Introduction to Cinema Syllabus
Professor Dusty Thomas, Eastfield College

Instructor Information
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Course Information
Course Title: Introduction to Cinema
Course Number: DRAM 2366
Section Number: 45400
Semester/Year: Summer 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: ONLINE
Certification Date: 07/09/2020
Last Day to Withdraw: 07/29/2020

Course Prerequisites
None

Course Description
Emphasis on the analysis of the visual and aural aspects of selected motion pictures, dramatic aspects of narrative films, and historical growth and sociological effect of film as an art. This course is cross-listed as COMM 2366. The student may register for either DRAM 2366 or COMM 2366 but may receive credit for only one of the two. (3 Lec.)
Student Learning Outcomes
After successfully completing DRAM 2366, the student will be able to:

- Identify several different genres of film.
- Understand the basic elements of the art of film and filmmaking.
- Understand Aristotle’s The Poetics and how to apply that to different forms of visual art.
- Begin to understand the relationship between film, director, actor and audience.
- Gain an appreciation of film’s influence/benefit to contemporary society.
- Define the traditional role of actor, director, screenwriter, producer.
- Gain a knowledge of basic terminology related to film.
- Tell stories visually through photography and videography.
- Gain an understanding of the creative process and explore the role of the actor, director and designer in the process.
- Write a film criticism.

Texas Core Objectives
The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. Teamwork - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
6. Social Responsibility - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
Required Course Materials
Access to MS Word and the Internet
A Netflix Account
Access to a filmmaking and camera app

Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Graded Work

Summary of Graded Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Film Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>5 @ Varies</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Papers 1-2</td>
<td>2 @ 50 points each</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments/Discussion Boards</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Film</td>
<td>1 @ 150 points each</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 620 points *Subject to Change

Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>558-620</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>496-557</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>434-495</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>372-433</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-371</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of Graded Work
5 quizzes over lecture material and films
Film Critiques: 3 Film Critiques presented through Safe Assign
You will write papers on **3 FILMS FROM THIS CLASS**. The first 2 papers will need to have an introduction, one to two main paragraphs and a conclusion. Your final paper will be seven paragraphs including an introduction, one paragraph for each element of Dramatic structure and film form and a conclusion. There is a sample final paper on ecampus.

**Paper 1:** Focus on Plot, Genre and Characters. (1-2 pages) Choose from list of Narrative Films

**Paper 2:** Focus on the Historical context and Cultural impact of film including the Thought and Moral. (1-2 pages) Choose from Narrative or Documentary Films

**Paper 3:** All elements of Aristotle’s The Poetics, all elements of film form are addressed plus additional elements from lecture material. (2-4 pages) Choose from Narrative Film List

Papers over films not covered in class will receive a "0."

One Final paper = 100 points
(3 total) **250 points**

*Film papers are over films from class.*

**Photography assignment**: You will complete a 5-photo storytelling assignment and turn it in the discussion board. 50 points

For your final project, you will create a short film on your own. These can all be created and edited with simple apps on your phone. (FREE Apps - IMovie, Magisto, Camera Awesome, Filmmaker Pro, FilmoraGo, Quick). This project will be a cross-curricular project with Professor iles. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW.

Final film project:

2-5 minutes in length

Must have a Beginning, Middle and an End

Must have a clearly defined Type and Genre

Must use at least two different types of shots (tight, wide, etc) - review the information in the Film Form folder

Does not require dialogue - remember this is more about visual storytelling. Think about composition, mise en scene, rhythm and flow.

Prompts: These help brainstorm ideas, but are flexible and fluid.
The things that keep me up at night
The loss of someone or something
Things that make me smile
A day in my life
Something I’ve always wanted to say

**Attendance and Your Final Grade**
Attend class or interact online by Monday, January 27 to be certified.

**Late Work Policy**
Late work will not be accepted.

**Other Course Policies**
- All students are required to practice courteous, respectful, cooperative behavior at all times, as this would be the norm in any higher education or work environment.
- **Discussion Boards must be kept “school appropriate”**
- **Email communications must be sent in a professional manner.** For example:
  
  **NO:** Prof I forgot my assign. Lol can u let me give it 2 u ltr? 😊
  
  **YES:** Professor Reasons, I was unable to upload my assignment yesterday. Can I email it to you later today?
  
  - Assignments will be turned in **ON TIME**. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Institutional Policies**
Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the link below. These policies include information about tutoring, Disabilities Services, class drop and repeat options, Title IX, and more.

[Eastfield Institutional Policies](http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)

**Course Schedule**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1- Aristotle, Terms</td>
<td>Quiz 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2- Film Types &amp; Genres</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3&amp;4 Film Form, Film History</td>
<td>Quizzes 3 &amp; 4, Papers 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3- Film Form</td>
<td>Photo Collage 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director Project</td>
<td>In-class presentation over favorite director</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Film Project</td>
<td>Final Film Project in Discussion Board</td>
<td>Last day of Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10/21/19 Version