

English 266 | HISTORY OF THE MOTION PICTURE: Part II, 1927ish-1965ish | Winter 2017

T 2-4:50 + R 2-2:50 + Friday Discussion Sections (see your schedule for assigned discussion section time and location)

GEs: Claire Graman, Stephanie Mastrostefano, and Dina Muhic

Professor Ovalle's Office Hours: R 3-5pm in PLC 266 or email povalle@uoregon.edu for appointment

This is the second part of a three-term sequence that studies the history of cinema. We will use a series of case studies to develop your research, analytic, and writing skills in terms of critical thinking, historical analysis, key films, and specific movements in various historical and national contexts.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain basic concepts of cinema's development as an industrialized art form
2. Historically and nationally contextualize a motion picture in terms of technology, aesthetics, cultural history, etc.
3. Identify and analyze clips from key films using the aforementioned film history approaches (as outlined by Bordwell)
4. Identify and employ film history approaches to begin researching and analyzing a motion picture
5. Compose articulate research questions and statements to begin historically analyzing a motion picture

LECTURE: There are two lecture classes each week—one accompanying the Tuesday screening and one on Thursday. Attendance—at lectures, screenings, and discussion sections—is required. Lecture attendance will be determined by clicker participation; an absence is identified as a score of "0" for any given lecture's clicker "quiz." **Each additional unexcused absence from lecture will lower your final course grade by 1/3 of a letter grade (an A- drops to a B+) unless arrangements have been made in advance.**

DISCUSSION SECTION: You must be registered for and attend a discussion section to receive a grade in this course. Discussion sections meet weekly on Fridays. Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences from your weekly discussion will lower your final course grade by 1/3 of a letter grade (an A- drops to a B+). **Three unexcused absences equal a failing grade for the course.** Your GE will address specific policies and procedures—excused vs. unexcused absences, etc.—during your discussion section. While our team works closely on assignments and grading, your GE is directly responsible for grading your work and should be your first contact for help or questions about your work in the course.

GRADES WILL BE BASED ON:

10% Discussion Section: See your discussion section syllabus

40% Exams: 20% Midterm + 20% Final Exam

50% Writing/Research: 15% Assignment #1 + 15% Assignment #2 + 20% Assignment #3

COURSE READING, SCREENINGS, & MORE: Beginning in week 2, reading assignments should be completed by the Tuesday lecture; required readings are available on Canvas. Screening DVDs will be available on reserve in Knight Library. You will use a clicker in this class so we can better communicate about the lecture and screening material; see "Clicker Guidelines" for more info. The ENG 266 Canvas site contains important course-related materials including assignments and any additional readings; check Canvas regularly for updates and/or for weather-related cancellations, etc. This course may screen films that contain graphic violence, explicit sex, and otherwise adult themes/situations. If, for whatever reason, such subject matter makes you uncomfortable, it is worth considering whether this course is right for you.

WEEK 1: Introducing Methods and Sound

Tu: Screen *Hallelujah* (1929) + *The Jazz Singer* (1927)

Th: Discuss (come to class having read the following):

- "Doing Film History" (Bordwell online) — stop at "Case Study" (you do not need to read the Case Study)
- Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 9: pages 175-184 (stop at "Germany Challenges Hollywood")

WEEK 2: Aesthetics of Early Sound Film (1/18 — last day to change from audit→credit or credit→audit)

Tu: Screen *M* (1931)

Th: Discuss: Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 9: pages 184-194

WEEK 3: Fascism & German Sound Film — ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE @ NOON ON TUE WEEK 3

Tu: Screen *Triumph of the Will* (1935)

Th: Discuss: Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 12: pages 239-253

WEEK 4: Capitalism & US Sound Film

Tu: Screen *Citizen Kane* (1941)

Th: Discuss: Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 10: pages 195-216 (stop at "Animation...")

WEEK 5: Light, Shadow, and Japanese Film — ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE FRIDAY WEEK 5

Tu: Screen TBD

Th: Discuss: TBD — Guest Lecture by Professor Daisuke Miyao

WEEK 6: MIDTERM & Experiments in Space & Time

Tu: Midterm (please bring pencils to class)

Th: Discuss:

- *Meshes of the Afternoon* (1943) + *Duck Amuck* (1953)
- Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections: pages 217-218 and 452-453
- PDF Selection from *Chuck Amuck*: "Duck Dodgers: A Case History—Story Through Animation"

WEEK 7: Postwar US Cinema, the Cold War, and Color

Tu: Screen *Singin' in the Rain* (Kelly/Donen 1952)

Th: Discuss: Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 15

—TOPICS FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS MAY BE RE-ARRANGED—

WEEK 8: Opticals (2/26—Last day to drop a class [mark of "W" recorded] & change grade options [P/NP])

Tu/Th: TBD

WEEK 9: New Waves I — ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE TUESDAY WEEK 9

Tu: Screen Cléo from 5 to 7 (1962)

Th: Discuss: Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 20: pages 403-418

WEEK 10: New Waves II

Tu: Daisies (1966)

Th: Discuss: Thompson/Bordwell PDF Selections from CH 18 & 20: pages 363-370 and 422-429

FINAL EXAM: 12:30pm Wednesday, March 22 — YOU MUST BE PRESENT FOR EXAM

Detailed policies re: the following will be posted on Canvas. Please review them there.

CLICKER POLICIES: It is your responsibility to bring your clicker to class, confirm that your clicker works, and that your grade has properly posted to Canvas. Clicker grades begin to accumulate on Tuesday of week 2. If you have not registered your clicker by the beginning of class on Tuesday of week 3, you will lose your week 2 points. If you forget your clicker, you may check one out from your GE on a first come, first served basis (this will be at your GE's discretion for repeat clicker loans). It is your responsibility to confirm with your GE that your clicker session has posted, according to the following class policy. You will have 1 week to confirm that your clicker points have properly posted to Canvas. You must notify your GE if you do not see your clicker grade within the week after your grade goes live. If you do not do so within that time, you will not receive credit for the session.

ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM: You will be asked to complete a quiz on Canvas about academic integrity because it is very important.

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION: We are committed to supporting an inclusive learning environment. Please notify your GE if you experience disability-related barriers to class participation. If you anticipate needing learning or examination accommodations in this course, please bring a notification letter from the Accessible Education Center (541.346.1155 or <http://aec.uoregon.edu/>) to your GE as soon as possible. Students requiring additional support for exams should notify their GE at least 3 weeks before each exam so we can make the necessary arrangements to support your success.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING & TESTING CENTER: Call (541) 346-3227 or drop by and ask to talk with a therapist for any support you may need regarding body image & eating, concussion, coping skills, depression, relationships, responding to tragedies, sexual assault, stress and anxiety, substance abuse, suicide, transitions and issues faced by veteran students. Support can also be found at <http://counseling.uoregon.edu>.

MANDATORY REPORTING DISCLOSURE: As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at <https://safe.uoregon.edu/services>. Each resource is clearly labeled as either "required reporter," "confidential UO employee," or "off-campus," to allow you to select your desired level of confidentiality.