CINE/ENG 381M: Film, Media, and Culture
Summer 2021, CRN 41240 or 41409, Monday-Thursday 10:00-11:50 am via Canvas and Zoom
Stephen Rust, Senior Instructor, Office Hours: T/R after class on Zoom, srust@uoregon.edu
Class meetings on Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:50am (links on Canvas)

Course Description
This course studies works of film and media as representational objects that engage with communities identified by intersectional categories including sex, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nation, class, and ability. It considers historical and contemporary effects of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination on media and filmmaking practices and modes of reception, as well as alternative strategies that promote cultural understanding and a valuing of diversity. ENG 381 satisfies the Arts and Letters group requirement by actively engaging students in the ways the discipline of film and media studies has been shaped by the study of a broad range of identity categories and by promoting an understanding of cinema as an art form intimately intertwined with its various social contexts. ENG 381 also satisfies the Global Perspectives cultural literacy requirement by enabling students to develop scholarly insight into cinematic representational strategies.

Course Objectives
At the end of this course, students will:

- Have knowledge of the techniques filmmakers to tell stories set in specific social, cultural, and historical contexts and the cognitive tools used by viewers to make meaning from these film texts;
- Be exposed to diverse examples of films that represent and critically explore issues of social difference, inequality, and agency in the United States;
- Be inspired to critically analyze representations of gender, race, sexuality, religion, politics, ethnicity, nationality, environment, social class and/or (dis)ability in film and media texts.

Required Texts
Harry Benshoff and Sean Griffin, America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in the Movies, 2nd Edition. Digital Access available via Canvas.

Library Research Guide for Weekly Responses: http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/cinema_studies

Note on film content: Course films contain R-rated content that will be objectionable to some viewers. Please research the films in advance if you are concerned about triggering images or sounds representing racial or sexual violence, bigotry against non-normative bodies, and hate speech. If you foresee problems with viewing required course materials or topics you are welcome to research alternative viewing based on the course reading and weekly topics.

Instructor-Student Communication
I encourage students to visit office hours. I look forward to conversations with students and students regularly find that such one-on-one conversations enhance learning and improve course performance.
**Email Policy:** I am available via email to answer occasional, brief questions. Larger questions or concerns should be brought to office hours for more thorough discussion. Email communications must be polite and professional. Unprofessionally addressed emails will not be answered. Whenever possible I will respond to student emails in two working days, not including weekends or evenings. I usually check my email once per day during the week and once on weekends, so leave plenty of time for specific requests. Common explanations of absences will be noted, but may not receive individual replies. Questions that are answered in the syllabus will not receive an individual reply. I will not send grades via email. I will not accept assignments via email.

**Technology Policy:** All electronic devices must be silenced and stored out of sight before the start of class unless explicitly directed to be used for class activities. Cell phone use during class will result in a zero participation grade for the day, recorded by the student.

**Attendance Policy:** Prior to attending class, please complete the assigned reading and watch the assigned films. Depending on the size of the class, our discussions will include a blend of full-class and small-group breakouts, often with in-class tasks assigned. Class sessions will be on Zoom and will be recorded. If you miss a class session, you can earn back 80% credit by completing the in-class activity and a 500-600-word analysis of the assigned film.

**Additional Desired Learning Outcomes for Upper-Division Cine/Eng courses**
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.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is illegal, unethical, and will result in disciplinary action. Never present another person’s work as your own. Do not turn in work prepared for other courses. Students are responsible for correctly documenting and citing all sources – including books, internet sources, films, and interviews – referenced for any assignment, accurately following an accepted writing style, such as MLA or Chicago. Academic fraud of any type is reported to the Dean of Students who enforces appropriate consequences through the process detailed by Student Conduct and Community Standards. Any student who plagiarizes or cheats on any course assignment faces penalties, including an F on the assignment and in the course. If I suspect plagiarism or cheating I am required to and will report the incident in writing to the student, the department, and the dean, who may assign additional penalties. Details: [http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx](http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx)

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:**
If you have a registered disability that may impact your work in this course, please contact me in the first week of the term. We will work together with the Accessible Education Center to make necessary arrangements to ensure your full access to course material and assignments. Details: [http://aec.uoregon.edu/](http://aec.uoregon.edu/) Or contact AEC directly in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu.
Assignments and Grading: A+ = 97%, A = 93%, A- = 90%, B+ = 87%, etc.

Active Participation in class sessions = 30%
Group Presentations = 30%
Final Essay Project = 40%

The university’s expected workload outside of class is two hours for every course credit hour. For this four credit hour course, the expectation is eight hours of outside work per week, including reading, preparing readings, presentations, and readings.

Participation: You are expected to complete every reading and film viewing assignment on the syllabus prior to the class day on which it is scheduled. Most classes will feature group discussion. Therefore, read with a pen and take marginal notes, especially marking crucial arguments and confusing passages. Before you come into class each day, be sure you can explain each reading’s main argument, and have one or two supporting points prepared from both the reading and the screening. This will also make preparing written assignments much easier, as you will have a body of notes and summaries to help you prepare your weekly responses.

Group Presentations: You will give two presentation as part of large groups. These groups will divide the week’s reading, filmmakers, and contextual topics/people/films of the group’s choice and create a shared Google slideshow or other creative presentation format. Each person will create 6 slides and presenting these slides in 3 minutes. Put no more than three or four words on any one slide and focus instead on using images that compliment your spoken presentation. The group should develop a shared introduction, clever transitions between each presenter, and a set of concluding questions for class discussion. One-two people in the group may volunteer for an extra credit bonus to organize group meetings and turn in a record of meetings (in-person and/or online) and serve as leaders for coordinating the group’s ideas and ensuring that each person’s voice is heard. A-level grades will be reserved for groups that demonstrate a sense of cohesiveness, cooperation, and creativity. Your group will also complete short peer and self-reflection forms.

Final Project: You have the option of writing an 8+ paragraph essay analyzing global cultural representations in a motion picture, television show, video game, or comic book of your choice OR developing an 8+ paragraph proposal for an Open Pedagogy project for students at a college, high school, or middle school to complete based upon the themes of this course and your own interests as a student of film and media. For the essay, you are encouraged to take shot-by-shot notes on a scene to capture a sense of the aesthetics and use these notes and library research to inform your analysis. For the Open Pedagogy option, you are encouraged to start by reading the online essay, “Open Pedagogy” and developing a feasible idea for a community-based learning project or open access book or learning resources project for a college, high school, or middle school course.
Week 1: Cultural Representation and Media Industry Economics
Mon. 16 Aug. Watch the following movies before class on Tuesday:
Watch: *Maurice* (1987)

Tues. 17 Aug. **Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am**

Wed. 18 Aug. Read: *America on Film*: Chapter 1-2
Watch: *Call Me by Your Name* (2017)

Thur. 19 Aug. **Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am**

Week 2: Race and Ethnicity in Film and Media
Read: *America on Film* Chapters 3-7

Tues. 24 Aug. **Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am**

Wed. 25 Aug. Read: *America on Film* Chapters 3-7
Group Meetings to work on presentations

Thurs. 26 Aug. **Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am; Group Presentations**

Week 3: Gender and Sexuality in Film and Media
Mon. 30 Aug. Read: *America on Film* Chapters 8-16

Tues. 31 Aug. **Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am**

Wed. 1 Sept. Read: *America on Film* Chapters 8-16
Group Meetings to work on presentations

Thur. 2 Sept. **Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am; Group Presentations**

Week 4: Class and Disability in Film and Media
Mon. 6 Sept. Labor Day Holiday

**Class Zoom Meeting 10-11:50am**

Weds. 8 Sept. Work on your project

Thurs. 9 Sept. **Final Essay or Open Pedagogy Project Due by 11:59pm**
No class meeting so you can work on your project