1. **COURSE TITLE\*:** Introduction to Film
2. **CATALOG – PREFIX/COURSE NUMBER/COURSE SECTION\*:** ENGL 2240
3. **PREREQUISITE(S)\*:** ENGL 1101 **COREQUISITE(S)\*:**
4. **COURSE TIME/LOCATION/MODALITY: (*Course Syllabus – Individual Instructor Specific*)**
5. **CREDIT HOURS\*: 3 LECTURE HOURS\*: 3**

**LABORATORY HOURS\*: 0 OBSERVATION HOURS\*: 0**

1. **FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION: *(Course Syllabus – Individual Instructor Specific)***
2. **COURSE DESCRIPTION\*:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the vocabulary and artistic elements of film. It will focus on the elements of cinematic language (including narrative, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and sound). Students will view films to gain an understanding of cinematic form and learn techniques for analyzing and interpreting film. Screenings of films required.

1. **LEARNING OUTCOMES\*:**

As a result of coursework, students should

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic vocabulary, terminologies, and genres of film
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic history and traditions of film
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the techniques available to analyze and interpret film
4. Identify and apply the elements of cinematic language in order to analyze how films convey information, story, and meaning
5. Demonstrate an appreciation for diversity in film
6. Engage in analytical readings of films and present critical responses during discussion activities and in their writings

1. **ADOPTED TEXT(S)\*:**

Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film

8th ed. by Robert Barsam and Dave Monahan

W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 2025.

ISBN for Follett Inclusive Access: [Bookstore waiting on Follett]

ISBN: for students who do not want Inclusive Access: [insert number] (eBook and Learning Tools)

ISBN: for students who do not want Inclusive Access: [insert number] Paperback with eBook, InQuizitive, and Videos

\*Note: Students MUST have 8th edition, as the new edition includes an access code to the required video tutorials, animations, and other resources available through the Looking at Movies digital space.

**9a: SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS APPROVED BY FULL TIME DEPARTMENTAL FACULTY (INSTRUCTOR MUST NOTIFY THE BOOKSTORE BEFORE THE TEXTBOOK ORDERING DEADLINE DATE PRIOR TO ADOPTION) \*\*\*.**

1. **OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS: (SEE APPENDIX C FOR TECHNOLOGY REQUEST FORM.)\*\***

For online sections of this course, students must screen required films in their entirety. As much as possible, films free to students will be considered. However, in situations when this is not optimal, students have the option of renting or purchasing the films. Students may also choose to borrow these films through their local lending libraries, SSCC's library, or OhioLINK **FREE of charge**.

**To Rent or Purchase Films**: The films can be rented at minimal cost through streaming services such as Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, YouTube, and so on. Note: Having a subscription to Amazon Prime, Netflix, or another similar streaming subscription service, does not ensure that some (or all) of the required films will be available.

**To Borrow a Film:** Depending on the films’ availability, students may get some films on loan **AT NO COST** through their local libraries, or through OhioLINK. To get the films on loan, however, students must plan ahead and request films **at least one week in advance**. As with any loan service, requests are on a first-come, first-served basis, and delivery time varies according to the institution from which the library is borrowing the requested item.

1. **GRADING SCALE\*\*\*:**

Grading will follow the policy in the catalog. The scale is as follows:

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

1. **GRADING PROCEDURES OR ASSESSMENTS: (*Course Syllabus – Individual Instructor Specific)***

A variety of assignments will be used to evaluate student learning. Types of assignments should include but need not be limited to those listed below. A recommended distribution of grades is also indicated.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | **EXAMPLE ONLY**  Total Points | % of Grade |
| Chapter Assignments (10x25) | 250 | 25% |
| Quizzes (10x20) | 200 | 20% |
| Unit Exams (2x100) | 200 | 20% |
| Formal Writing Assignment (1x100) | 100 | 10% |
| Film Analysis Research Paper (1x100) | 100 | 10% |
| Class Participation & Discussions | 150 | 15% |
| Total | 1000 | 100% |

1. **COURSE METHODOLOGY: *(Course Syllabus – Individual Instructor Specific)***

Lecture, discussion, videos, projects, short answer assignments, quizzes and exams, and formal writing assignments may be used at the discretion of the instructor.

1. **COURSE OUTLINE: *(Course Syllabus – Individual Instructor Specific)***

**SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE**

**Weeks 1 & 2 – LOs# 1, 2, 3**

Course Overview

Chapter 1: Looking at Movies

Chapter 11: Film History

Chapter 12: How the Movies are Made

View and Discuss Scene Analyses from selected films

Alternate approaches to analysis

Cultural and Formal Analysis

**Weeks 3 & 4 – LOs# 1, 2, 3**

Chapter 2: Principles of Film Form

Parallel Editing in D.W. Griffith’s *Way Down East* and Jonathan Demme’s *Silence of the Lambs*

Chapter 3: Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Movies

Chapter 4: Movie Genres

Genre conventions: Story formulas, theme, character types, setting, presentation, stars

Six major American genres: gangster, film noir, science fiction, horror, the western, the musical

**Weeks 5 & 6 – LOs# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Chapter 5: Narrative

Screen and discuss first film – focus on narrative

Assign Shot Analysis from Single Scene – Due Week 7

**Weeks 7 & 8 – LOs# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Chapter 6: Mise-en-Scene

Screen, analyze, and discuss second film – focus on mise-en-scene

Midterm: Chapters 1-5

**Week 9 – LOs# 4, 5, 6**

Writing about Film

Conducting academic research

Engaging with scholarly analyses

Assign Film Analysis Research Paper – Due Week 15

**Weeks 10 & 11 – LOs# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Chapter 7: Cinematography

Screen, analyze, and discuss third film – focus on cinematography

**Weeks 12 & 13 – LOs# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Chapter 9: Editing

Major approaches to editing: Continuity and Discontinuity

View and Discuss discontinuity and the montage in The Odessa Steps sequence in Sergei Eisenstein’s *Battleship Potemkin*

Screen, analyze, and discuss fourth film – focus on editing

**Weeks 14 & 15 – LOs# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Selected readings from Chapters 8: Acting and 10: Sound

Screen, analyze, and discuss fifth film - focus on editing

Film Analysis Research Paper Due

**Week 16 – LOs# 1, 2, 3**

Final Exam

Note: Films for screening and analysis to be selected by the instructor.

**15. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS\*\*\*:**

Instructors will inform students of policies on attendance, late-work or make-up, and plagiarism.

**16. FERPA:\***

Students need to understand that their work may be seen by others. Others may see students’ work when being distributed, during group project work, or if it is chosen for demonstration purposes. Students also need to know that there is a strong possibility that their work may be submitted to other entities for the purpose of plagiarism checks.

**17. ACCOMMODATIONS: \***

Students requesting accommodations may contact Ryan Hall, Accessibility Coordinator at rhall21@sscc.edu or 937-393-3431, X 2604.

Students seeking a religious accommodation for absences permitted under Ohio’s Testing Your Faith Act must provide the instructor and the Academic Affairs office with written notice of the specific dates for which the student requires an accommodation and must do so no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction or fourteen (14) days before the dates of absence, whichever comes first. For more information about Religious Accommodations, contact Ryan Hall, Accessibility Coordinator at [rhall21@sscc.edu](mailto:rhall21@sscc.edu) or 937-393-3431 X 2604.

**18. OTHER INFORMATION\*\*\*:**

**SYLLABUS TEMPLATE KEY**

**\*** Item cannot be altered from that which is included in the master syllabus approved by the Curriculum Committee.

**\*\*** Any alteration or addition must be approved by the Curriculum Committee

**\*\*\*** Item should begin with language as approved in the master syllabus but may be added to at the discretion of the faculty member.