

COMM 2350 Art of Film Syllabus

Tues 1-350, Dal 1 # 322

Instructor: Travis Barnes, MFA

travis.barnes@untdallas.edu

Office Hours: Dal 2, # 230, MW 2-5 PM.

Department of Communication

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

COMM 2350 The Art of Film. Course Catalogue Description: Introduction to the styles, techniques, and devices used in cinematic and motion picture art.

Required Text: [Connect Access Card for Film Art](#). ISBN 9781259673955.

*** All papers must be written in MLA format. Use the Writing Center! ***

MLA formatting: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Course Goals and Overview: This class examines how motion pictures (films) function as works of art, communication, cultural reflection, and a business. You will be assessed by how well you understand the aspects of film communication, how you critically and personally engage with a film, and how well you express ideas in writing.

Learning Objectives: This course examines films as significant works of art and technical achievement, as cultural commentary and political expression, as entertainment, and as projections of the human psyche. Classes will combine lecture, screenings, in-class discussion, and online assignments.

Critical Thinking: Students will learn how films communicate ideas through audio and visual means through film language.

Communication Skills: Students will analyze films from a critical and cultural perspective. Students will understand how and why cinema has evolved so much since its inception.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students will analyze the empirical value of film by learning how and why films are produced and under what conditions are they successful or panned.

Personal Responsibilities: Students will understand the cultural significance of film and the strong impact films have on the individual in society.

Course Evaluation Methods: This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Assessment:

Critical Thinking: Students will learn film language by examining and discussing the visual elements of film and their function. Students will synthesize this information by writing papers and taking exams. Critical writing assignments, in-depth discussion activities, quizzes, research activities, and/or exams (objective/essay)

Communication Skills: Students will analyze films from a critical and cultural perspective. Students will understand how and why cinema has evolved so much since its inception. Critical writing assignments, in-depth discussion activities, quizzes, research activities, and/or exams (objective/essay)

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students will analyze the empirical value of film by learning how and why films are produced and under what conditions are they successful or panned. Critical writing assignments, in-depth discussion activities, quizzes, research activities, and/or exams (objective/essay)

Personal Responsibilities: Instrument: Students will understand the cultural significance of film and the strong impact films have on the individual in society. Critical writing assignments, in-depth discussion activities, quizzes, research activities, and/or exams (objective/essay)

Film Screenings: We will screen a film each class period, usually in its entirety. Typically, we will have a brief lecture and discussion about the film, take a short break, and then screen the film. Please do not use your cell phones or computers during the screenings. I recommend that you watch the film, quietly take notes, and complete the in-class reflection questions. Each film is paired with a chapter or article about some aspect of the art of filmmaking. For example, *The Godfather* is paired with your chapter on Cinematography, thus we examine the film as a strong example of how cinematography supports the telling of the story. If you miss a screening, the film will be made available in the library after it is screened for class.

Readings: Most readings are from the textbook, and some will be from online articles. Each reading assignment is listed in the course schedule and posted on Blackboard under Course Content. Each chapter has an assignment and quiz that are accessed via Connect (see below).

Reading and Quiz Assignments: All assignments for the week should be completed before the start of the next class. For most reading assignments (Ch#) and quizzes (Qz#), we are using McGraw Hill Connect. To complete the assignments, go to <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-barnes-library-course>

In-class Reflections: After each film screening, you will answer questions about the film and your engagement with it. Due in class after each screening.

Online Response Papers: You will write a short (three or four paragraph) response paper for each film screening. Each writing prompt for the response paper is listed below in the course schedule and posted on Blackboard under Course Content. Due each following week.

Midterm Exam: Your midterm exam will be written essay (8-10 paragraphs) that explores the use of dramatic irony in the film *Dr. Strangelove...* Due 10/11. *Also functions as In-class and online response #7.

Final Paper: For your final paper (10-12 paragraphs), you will write a critical analysis of any film screened this semester and any film on the secondary list. Due 11/29.

Final Exam: Your final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. Week of Dec 5th. Date and time TBA.

Course Schedule:

WK	Date	Objective	Films, Readings, & Assignments
1	8/23	Film as Art, Creativity, and Business	<i>Citizen Kane</i> (1941) Ch 1, Qz 1 In-class Reflection 1 Online Response 1
2	8/30	Significance of Film Form	<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968) Ch 2, Qz 2 In-class Reflection 2 Online Response 2
3	9/6	Narrative Form: The Hero's Journey	<i>Star Wars: A New Hope</i> (1977) Ch 3, Qz 3 In-class Reflection 3 Online Response 3
4	9/13	Mise-en-Scene	<i>Godzilla</i> (1954) Ch 4, Qz 4 In-class Reflection 4 Online Response 4
5	9/20	Cinematography	<i>Godfather</i> (1972) Ch 5, Qz 5 In-class Reflection 5 Online Response 5
6	9/27	Editing	<i>Psycho</i> (1960) Ch 6, Qz 6 In-class Reflection 6

			Online Response 6
7	10/4	MIDTERM EXAM Dramatic Irony	<i>Dr Strangelove...</i> (1964) Online Article Midterm Paper (In-class Reflection 7 & Online Response 7)
8	10/11	Sound for Film	<i>Thin Red Line</i> (1998) Ch 7, Qz 7 In-class Reflection 8 Online Response 8 Midterm Paper DUE!
9	10/18	Style and Form	<i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989) Ch 8, Qz 8 In-class Reflection 9 Online Response 9
10	10/25	Film Genres	<i>Aliens</i> (1986) Ch 9, Qz 9 In-class Reflection 10 Online Response 10
11	11/1	Documentary Film	<i>Thin Blue Line</i> (1988) Ch 10, Qz 10 In-class Reflection 11 Online Response 11
12	11/8	Independent Film	<i>Lost in Translation</i> (2003) Online Article In-class Reflection 12 Online Response 12
13	11/15	Film Criticism & Analysis	<i>Dark Knight</i> (2005) Ch 11, Qz 11 In-class Reflection 13 Online Response 13
14	11/22	Historical Changes in Film Art	<i>Zero Dark Thirty</i> (2012) Ch 12, Qz 12 In-class Reflection 14 Online Response 14
15	11/29	Film Adaptations	<i>12 Years a Slave</i> (2013) Ch 13, Qz 13 In-class Reflection 15 Online Response 15 Final Paper DUE!

16	12/5	FINAL EXAM	TBA
----	------	------------	-----

Grading:

10% Readings Chapter 1-13
 10% Quizzes 1-13
 10% In-class Reflections 1-15
 15% Online Responses 1-15
 15% Midterm Paper
 20% Final Paper
 15% Final Exam
 +05% Attendance

 =100% Total Grade

Grade Determination:

A = 90% or better
 B = 80 – 89 %
 C = 70 – 79 %
 D = 60 – 69 %
 F = less than 60%

Access to Learning Resources:

UNT Dallas Library: (Founders Hall)
 phone: (972) 780-1616
 web: <http://www.untdallas.edu/library>
 e-mail: Library@untdallas.edu

UNT Dallas Bookstore: (Building 1)
 phone: (972) 780-3652
 web: <http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore>
 e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance): The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students

are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu or at Founders Hall, room 204. (UNTD Policy 7.004)

CoursEval Policy: Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: (*Discuss any special instructions relating to exams-sample given*): Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity (Policy 7.002) at http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at

http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. In addition, all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers and written assignments must include the following statement: "*On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.*"

Bad Weather Policy: Campus facilities will close and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information please refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>

Attendance and Participation Policy: *(Discuss your attendance and participation policy.)*

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <http://www.untdallas.edu/hr/upol>

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate. (UNTD Policy 7.001)