Course Description:
This course will constitute an historical survey of the New Hollywood period, examining the development of the U.S. film industry from 1967-1980. “New Hollywood” or “The Hollywood Renaissance” refers to a unique period of U.S. studio filmmaking driven largely by up-and-coming writer/directors. These young filmmakers, influenced by the American social upheavals of the 1960s and the cinematic innovations of European filmmakers, brought explicit sex, drugs, rock and roll, and a countercultural ethos to the American cinema in the late 1960s and throughout the decade of the 1970s. According to film journalist Peter Biskind, the New Hollywood period was “the last time Hollywood produced a body of risky, high-quality work . . . that defied traditional narrative conventions, that challenged the tyranny of technical correctness, that broke the taboos of language and behavior, that dared to end unhappily” (Biskind 17). We will supplement our historical readings with formal close analysis of the films we screen, plus extensive class discussion.

Required Texts:
Biskind, Peter. *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls*
Cook, David. *Lost Illusions: American Cinema in the Shadow of Watergate and Vietnam*
Corrigan, Timothy. *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*

* Access to Blackboard for Additional Documents and Assignments

Recommended/Optional: Harris, Mark. *Pictures at a Revolution*

Class Meetings & Procedures: Attendance is required and checked daily. You are expected to attend all class meetings and participate in all discussions. Screening and discussing films in a group setting is vital to critical learning. If you plan to be absent on a given day you must contact me in advance to arrange make-up work/exams. The following attendance policy is straightforward and non-negotiable: THREE absences no questions asked. You are responsible for any missed screenings, notes, or assignments due. A FOURTH absence, for any reason, will result in the automatic deduction of one-third letter grade from your final grade (e.g., from A- to B+). On the FIFTH absence you will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.

Participation: This is a discussion based class. As such it is absolutely vital that you complete the shared reading assignment prior to attending class. As you read, mark any passages that strike you as interesting or challenging and come to class ready to discuss the texts.

Screenings: 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. If you are absent during a screening day you will need to make arrangements to see the film on your own.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism: The University of Oregon 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, including TV shows, magazines, your friends, parents, and, of course, anything found on the web. At a minimum, documented plagiarism will result in course failure. See Blackboard for resources and information on citation styles and practices.

Access For Students With Disabilities: If you have a registered disability, which you believe may affect your performance in this course, please see or contact me the first week of the term so we can make the necessary arrangements for your fullest access to the course and its activities.
Assignments:
Weekly reading responses: 10%
Participation and group presentation: 10%
Midterm close-reading essay and shot list: 20%
Exams: In-class Midterm and Take Home Final: 25%
Final research essay (Including proposal and annotated bibliography): 35%

Reading and Film Response: You are responsible for posting five 700-word responses to the assigned readings. You will post these writings to the course “Discussion Board.” Discussion posts are due before class each Thursday and missed weeks cannot be made up. The Discussion Board will be open from Week 1 to Week 8. All posts must be completed by week 8. You may use examples from the films we have watched as examples but if you do keep it to a specific moment, image, idea, or character from the film. Your writing will provide me with a sense of how closely you are reading the texts, and how well you are able to apply material from lecture, films, and our discussions. One direct quote from the week’s reading must be integrated into your response. Late postings accepted at 30% penalty. Upload your post to Blackboard by pasting from a Word Document. Keep the original saved on your computer.

Presentation: Each student must sign up for a group presentation during the term. Presentations will take place on the day listed on the course schedule. There will be six presentation groups consisting of 6-7 students each. Each student will be individually responsible for a 2 minute presentation and 3 slides on a topic related to the week’s film. The group should meet twice: once to divide topics and again to practice. Your group will have 15 minutes to present your slides using Microsoft PowerPoint or similar software. (You may add 3 minutes to include a video clip but it is your responsibility to make sure our classroom technology can support the media you plan to show.) Each group should cover the following topics: a) Production, b) Reception, c) Style d) Cast & Crew, e) Related films/media texts, f) Related historical events. It is highly recommended that one group member serve as moderator to keep time for the group. Please visit the library and spend a couple hours researching your topic. Get to know your fellow presenters as you will need to be in contact with them before your presentation. Get contact information in class or via our Blackboard site. Each student will write a 600-word summary of their research (including references) and post this to Blackboard.

Midterm Essay: Write a 5-page close reading of a single sequence, motif, or cinematic element used in one of the first four films. Pay particular attention to realism and the portrayal of history. Rather than conducting extensive research, this paper should be a formal analysis of the techniques employed by the film as it reveals, masks, or exploits history. This paper may be a jumping off point for your larger research project or simply a chance to practice the skills involved in writing about cinematic texts. Your essay should be double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12pt font. Outside sources are not required but must be cited if they are referenced. Include a 2-page “shot list” of at least five shots with your essay. A shot list guide is on Blackboard.

Research Essay and Annotated Bibliography: Your final project for the course is to write an 8-10-page research paper exploring a specific aspect of the New Hollywood Period. Your job is to identify a question that is currently at issue within the broad context of this course and endeavor to develop an original conclusion/solution to this question. You will complete a proposal, a 1000-word annotated bibliography detailing 6 sources, a peer-review, and a final research bibliography of 10-15 sources. The paper must feature an original and engaging thesis, smooth transitions, varied sentence structure, fresh diction, strong voice, appropriate tone, and something memorable. You are invited to discuss your project with me during office hours and visit the Writing Lab in 72 PLC. The essay should evidence depth of reasoning and textured writing that integrates pertinent quotations from the source material. A minimum of five direct citations from your source texts are required. Include page numbers and use MLA or Chicago format. Use double-sided printing to save paper. Format: Double-Spaced, Size 12 Times New Roman Font. For Week 10 you will post a 600-700 word peer review of a classmate’s essay draft instead of a reading response.

Final Exam: Take Home Due Tuesday of Finals Week by 2pm
Schedule

**Week 1:** *The Graduate* (Mike Nichols, 1967)
Read: Cook: Chapters 1 - 2 and Corrigan: Chapters 1-2,
Recommended: *Dr. Strangelove* (Stanley Kubrick, 1964) and *Bonnie & Clyde* (Arthur Penn, 1967)

**Week 2:** *In the Heat of the Night* (Norman Jewison, 1967)
Read: Corrigan: Chapters 3 & 4, and PDF: “Sidney Poitier’s Civil Rights”
Recommended: *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner* (Kramer, 1967) & *To Sir, With Love* (Clavell, 1967)

**Week 3:** *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Stanley Kubrick, 1968, PG)
Read: Cook: Chapters 3 & 9
Recommended: *Jaws* (1975) and *Star Wars* (George Lucas, 1977)

**Week 4:** *Five Easy Pieces* (Bob Rafelson, 1970, R)
Read: Biskin: Intro – Chapter 5
Recommended: *Easy Rider* (Dennis Hopper, 1969) and *Last Picture Show* (Peter Bogdanovich, 1971)
Due in class Thursday: Midterm Essay (1500+ words PLUS 2-page shot list)

**Week 5:** *Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song* (Melvin Van Peebles, 1971, R)
Read: Cook: Chapters 5 & 6
In-Class Midterm on Thursday

**Week 6:** *Soylent Green* (Richard Fleischer, 1973, PG)
Read: Cook Chapter 7, Corrigan: Chapter 6 and PDFs: “Soylent Green”
Recommended: *The Exorcist* (William Friedkin, 1973) and *The Man With the Golden Gun* (Hamilton, 1974)
Class meeting in library on Thursday: Room TBA

Read: Cook: Chapter 8 and PDF: Collins: “The Trouble with Archie”
Due in class Thursday: Proposal (500 words) + Annotated Bibliography (6 sources, 1000 words)

**Week 8:** *Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore* (Martin Scorsese, 1974)
Read: Cook: Chapter 4 and Biskin: Chapters 6-9
Recommended: *The Conversation* (Francis Ford Coppola, 1974) and *Nashville* (Robert Altman, 1975)

**Week 9:** *Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker’s Apocalypse* (Fax Behr, 1991, R)
Due in Class Tuesday: Rough Draft of Research Paper (5+ pages)
Read: Biskin: Chapters 10-14 and Cook: Chapter 11
Recommended: *Hearts and Minds* (Peter Davis, 1974) and *Harlan County, U.S.A.* (Barbara Kopple, 1976)
Post Peer Review to Blackboard Discussion Board this week by Friday at 5pm

**Week 10:** *Network* (Sidney Lumet 1976, R)
Read: Corrigan: Chapter 7
Recommended: *All the President’s Men* (Alan Paluka, 1976) and *The Wall* (Alan Parker, 1982)
Due Thursday in class: Research Paper (8-10 pages + bibliography)

Take Home Final: Due by 12pm (noon) on Tuesday of Finals Week.