you think you may have trouble accessing Blackboard or the course blog throughout the term, please see me as soon as possible. Also, all writing assignments should be emailed to me, rather than submitted in hard copy. Assignments can be emailed anytime before the start of class on the day that the assignment is due. Please save electronic copies of every assignment you complete for this course.

Discrimination/Inclusion: All students are expected to adhere to University of Oregon policies related to discrimination based upon ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. If you feel excluded or threatened, please contact your instructor and/or department head. The University Bias Response Team is also a resource that can assist you. Find more information at their website at <http://bias.uoregon.edu/index.html> or by calling 541.346.2037.

Extra Credit: There will be two ways to earn some extra credit in the course: by visiting a Writing Associate and by attending and blogging about an on-campus film event. More details will be announced shortly.

Formatting: Papers must have a works cited page and a title, include correct citations in MLA format, and be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, with standard margins.

Late Work: All work turned in after the start of class on the day it is due will be counted late. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade for each calendar day they are late. If you're absent from class the day an assignment is due, you're still responsible for emailing the assignment by the time class regularly begins.

Participation: Although there is no participation grade for the course, I expect each of you to contribute to classroom discussions. In addition, you will be expected to treat the ideas and opinions of your classmates with respect and attention. Students who engage in disrespectful or disruptive classroom conduct (including inappropriate side conversations, texting and cell phone or laptop use, and rude or inconsiderate comments) may be marked absent for that class session.

Screenings: You are required to attend the screenings each week. If you miss a screening, you will need to make arrangements to see the movie at Knight Library or at home before exams.

Week and Topics	Monday	Wednesday	Due Friday by midnight
Week One: The Silent Era, Comedy, Metafiction	Screening: <i>Sherlock, Jr.</i> (1924)	Read: Ch. 2 (all), Pages 432-443	
Week Two: Genres, the Avant-Garde, Soviet Cinema	Screening: <i>Man With A Movie Camera</i> (1929)	Read: Ch. 3 (all), Pages 443-450	
Week Three: Narratives, Hollywood Star System, Musicals	Screening: <i>Singing in the Rain</i> (1952)	Read: Ch. 4 (all), Pages 450-455	First Blog Post
Week Four: <i>Mise-en-Scene</i> , Horror, Feminist Theory	Screening: <i>Peeping Tom</i> (1960)	Read: Ch. 5 (all), Pages 461-462	First Blog Comments Shot List and Short Essay
Week Five: Cinematography, European New Waves, Auteur Theory	Screening: <i>8 1/2</i> (1963)	Read: Ch. 6 (all), Pages 455-461	Second Blog Post
Week Six: Editing, Third Cinema, Documentary	Screening: <i>Perfumed Nightmare</i> (1977)	Read: Ch. 7 (all), Pages 472-477	Second Blog Comments
Week Seven: Sound, Iranian Cinema, Ecocriticism	Screening: <i>Through the Olive Trees</i> (1994)	Read: Ch. 8 (all)	Third Blog Post
Week Eight: Acting, Hollywood Racism, Independent Cinema	Screening: <i>The Watermelon Woman</i> (1996)	Read: Ch. 9 (all)	Third Blog Comments
Week Nine: Animation, Japanese Film, History and Temporality	Screening: <i>Millennium Actress</i> (2001)	Read: Pages 464-467	Fourth Blog Post
Week Ten: The Film Industry in the 21 st Century	Screening: TBA Pending Class Vote	Read: Ch. 11 (all)	Fourth Blog Comments Final Paper
Finals Week	Final Exam: Monday, June 9th at 3:15 in McKenzie 214.		