

MA 210 – Intro to Film

UNM Valencia, Digital Media Arts

Summer 2011

WebCT Online Course

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Course Description

This course is designed to foster a better understanding and appreciation of film in all of its many forms and manifestations, ranging from silent to sound, from narrative to documentary, and from avant-garde to international cinema. To achieve this goal, we will view a range of fictional, documentary, and experimental films by U.S. and international filmmakers. We will look at the histories and styles of these films, as well as focus on learning the language of cinema. Movie screenings, online: lectures, discussions boards, journals, group presentations, exams, and other activities will assist students in gaining a critical understanding of filmmaking.

Objectives

- Critique filmmaking and understand critical theories of filmmaking cross-culturally.
- Understand major developments in film as they have occurred throughout time.
- To distinguish major film genres and subgenres.
- To increase students' understanding of how film is made.
- To help students develop visual literacy: To begin building a vocabulary for analyzing films in terms of form and style
- To become critical viewers.
- To increase students' awareness of film as an art, mass medium, and cultural artifact.
- To enjoy the art of cinema!

Required Textbook

Film Art, 9th edition

Bordwell & Thompson

McGraw Hill Publishers

Required Films

All required films will be delivered online via YouTube Movies throughout the semester in the Weekly Learning Modules.

Method of Instruction

Methods of instruction include screenings, lecture, textbook readings, threaded discussions, journal questions, virtual field trips, web searches, reading online articles/websites, examinations, and other activities will all presented to the student through Weekly Learning Modules. This course is run from week to week on Monday. This means that you will have from Tuesday, when the Learning Module is opened, to the next Monday at midnight MOUNTAIN TIME to complete and submit all course requirements for that particular week.

Screenings/Film Viewings – The student will be required to watch films for this course. All films will be delivered in the Weekly Learning Modules.

Lecture – In the Weekly Learning Module, the student will access the lecture. The lecture will be presented in any number of formats, including written, photo, audio, video, and more.

Threaded Discussion –You will be required to participate in discussions throughout the semester meant to simulate classroom discussion. The due date for discussion postings is located on the course schedule and in the Yellow Box on our class home page, and always in the learning modules. The student should post his/her own reply to the listed topic and then post a reply to at least three other student's postings before each due date. I encourage you to post throughout the week, and not wait until the last day. I will not accept ANY late discussion postings for credit.

Journal Entries – Topic questions that will be answered and submitted using the assignment tool. For each assignment, the student will need to put the Weekly Learning Module number as the topic of the assignment.

Textbook and Online Reading – The student will be required to read various assigned chapters in the text and a variety of online articles.

Quizzes – There will be quizzes presented throughout the semester that will include multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. The student will be timed on each quiz and can submit the quiz only one time. All quizzes are open-book, open-note.

Other Activities – There may be other learning activities associated with the weekly content of the course that will be found in the Learning Modules.

Student Responsibilities

- Have a UNM email and NetID to access WebCT.
- Students **MUST** have access to a computer with **high-speed Internet** for this course. A dial-up connection **WILL NOT** be suitable for much of the content delivered for this class. If you do not have access to a computer with high-speed internet at home, you can access a computer at:
 - o **UNM Valencia Campus Computer Labs:**
 - Library Computers - <http://www.unm.edu/%7Eunmvclib/>
 - The Learning Center Labs - <http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/>
 - DMA Lab – Room 107 B&T
 - Business & Technology Lab - <http://vc.unm.edu/Busntech/complabhours.htm>
 - o **Los Lunas Public Library** - <http://www.loslunasnm.gov/index.aspx?nid=103>
 - o **Belen Public Library** - <http://www.belen-nm.gov/library.htm>
 - o **Bosque Farms Public Library** – <http://www.bosquefarmspubliclibrary.org/>
 - o **Albuquerque Public Library** - <http://www.cabq.gov/library/>
 - o **Other sources:**
 - UNM Main Campus Computer Labs - <http://its.unm.edu/pods/>
 - Other public libraries
 - Rent time: Kinko's, Staples. Office Max (not recommended – very expensive!)
- Students must have basic computer and file management skills for all DMA courses, especially online courses. Students that fall behind due to lack of basic computer skills will be dropped.
- Students must successfully complete all online requirements and be an active participant in this online course's community
- Students must log on to this course at a minimum of three times a week. It is a requirement to check your email regularly for any communication from the instructor.
- Be prepared to spend, on average, anywhere from 8 - 12 hours per week on this course.
- Always keep a backup of your work!
- Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited.
- If you have a disability, please inform me of your needs as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner.

Participation

Weekly student participation and response in online courses is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. In this form of computer-based learning, weekly course participation is equivalent to class attendance. If no student response occurs during a week of the semester, the student is considered absent. Students are still held responsible for all academic work required or performed during their absence regardless of the reasons for those absences. Class participation influences your grade heavily. Participation includes:

- Successful participation in this course requires access to the correct technology with the necessary computer skills. Please see "Student Responsibilities." "Not being able to access the content delivered for this course for a "slow" internet connection or inability to access a computer WILL NOT be sufficient excuses for the inability to successfully complete work for this online course.
- Students are required to complete all work on time. This includes doing the following by the posted deadline dates:
 - o Viewing all the films by the required dates
 - o Complete and comprehend the weekly lecture within the week it is posted
 - o Contribute to all threaded discussions in a timely manner
 - o Make meaningful entries to the online Journal as requested
 - o Do all the required reading within the week it is posted
 - o Complete each Learning Module successfully and within the timeframe allotted
 - o Prepare for and complete all quizzes

Grading Policy

- Grading is based on a timely completion of course participation requirements, the quality of individual critical development, and a personal commitment to your work. Personal commitment involves regular participation, consistent effort, completion of work, and the general willingness to try.
- No full credit will be given for any late work. If work is not delivered on time, an automatic 0 points will be given. You will need to make arrangements with me if you are planning to make-up the work, and a fair grade will be issued once the work has been delivered. No late discussion postings will be accepted. Any late work will receive an automatic one-letter grade deduction. Full credit will never be issued for late work except in extreme cases and with **prior** notification – no exceptions.
 - o There will be one discussion posting make-up assignment: To substitute for one missed discussion posting, the student can write a 500-word article summing up the missed discussion board content. This assures the student has read and understands the missed discussion. Directions on how to submit will be provided online.
- Incompletes are rarely issued. If 75% of the semester's work/deliverables and participation have been completed with a satisfactory grade, and incomplete may be issued.
- To see how your submissions will be evaluated, see "Rubrics", a separate document

Grading Policy, cont.

Semester Requirements:

Syllabus Quiz	5 points	
Discussions (7)	42 points	6 points each
Quizzes (6)	30 points	5 points each
Final Project Film Analysis	23 points	

Make-Up/Extra Credit:

Make-Up Discussion	5 points
Extra Credit	will be offered throughout the semester for various points

Points will be added up and a letter grade will be issued according to the following scale:

A+	101+
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	50-59

How to Contact the Instructor

Email:

I prefer all email to be from the internal WebCT class email. How to email through WebCT is clearly explained in the "Getting Started" Learning Module. I will check this WebCT email regularly and will respond to all emails within 48 hours (72 hours weekends), and usually sooner.

Although less preferred, you can email me at alexa08@unm.edu. In the Subject Line of the email, ALWAYS write your full name and class number. For example – "Laurie Anderson MA 210"

Instant Messaging:

If I am available to talk, I will set my status to online. You will first need to set up an account with the following services, then you can use these IM services:

Google Talk - "alexatoast"

Set up a Gmail account: gmail.google.com

Email me with your gmail address: alexatoast@gmail.com

I will add you & you add me to your buddy list

GOOGLE TALK HELP: <http://www.google.com/support/talk/?hl=en>

Yahoo Messenger – "alexatoast"

Download Yahoo Messenger:

Mac: <http://messenger.yahoo.com/download/>

PC: <http://messenger.yahoo.com/download/win/>

Once successfully downloaded, open the program. Add me to your contacts by clicking on the "+" at the bottom left of the screen. My Messenger ID is – alexatoast@yahoo.com

AIM (AOL instant messaging) – "alexawheeler"

Skype – "alexatoast"

Download a Skype account:

Mac: <http://www.skype.com/download/skype/macosex/>

PC: <http://www.skype.com/download/skype/windows/>

Once successfully downloaded, open the program. You can "call" me by typing – alexatoast – in the search bar.

SKYPE HELP: <http://www.skype.com/help/guides/>

WebCT Chat:

If I am online in the WebCT system, invite me to chat!

Text:

You can also reach me **BY TEXT ONLY** at: 505-515-1055. I WILL NOT answer phone calls and ask that you please NEVER LEAVE A MESSAGE!!! Any messages left by students will be deleted and will not constitute an attempt at communication. In the event of an absence, you will be counted unexcused if you only left a message and made no other written attempt at communication (email, chat, IM, etc...). All communication between instructor and student MUST be in written format for this class.

Support Information, Resources & Tutorials

Support for WebCT:

- - WebCT help: <http://webctinfo.unm.edu/student/>.

UNM Valencia Tutoring Services:

- - Custom tutoring services are available through the The Learning Center at <http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/>. Even online tutoring is available!

Access to the films:

- All of the films will be viewable and embedded straight from inside each week's Learning Module. It will not be necessary to rent or buy the movies. But, it will be very important that you have access to high-speed internet to view the films.

Other tutorials:

- I will post a number of links to tutorials in WebCT for this course.

Instructor Support:

- Please see "How to Contact the Instructor" for methods of contacting the instructor for help.

Community Support:

- We will have a HELP FORUM discussion board in the WebCT course. Use this as a place to post questions to the community. It is important for peer learning and peer communication to enhance our community.

Netiquette*

Participate. In the online environment, it's not enough to show up! Instructors need to "hear" students' voices to feel their presence, and they especially need student comments to evaluate their own performance as a facilitator and teacher.

Be persistent. If students run into any difficulties, they should not wait to submit a report! Contact the instructor immediately.

Share tips, helps, and questions. For many of us, taking online courses is a new experience. There are no dumb questions, and even if a solution seems obvious, please share it with classmates!

Think twice before pushing the Send button. Both students and instructors need to be sure to say just what they meant. How will the person on the other end interpret a message? While no one can anticipate all reactions, read over each message before sending.

Remember that we can't see the grins on each others' faces. When students or instructors make a sarcastic comment, others online can't decipher if the person is serious or not. Also, when text messaging, remember that some people may not be familiar with typing shortcuts and abbreviations. Explain ideas fully and clearly, and try using emoticons! See this website for an Emoticon Dictionary: <http://www.netlingo.com/smileys.php>

Remember that there's a person on the other side. Students should ask for feedback if they're not sure how their ideas and comments were construed. If others disagree with what someone has said, "flaming," or ranting at someone else is unacceptable; it's the equivalent of having a tantrum, something most of us wouldn't do in a traditional classroom setting.

Stalking and derogatory comments are inappropriate. Stalking someone, or any derogatory or inappropriate comments, jokes, and forwarded emails regarding race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, are unacceptable and subject to the same disciplinary action that they would receive if they occurred in the physical classroom. If students have concerns about something that has been said to or about themselves or other classmates, they should let the instructor know.

Course Schedule

Summer 2011:

Semester begins Monday, June 6

Semester ends Saturday, July 30

Dates	Schedule	Textbook Readings
<u>Week 1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome! • Intro to WebCT • Meet the Instructor • Syllabus/Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion 1 ○ Syllabus Quiz 	<u>Chapter 1:</u> Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business
<u>Week 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion 2 ○ Quiz 1 - Chapters 1, 2 	<u>Chapter 2:</u> The Significance of Film Form <u>Chapter 3:</u> Narrative as a Formal System
<u>Week 3</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion 3 ○ Quiz 2 – Chapters 3, 4 	<u>Chapter 4:</u> The Shot: Mise-en-Scene <u>Chapter 5:</u> The Shot: Cinematography
<u>Week 4</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion 4 ○ Quiz 3 – Chapters 5, 6 	<u>Chapter 6:</u> The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing <u>Chapter 7:</u> Sound in the Cinema
<u>Week 5</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 4 – Chapters 7, 8 	<u>Chapter 8:</u> Summary: Style as a Formal System <u>Chapter 9:</u> Film Genres
<u>Week 6</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion 5 ○ Quiz 5 – Chapters 9, 10 	<u>Chapter 10:</u> Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films <u>Chapter 11:</u> Film Criticism: Sample Analyses
<u>Week 7</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion 6 ○ Quiz 6 - Chapters 11, 12 ○ Work on Film Analysis 	<u>Chapter 12:</u> Film Art & Film History
<u>Week 8</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work on Film Analysis ○ Discussion 7 ○ Submit Film Analysis in WebCT Journal format 	

