

Marshall University Course Syllabus

Course Name	Development and Appreciation of Film
College/Department	COLA/Communication Studies
Semester	Fall 2015
Instructor name and title	Danny Ray, Director of Forensics
Instructor Email	ray102@marshall.edu
Instructor Telephone	304-696-5293
Instructor Office Location	Smith Hall 270
Course Start Date	August 24, 2015
Course End Date	December 4, 2015

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

COURSE MATERIALS AND COST

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

Other materials required for the course include: A DVD.Netflix.com membership for the duration of the semester. \$11.99 – \$14.99. The Netflix privacy policy can be found [here](#).

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

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:

ServiceDesk – for assistance needs

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

COURSE OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to	Each student learning outcome will be assessed in the following manner:
Students will develop an informed understanding of the history of film as effected by technological advancement	Quizzes and exams Class discussion
Students will develop 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. Emails sent via Blackboard may not be responded to. 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.

GRADING RESPONSE TIME

I will attempt to post grades within 48 hours of submission deadlines. Discussion feedback will be provided when the submitted comments are beneath my expectations.

NETIQUETTE

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 8/24 - 8/29	Part One: Early Cinema, Chapters 1-3	<i>Birth of a Nation</i> (1915) <i>The Kid</i> (1921)	Discussion #1, #2 Due: 8/29
Week 2 08/30 - 9/05		<i>All Quiet on The Western Front</i> (1930) <i>It Happened One Night</i> (1934)	Discussion #3, #4 Due: 09/05 Quiz 1 Due: 09/05
Week 3 09/06 – 9/12	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: 09/12
Week 4 09/13 – 9/19		<i>Mrs. Miniver</i> (1942) <i>Meet Me in St. Louis</i> (1944)	Discussion #7, #8 Due: 09/19 Quiz 2 Due: 09/19
Week 5 09/20 – 9/26	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: 09/26
Week 6 09/27 – 10/03		<i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (1952) <i>From Here to Eternity</i> (1953)	Discussion #11, #12 Due: 10/03 Quiz 3 Due: 10/03
Week 7 10/04 – 10/10	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: 10/10
Week 8 10/11 – 10/17		<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968) <i>The Godfather</i> (1972)	Discussion #15, #16 Due: 10/17 Quiz 4 Due 10/17
Week 9 10/18 – 10/24	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: 10/24
Week 10 10/25 – 10/31		<i>Tootsie</i> (1982) <i>The Color Purple</i> (1985)	Discussion #19, #20 Due: 10/31 Quiz 5 Due 10/31
Week 11 11/01 – 11/07	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: 11/07, Deadline for Presentation topic and film choices: 11/01/15
Week 12 11/08 – 11/14		<i>Almost Famous</i> (2000) <i>Avatar</i> (2009)	Discussion #23, #24 Due: 11/14 Quiz 6 Due: 11/14
Week 13 11/15 – 11/21	Topic approval for oral presentation		Due: 11/21 11:59 pm

Week 14 11/22 – 11/28	Thanksgiving Break		
Week 15 11/29 – 12/5			Oral Presentation Due: 12/05 11:59 pm Final Exam Due: 12/05 11:59 pm

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>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	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>Almost Famous</i>	2000	Drama, Romance
<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

Discussions

Number of Discussions	24
Each discussion is worth (#of points)	5
Total points	120

Quizzes

Number of Quizzes	6
Type(s) of Questions	Multiple choice
Each quiz worth (# of points)	20
Total points	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	120
TOTAL	440

GRADING

A	396 - 440
B	352 - 395
C	308 - 351
D	264 - 307
F	0 - 263

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty

All students should be familiar with the university's policy concerning academic dishonesty. This policy can be found on pp. 68 - 70 of the undergraduate catalog

http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/files/UG_15-16_final_published.pdf, or on pp. 42 – 44 in the online graduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/files/web/Gr_2014-15_published.pdf

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/acpttuse.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/files/UG_15-16_final_published.pdf or on pp. 16-17 of the 2008 graduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/files/web/Gr_2014-15_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. Being polite and respectful is not only common sense, it is absolutely necessary for a productive and supportive online course! Always think before you click Send. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words? While you can't anticipate all reactions, do read over what you've written before you send it. Any derogatory or inappropriate comments regarding race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, are unacceptable. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know. 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 3 sentences, minimally. 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 retake each quiz once provided you do so within the assigned

time frame. 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.

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. The topic of the presentation should be an analysis of 3-5 films of the same genre that addresses how technological advances changed some social aspect of the films you have chosen to discuss. 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)

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