

THTR 1356

The Cinema: Films and Performers

University of Texas at Tyler

Instructor Michael K. Ward, Master of Arts

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Office: Skype, Facetime, or Zoom

Office Phone: cell phone (text preferred) 903-504-3881 You may text me if there is a problem between the hours of 8am and 9pm. Please do not abuse this.

Office Hours: By appointment only

Catalogue Information

Course Description:

The cinema arts, history and cinema production process with emphasis on those elements retained in contemporary film practice. Screening of films and all work is done in an online classroom setting.

Knowledge Bases

Students will study the history of film from origins up to common practices and techniques in modern film making. They will watch films from around the world and find the commonality as well as differences from country to country and region to region. Film making as collaboration will be explored as well.

Student Outcomes

Students will have an understanding of the origins of film making

Students will have an understanding of the history of film making from conception to contemporary methods.

Students will be able to discuss different genres of film and their impact on society and entertainment

Students will be able to discuss film as a tool for change in society and society norms.

Students will watch a variety of films from around the world and be able to discuss and critique the styles, plot, subject matter and film making process.

Student will understand the roles of each person in the collaborative nature of film making by exploration of the duties of all of those needed in order to create a film from actor to grip.

Students will acquire a world view on the films and the process.

How the Class will work

Each week the student will be required to read and study a provided informational reading over the history of film. The student will also be required to watch at least one film during the week. Links will not be provided for films. Some films can be found on YouTube or online for free. Other films may be purchased through Amazon Instant Play. There is no text book for this course (recommended textbook cost \$150) and the films are \$1.99-\$3.99. There will be required quizzes over the reading and the film that must be taken no later than 10pm on the Sunday of each week. *These quizzes will not be reopened for any reason.

Readings

Each week a reading will be available to download from Blackboard in the Course Documents section. These readings are a collection taken from the internet. There will be a quiz over the readings posted in Assignments. You must take the quiz for that week's reading by Sunday 10:00pm. You will have only 10 minutes to take the quiz so make sure you read the material, make notes, and highlight important parts so that you will be able to complete the quiz.

Films

Each film has been chosen either for genre, world view, greatness, or public response. Quizzes over the film are mandatory and will contain questions over character, plot, as well as happenings in the film.

Quizzes

All quizzes must be completed by Sunday 10:00 pm. If a quiz jams or logs you off or you have any problems email or text me to reset (I will not reset past the due date). If you get a Green Exclamation point it means you went over the allotted time. I will look at your quiz and grade. A few seconds over is fine but for every minute over the time will cost a point. . Beings the quizzes are open for a full week, there will be no reopening of quizzes or tests for any reason after the due date and time. If you are going to be out of town, please plan accordingly. Only sicknesses lasting more than a week with doctor's notes will be considered.

Major Grades

There will be a midterm and final exam that each count 100 points. They will be cumulative and cover mainly, but not exclusively, the readings.

Group Project

The instructions will be presented on Sept. 9. You will be divided into groups. You must post in the group discussion board no later than Sept. 23. If a student does not contact the group by this time, they will not be allowed to participate and will receive a 0 for the project. The Group Project is worth 100 points.

You must submit the project by Oct 27, at 10:00pm.

Discussion Board

Due to the size of the class participation is difficult. Therefore, at times I will post a discussion question either about the film or the readings. Each student should comment. (This does not have to be a paper but merely the student's thoughts on the question or a response to one of the other student's thoughts). **It should be written at a college level, meaning well thought out and constructed, using proper grammar and citing any resources used if any.

Absenses

Because this class is on line absences will not be an issue. However, if any quiz, test or project is missed there will be no opportunity to make up the work.

Grading policy

This class works on a points system.

There will be 25 quizzes/discussion boards worth 500 points.

Midterm exam is worth 100 points

Final exam is worth 100 points

The Group project will be 100 points.

When looking at your grade remember the scale. In order to calculate your grade you must use the 800 points as a basis. Canvas will only show you what you have completed and not factor in any missed assignment. You must refer to the grade guide on the following page in order to figure out your grade.

(Every semester someone contacts me because they have 550 points out of 600 and why isn't that an A? Because they didn't attempt all 800 points.)

*Note for athletes. I will not send you your current grade through email. You may show your coach your grades on your own Canvas account. I do this because when they contact either 6 weeks in or at mid terms, according to my grading policy you will probably only have enough point for an F at that time. You can show your coach where we are in the assignments and all of the ones you have completed to show your work.

Reading check. This is Ward. Email me a picture through canvas of your favorite actor or actress for 10 bonus points.

Grades

Make sure you understand the schedule below is how grading will be done.

Total points available will be 800

A – 716-800

B –636- 715

C - 556-635

D- 476- 555

F- Below 476

Schedule

Week 1 – August 26- Sept 1

Module 1

- Watch Introduction and Instructions
- Read Syllabus
- Horse in Motion
- Film - With Honors (1994) & Quiz
- Reading 1 & Quiz

Week 2 Sept 2-8

- Watch Lecture
- Film – Watch first 20 minutes of Birth of a Nation (1915) (Youtube Free)
- Film- Watch all of The General with Buster Keaton (1927) (Youtube Free)
- Take Quiz over films
- Reading 2 & Take Quiz

Week 3 Sept 9-15

- Watch Lecture
- Mutiny on the Bounty (1935) Take Quiz
- Reading 3 & Quiz

Week 4 Sept 16- 22

- Watch Lecture which will include instructions for group project
- Contact your group
- Watch Clip of Women in the 40's
- Film – Citizen Kane (1941) & Quiz
- Reading 4 and Quiz

Week 5 Sept 23-29

- Watch Lecture
- Throne of Blood (1957) & Quiz
- Reading 5 & Quiz

Week 6 Sept 30- Oct. 6

- Watch Lecture
- Psycho (1960) & Quiz
- Reading 6 & quiz

Week 7 Oct 7-13

- Watch Lecture
- Film Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977) & quiz
- Reading 7 & Quiz

Week 8 Oct 14-20

- Midterm Exam

Week 9 Oct 21-27

- Watch Lecture
- Film The Shining & Quiz
- Reading 8 & Quiz

Week 10 Oct 28- Nov. 3

- Watch Lecture
- Film Shawshank Redemption & Quiz
- Reading 9 & Quiz
- **Group Project Due******

Week 11 Nov. 4-10

- Watch Lecture
- Film Precious (2009) & Discussion Board * This film contains adult situations and also triggers for sexual abuse and assault. If you would prefer a different assignment contact Ward, no questions asked.
- Reading 10

Week 12 Nov. 11-17

- Watch Lecture
- Reading on Independent Films & Quiz
- Film Garden State (2004) & Quiz

Week 13 Nov 18- 24

- Thanksgiving Break Enjoy!

Week 14 Nov. 25- Dec 1

- Watch Lecture
- Reading over Documentaries & Quiz
- 13th (Netflix) & Quiz

Week 15 Dec. 2-8

- Watch Lecture
- Foreign Film – L'Ascension (The Climb) (2017) (Netflix) & Quiz

Week 16 Dec. 9- 13

- Take Final - *****Final is due by 10 pm on Friday Dec. 13*****

UNIVERSITY POLICIES UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

[Students Rights and Responsibilities](#)

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [Students Rights](#)

[Campus Carry](#)

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at [Campus Carry](#).

[Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies](#)

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

Submitting grade replacement contracts, Transient Forms, request to withhold directory information approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census date)

Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)

Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

[State-Mandated Course Drop Policy](#)

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes

of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

[Disability Services](#)

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu or visit [Disability Services Office](#)

[Student Absence due to Religious Observance](#)

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

[Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities](#)

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

[Social Security and FERPA Statement:](#)

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

"Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test; possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test; using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority; discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination; divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student; substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment; paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program; falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

UT Tyler Resources for Students:

UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu, [Writing Center](#)

UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu, [Tutoring Center](#)

The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, This is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.

UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254) [Counseling Center](#)