ENG 260
Fall, 2016
MW, 12:00-13:50
176 ED

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In addition to the physical office hours listed above, I will also be keeping virtual office hours this fall term, through Skype (my Skype name: tikitavi7). Virtual office hours are scheduled for Saturdays, from noon to 2:00 p.m., beginning with the Saturday at the end of week one, and ending with the Saturday at the end of week ten.

Course Description

English 260 is one of four required courses that make up the fundamentals of the Cinema Studies major. The course will focus on helping you build the critical skills to understand, analyze, and interpret visual media texts. It will do so by highlighting the fundamental formal elements of film, television, and the web, and using this vocabulary, we will explore the complex interplay of technical design, social influence, and cultural conventions that shape our media production and consumption experiences.

Goals of ENG 260

Students in ENG 260 will:

1. Gain a basic understanding of film and television aesthetics;
2. Learn the vocabulary of film studies and television studies; and
3. Develop the skills necessary to write and talk critically about film and television.

Required Materials

The Film Experience: An Introduction. 3rd edition (2009). Corrigan & White.
Television: Critical Methods and Applications. 4th edition (2012). Butler.
Access to the internet/Canvas.

Course Policies & Procedures

Attendance, Tardiness, and Participation: Attendance in ENG 260 is REQUIRED. Unless your absence is specifically due to official university business (which means you'll have written excuse provided by the university itself), you may miss a total of no more than two class meetings (including any screenings) without penalty. A third absence will lower your final course grade by five points (i.e., ½ a letter grade). If you miss a total of four class meetings, you will automatically fail the course.

Additionally, students in this course will incur one full absence every two times that they are tardy (i.e., if they arrive after I've finished calling roll), so please do yourself a favor and be on time. If you arrive late to class, please note that you must come see me after class has ended on the same day that you are late, in order for me to change your absence to a tardy. Otherwise, I will NOT be able to change your absence to a tardy.

If you do miss class (hey, it happens), please note that you are still responsible for anything that you missed. If you would like to discuss what you missed, then please come to office hours/see me via Skype during virtual office hours … but I ask that you do not send me an e-mail asking me what you missed (an hour and a half of class is an awful lot to cover in an e-mail). If you miss a screening, you will be responsible for finding the viewing material on your own (everything we are scheduled to watch is available for purchase/rental—you might even be able to find some of it for free—whether in physical form or online; most of the feature-length films that we are scheduled to watch will be placed on reserve, in Knight Library, after we watch them).

Concerning participation: Active participation is required in this course. To facilitate active participation and discussion, make sure that you read the assigned material before class, and that you take notes while watching the films and television programs. (I know that taking notes while watching a film/television program will feel strange or even difficult to some of you at first … but it is an important skill for students in Film/Television Studies to develop, and it is something that all students in this course will get better at with practice.)

"Late Work" Policy: If you cannot submit an assignment on time, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than 24 hours before the date and time the assignment is due with your request for an extension. If the situation warrants it, I will make arrangements with you on an individual basis for late submission of that particular assignment. Note that I will not grant extensions for frivolous or avoidable reasons (for instance, if the reason that you give is not an officially documented, provable emergency). Also note that I will not grant extensions for computer/hard drive failure—those of you who don't do so already should take this opportunity to get into the practice of backing up your work. Finally, I will accept no late submissions without prior approval—no exceptions.

Expectations per Writing & Formatting of Assignments: This is an English Department course, and as such your writing will be held to the highest standards of college-level prose. I will pay attention not only to your ideas, but also to how those ideas are presented. This means that I will pay careful attention to your writing—you will be graded on it.

Unless otherwise noted, all written work submitted in physical form in this course must be typed, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins at the top, bottom, and both sides of the document. All physically submitted documents must be printed in black ink, on white/standard 8 1/2" x 11" printer paper. All drafts of all assignments must also be titled.

ALL work (whether submitted online/via Canvas or in physical form) is due at the beginning of class on the day that your course calendar specifies is the deadline for the assignment (see the "Late Work" policy outlined above for specifics on the late submission of assignments).

Cellular Phone, Internet, and Laptops: No cellular phones usage—no call/taking calls and no texting. No internet use. No side conversations.

It is vital that students in this course respect both the classroom and one another. Consistently disrupting class (falling asleep, talking while others are trying to talk, allowing a phone to ring, texting, checking Facebook or e-mail during class, arriving late or leaving early, etc.) will result in an absence (which I will just mark down—consider this note your warning, as you will not be notified during class).

About laptops: I regularly use my laptop in the classroom, and I encourage students to use theirs. Concerning my laptop, federal privacy laws require that I keep all of my student's private information private; it's actually a **federal** crime for me not to make a concerted effort to do so.

I use my password-protected, frequently backed-up laptop for discussion/lecture; I also use an Excel workbook on that laptop to keep track of everything that pertains to my students—from their grades and attendance records, to where they sit, to notes that I write on a student's page to help me remember anything that might have happened or any noteworthy conversation that I had with a student on a particular day. The Excel workbook that I use is a vital tool for me, particularly when I am teaching a large number of students. Due to the ways in which I use my laptop in the classroom, it is absolutely NOT OK for students to come around my desk or lectern and look or point at my laptop's screen. The only time a student should even attempt to look at my laptop screen is when I invite that student to do so.

Again, I encourage students to use laptops in the classroom; I am a firm believer that the best way to take notes in the modern classroom is to type them (the exception for this of course is during screenings, when I will require you to use paper for note-taking, as laptop screens might prove distracting to your fellow students). I do reserve the right, however, to ask individual students to put away their laptops, or to stop bringing them to class altogether, if they are using their machines for activities that are unrelated to class, such as checking e-mail, visiting social networking sites, sending/receiving Instant Messages, or surfing the web.

Drinks/Snacks Policy: Folks, please feel free to bring coffee and/or dinner/snacks to class … just please make sure that anything associated with the food that you bring (including its packaging) isn't especially loud and doesn't have the potential to distract your classmates during our discussions or screenings. Please observe/don't abuse this policy. We meet twice a week, late in the afternoon and for a long stretch of time, and I think I speak for everyone when I say that this policy, if observed/not abused, will make for a happier, less distracted experience for all participants in this course.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult The Little Duck Handbook (the handbook required in the English Department/by the UO Composition Program) for a definition of

plagiarism and information on documentation. You should also refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website, at the following URL:
http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx

In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is standard practice in this course. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Important—*A Quick Warning about the Content of Screenings:* This class will feature media that may contain explicit depictions of sex, violence, adult themes, coarse language, and material that many viewers might find offensive. If you believe that this might be a problem for you, then please come talk to me about whether we can find a solution, or if this is the best class for you.

Grading Breakdown

Responses (eight total):	40% (5% each)
Take-Home Midterm:	20%
Presentations:	10%
Participation:	10%
Take-Home Final Exam:	20%

Access for Students with Disabilities: **If you have a disability (physical or learning), which 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.**

Observance of Religious Holidays: Students who observe their religious holidays at times when academic requirements conflict with those observances must inform instructors in advance of the holiday. Students are responsible for making up missed work according to a schedule determined with the teacher.