

## Marshall University Course Syllabus

Course Name	Development and Appreciation of Film
College/Department	COLA/Communication Studies
Semester	Spring 2016
Instructor name and title	Danny Ray, Director of Forensics
Instructor Email	<a href="mailto:ray102@marshall.edu">ray102@marshall.edu</a>
Instructor Telephone	304-696-5293
Instructor Office Location	Smith Hall 270
Course Start Date	January 11, 2016
Course End Date	May 6, 2016

Information for drop or withdraw available on the Academic Calendar  
<http://www.marshall.edu/calendar/academic/>

### COURSE MATERIALS AND COST

Title	<b>Film History: An Introduction</b>
Author(s)	<b>Thompson, Kristin &amp; Bordwell, David</b>
Publisher	<b>McGraw Hill</b>
Edition	<b>3rd</b>
ISBN	<b>978 – 1259409332 electronic version</b>

Other materials needed for the course include: A DVD.Netflix.com membership for the duration of the semester. \$11.99 – \$14.99

Estimated cost for all books and materials for this course is \$ 90.00

Textbooks and materials may be ordered online at the Marshall University Bookstore  
[http://www.marshall.edu/msc/MU\\_Bookstore/mu\\_bookstore.html](http://www.marshall.edu/msc/MU_Bookstore/mu_bookstore.html)

### COURSE DETAILS:

#### Description:

*The historical development of the motion picture as an art form. Analysis of the technical, social, economic and cultural factors which have influenced the medium.*

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** One of the following: CMM 103, CMM 104H, CMM 207

**Objectives/Expectations:** Objective of the course is to provide a survey of American films throughout history. Expectations: students should complete the course with an understanding of how the film industry evolved throughout history and how advancement in technology influenced film making. By the end of the course students will be able to discuss film content and technology through a critical lens.

**Number of hours per week required to successfully complete the course.**

**Online: 2 hours per week**

**Offline: 5 hours per week**

**Computer Requirements:**

Requirements for a MUOnline course, Hardware/Software Check, and Plugins may be found at: [http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/computer\\_requirements.asp](http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/computer_requirements.asp)

ServiceDesk – for assistance needs

<http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/cs/helpdesk/>

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/technicalfaq.asp>

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures**

<b>Upon completion of this course, students will be able to</b>	<b>Each student learning outcome will be assessed in the following manner:</b>
Students will develop an informed understanding of the history of film as effected by technological advancement	Quizzes and exams Class discussion
Students will improve skills in the interpretive analysis of film.	Class discussion Oral presentation
Students will develop critical awareness and understanding of culture and how it evolved in film throughout history	Quizzes and exams Class discussion Oral presentation
Students will develop the ability to provide an informed, comparative, critical analysis of film	Class discussion Oral presentation

**COMMUNICATION**

Questions and comments will be responded to within 24 hours of sending the communication. You may only reach me through email, [ray102@marshall.edu](mailto:ray102@marshall.edu) I will have access via voicemail but will most likely not retrieve it from my office. Please speak distinctly if you leave a voicemail as I will receive it as a text through my email.

**Tips for Success**

Participate! Log on to your course every single day! Spend some time exploring your course! Be polite and respectful! Speak up if you are having problems! Observe the Student Code of Conduct! Asking Questions and Getting Help!

For more information about how to be a successful online student, please check out the MUOnline Tips for success page located [here](#).

## COURSE SCHEDULE, ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES

Date(s)	Topics and Activities	Films	Due Dates
Week 1 1/10 – 1/16	Part One: Early Cinema, Chapters 1-3	<i>Birth of a Nation</i> (1915) <i>The Kid</i> (1921)	Discussion #1, #2 Due: 1/16
Week 2 1/17 – 1/23		<i>All Quiet on The Western Front</i> (1930) <i>It Happened One Night</i> (1934)	Discussion #3, #4 Due: 1/23 Quiz 1 Due: 1/23
Week 3 1/24 – 1/30	Part Two: The Late Silent Era, Chapters 4-8	<i>The Bride of Frankenstein</i> (1935) <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939)	Discussion #5, #6 Due: 1/30
Week 4 1/31 – 2/6		<i>Mrs. Miniver</i> (1942) <i>Meet Me in St. Louis</i> (1944)	Discussion #7, #8 Due: 2/6 Quiz 2 Due: 2/6
Week 5 2/7 – 2/13	Part Three: The Development of Sound Cinema, Chapters 9 - 14	<i>The Best Years of Our Lives</i> (1946) <i>All About Eve</i> (1950)	Discussion #9, #10 Due: 2/13
Week 6 2/14 – 2/20		<i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (1952) <i>From Here to Eternity</i> (1953)	Discussion #11, #12 Due: 2/20 Quiz 3 Due: 2/20
Week 7 2/21 – 2/27	Part Four: The Postwar Era – Chapters 15-21	<i>Psycho</i> (1960) <i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i> (1967)	Discussion #13, #14 Due: 2/27
Week 8 2/28 – 3/5		<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968) <i>The Godfather</i> (1972)	Discussion #15, #16 Due: 3/5 Quiz 4: Due 3/5
Week 9 3/6 – 3/12	Part Five The Contemporary Cinema Since the 1960's, Chapters 22 - 27	<i>The Exorcist</i> (1973) <i>Star Wars</i> (1977)	Discussion #17, #18 Due: 3/12
Week 10 3/13 – 3/19		<i>Tootsie</i> (1982) <i>The Color Purple</i> (1985)	Discussion #19, #20 Due: 3/19 Quiz 5 Due: 3/19
Week 11 3/20 – 3/26	SPRING BREAK		
Week 12 3/27 – 4/2	Part Six Cinema in the Age of New Media, Chapters 28 -30	<i>Schindler's List</i> (1993) <i>Fight Club</i> (1999)	Discussion #21, #22 Due: 4/2, Topic approval due: 4/2
Week 13 4/3 – 4/9		<i>Billy Elliot</i> (2000) <i>Avatar</i> (2009)	Discussion #23, #24 Due: 11/14 Quiz 6 Due: 4/9
Week 14 4/10 – 4/16			Discussion #25, #26 Due: 4/16
Week 15 4/17 – 4/23			Oral Presentation Due: 4/23

Week 16 4/24 – 4/30			Final Exam Due: 4/30
Week 17 5/1 – 5/7	Finals Week		

### Film Genres by Decade

Film	Date	Genre according to IMDb
<i>Birth of a Nation</i>	1915	History, Drama
<i>The Kid</i>	1921	Comedy, Drama
<i>Wings</i>	1927	Drama, Romance, War
<i>All Quiet on The Western Front</i>	1930	Drama, War
<i>It Happened One Night</i>	1934	Comedy, Romance
<i>The Bride of Frankenstein</i>	1935	Horror, Sci-Fi
<i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i>	1939	Political Drama
<i>Mrs. Miniver</i>	1942	Drama, Romance, War
<i>Meet Me in St. Louis</i>	1945	Musical Comedy
<i>The Best Years of Our Lives</i>	1946	Drama, Romance, War
<i>All About Eve</i>	1950	Comedy, Drama
<i>Singin' in the Rain</i>	1952	Musical Comedy
<i>From Here to Eternity</i>	1953	Drama, Romance, War
<i>Psycho</i>	1960	Horror
<i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i>	1967	Comedy, Drama
<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	1968	Mystery, Sci-Fi
<i>The Godfather</i>	1972	Crime, Drama
<i>The Exorcist</i>	1973	Horror
<i>Star Wars</i>	1977	Action, Fantasy
<i>Tootsie</i>	1982	Comedy, Romance
<i>The Color Purple</i>	1985	Drama
<i>Schindler's List</i>	1993	History, Drama
<i>Fight Club</i>	1999	Drama
<i>Billy Elliot</i>	2000	Comedy, Drama, Music
<i>Avatar</i>	2009	Action, Fantasy

### Exams

Number of Exams	1
Type(s) of Questions	Multiple choice
Each exam worth (# of points)	100
Total Points	100

### Quizzes

Number of Quizzes	6
Type(s) of Questions	Multiple choice
Each quiz worth (# of points)	20
Total point	120

### Assignments

Number of Assignments	1
Type	Oral Presentation
Each Assignment worth (# of points)	100
Total Points	100

### Grading Breakdown

Item	Value (Points)
Quiz 1	20
Quiz 2	20
Quiz 3	20
Quiz 4	20
Quiz 5	20
Quiz 6	20
Oral Presentation	100
Final Exam	100
Participation in group discussion	130
TOTAL	450

### GRADING

<b>A</b>	405- 450
<b>B</b>	360 - 404
<b>C</b>	315 - 359
<b>D</b>	270 - 314
<b>F</b>	0 - 269

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

#### Academic Dishonesty

All students should be familiar with the university's policy concerning academic dishonesty. This policy can be found on pp. 66 - 68 of the undergraduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug\\_10-11\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_10-11_published.pdf), or on pp. 61 – 63 in the 2009 online graduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr\\_sp09\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr_sp09_published.pdf). (Faculty are encouraged to add any additional information specific to their expectations and/or rules regarding academic dishonesty in their class).

#### Policy for Students with Disabilities

Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student's instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, please visit

<http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271.

### **University Computing Services' Acceptable Use Policy:**

All students are responsible for knowing this policy, which can be found on the web at <http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/CS/acptuse.asp>.

### **Affirmative Action Policy:**

This course will follow Marshall University's policy on Affirmative Action, which can be found on

p. 63 of the undergraduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug\\_10-11\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_10-11_published.pdf), or on pp. 16-17 of the 2008 graduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr\\_sp09\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr_sp09_published.pdf). Specifically, all students will be afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

### **Course Policies:**

**Discussion** – Each student is required to participate in online chat discussions. Two Topic areas will be posted each week, one per assigned film, and each student must add a meaningful original comment supported by valid arguments plus provide at least one reply to two other class members' comments which must also be supported by valid arguments. The discussion will end each Saturday at 11:59 pm. All discussion topics will be available at the beginning of the semester. Each discussion topic is worth 5 points for a total of 120 points. In order to receive full credit, each discussion comment must contain 5 - 7 sentences, minimally, and must include specific moments from the films. Failure to provide meaningful content in the group discussions will result in 0 points for that discussion.

### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes must be completed by the due date. Failure to meet the deadline will result in 0 points for that quiz. Each quiz will have 20 random questions selected from a test bank that I have created. Questions will come from the assigned readings of the text and the assigned films during the quizzed period. You will be allowed to take each quiz twice provided you do so within the assigned time frame. The highest grade will be recorded. All quizzes will be available at the beginning of the semester.

### **Final Exam:**

There will be one exam, which must be completed by the end of the semester. It will consist of 100 multiple choice questions on both textbook readings and from the assigned films. These questions will also come from the test bank that I have created and therefore could be repeated from previously taken quizzes. You will be allowed to take the final exam twice provided you do so within the assigned time frame. The highest grade will be recorded.

### **Oral Presentation:**

The oral presentation must be 8 – 10 minutes in length and uploaded to the course content via blackboard. The use of a proper organizational pattern is required. The rubric for how to organize the presentation is provided in the course content. The presentation **must** be filmed in front of an audience that consists of at least **five** adults and it must be filmed in a professional

setting. The audience should be filmed prior to the beginning of the speech. The topic of the presentation must include at least three films that are on the viewing list and an analysis of how some technological advancement affected how they were made. You may include films outside of the class viewing list but I need advanced notice and my approval is required. The use of media (Power point or the equivalent) is also a required element of the presentation. All presentation topics and the films being discussed must be approved by 11/21 at 11:59 pm.

In MUOnline:

- Chat tool (electronic office hours or electronic group meeting space)
- Discussion tool (threaded, blog, and journal available)
- Who's Online (list of who is currently working in the course section)

### **FINAL COMMENTS**

In order to be successful in the course, you need to keep up with the course calendar. Do not fall behind. Good luck!

### **INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY**

I joined the faculty of Marshall University in 2010 after completing my M. A. in communication studies at MU. I am the Director of Forensics, the nationally ranked Thundering Word Speech and Debate Team. I teach public speaking courses as well as having designed Performance Theory and the online Development and Appreciation of Film. Before my life as a college professor began, I worked as a professional actor, director and designer in the Mid-Atlantic region including theatres in New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and West Virginia.



**THUNDERING WORD**