

MA 210 – Intro to Film

UNM Valencia, Digital Media Arts
Fall 2014

Last Revised August 2014

UNM Learn Online Course

Professor: Alexa Wheeler

Office: Business & Technology Rm.110A

alexa08@unm.edu | Office hours: continuous, virtual, online

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, textbook readings, online lectures, discussions boards, journals, 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 sub genres.
- 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 & Access to the Book

The book we are using for this course is:

Film Art, An Introduction

10th Edition

ISBN: 978-0-07-338616-4

By David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson

- University of New Mexico Valencia Bookstore:
 - o <http://www.unm.edu/~unmvc/Bookstore/Bookstore.htm>
 - o The book is estimated at \$138.00 new, and \$103.50 used
- Library System:
 - o University of New Mexico Valencia Campus Library:
 - <http://www.unm.edu/~unmvclib/>
 - There will be one copy on reserve. You will need to check it out at the front desk. It will only be available for 2 hour checkout, and cannot ever leave the library.
 - o University of New Mexico Main Campus Fine Arts Library:
 - <http://library.unm.edu>
 - It looks like they may have one copy.
 - o Other Libraries:

▪ **Los Lunas Public Library** - <http://www.loslunasnm.gov/index.aspx?nid=103>

▪ **Belen Public Library** - <http://www.belen-nm.gov/library.htm>

▪ **Bosque Farms Public Library** – <http://www.bosquefarmspubliclibrary.org/>

▪ **Albuquerque Public Library** - <http://www.cabq.gov/library/>

- You may have to do an Inter Library Loan if the book is not available at the listed libraries. Go to the library websites, and/or call them to find out how. Again, do this right away as you will need to book when class starts!

- **Purchase:**

- If you plan on purchasing this book online, you need to do so immediately. We will start using it right away! A couple of sources for purchase online are:

- http://www.amazon.com/Film-Art-Introduction-David-Bordwell/dp/0073535109/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1377056259&sr=8-1&keywords=film+art+10th+edition

- <http://www.chegg.com/textbooks/film-art-an-introduction-10th-edition-9780073535104-0073535109?trackid=1c1b6fa6&autosuggest=1&uqry=film+art&ii=1>

- It is also available as an ebook (estimated at \$65.00) at:

- <http://www.coursesmart.com/film-art-an-introduction-10th-edition/bordwell-david-thompson-kristin/dp/0077410238>

Required Films

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

Method of Instruction

Methods of instruction include screenings, lecture, textbook readings, threaded discussions, 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 Tuesday. 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.

Textbook Readings – Each week you will be required to read certain chapters and/or pages of the required textbook (**Film Art: An Introduction**, 10th edition, Bordwell & Thompson).

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.

Online Reading/Content – The student will be required to read and/or review a variety of online articles and content. Links to these articles/content will be posted in the Weekly Learning Modules.

Exams – There will be exams presented throughout the semester that will include multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. The student will be timed on each exam and can submit the exam only one time. All exams are open-book, open-note. . Nonetheless, because the student has only once attempt that is timed, it will be imperative to have prepared by reading the text.

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 UNM Learn.
- 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 Open Lab – Room 123A 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. I honestly suggest logging into this course DAILY.
- 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

- Contribute to all threaded discussions in a timely manner
- Do all the required reading within the week it is posted
- Complete each Learning Module successfully and within the timeframe allotted
- Prepare for and complete all quizzes and exams

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. No late discussion postings or exams will be accepted. Full credit will never be issued for late work except in extreme cases and with **prior** notification – no exceptions.
 - 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. The student will summarize the content of the discussion board posts based on what OTHER students have posted. The student is no longer answering and responding to the initial question(s) posed. This assures the student has read and understands the missed discussion. It is markedly more difficult to read through a discussion and summarize all the content than it is to have answered the question(s) initially. Directions on how to submit will be provided online.
 - Do not miss any exams as they will NOT be reopened. You have one chance to take the exams, and that is it. If you miss more than two of these exams, the likelihood that you can pass this class is extremely low.
- 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	
Textbook Access Form	5 points	
Discussions (4)	24 points	6 points each
Exams (6)	54 points	9 points each
Final Project Film Analysis	12 points	

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

Make-Up/Extra Credit:

Make-Up Discussion (1) 6 points

Extra Credit will be offered throughout the semester for various points at a maximum of 10 points for the entire semester

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

How to Contact the Instructor

I am not available to be reached by phone call at all for this course. To reach me, please use the following methods:

Email:

I prefer all email to be from the internal UNM Learn class email. How to email through UNM Learn is clearly explained in the "Getting Started" Learning Module. I will check this UNM Learn 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"

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. All communication between instructor and student MUST be in written format for this class.

Support Information, Resources & Tutorials

Support for UNM Learn:

- o - UNM Learn help: <http://UNM Learninfo.unm.edu/student/>.

UNM Valencia Tutoring Services:

- o - Custom tutoring services are available through 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.

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 UNM Learn 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

Fall 2014

Dates	Schedule	Textbook Readings
<u>Week 1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome! • Intro to UNM Learn • Meet the Instructor • Syllabus/Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Discussion 1 ◦ Syllabus Quiz ◦ Textbook Access Form 	<p><u>Chapter 1:</u> Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business</p> <p><u>Chapter 2:</u> The Significance of Film Form</p>
<u>Week 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Exam 1 - Chapters 1, 2 ◦ Discussion 2 open 	<p><u>Chapter 3:</u> Narrative Form</p> <p><u>Chapter 4:</u> The Shot: Mise-en-Scene</p>
<u>Week 3</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Exam 2 – Chapters 3, 4 ◦ Discussion 2 due 	<p><u>Chapter 5:</u> The Shot: Cinematography</p> <p><u>Chapter 6:</u> The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing</p>
<u>Week 4</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 4 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Exam 3 – Chapters 5, 6 ◦ Discussion 3 open 	<p><u>Chapter 7:</u> Sound in the Cinema</p> <p><u>Chapter 8:</u> Summary: Style as a Formal System</p>
<u>Week 5</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Exam 4 – Chapters 7, 8 ◦ Discussion 3 due 	<p><u>Chapter 9:</u> Film Genres</p> <p><u>Chapter 10:</u> Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films</p>
<u>Week 6</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Exam 5 – Chapters 9, 10 ◦ Work on Film Analysis 	<p><u>Chapter 11:</u> Film Criticism: Sample Analyses</p> <p><u>Chapter 12:</u> Historical Changes in Film Art: Conventions and Choices, Tradition and Trends</p>
<u>Week 7</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 7 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Exam 6 - Chapters 11, 12 ◦ Work on Film Analysis 	
<u>Week 8</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 8 Learning Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Work on Film Analysis ◦ Submit Film Analysis Assignment ◦ Discussion 4 open and due 	