

Prepared by the Department of Arts & Communication
Date of Departmental Approval: November 22, 2010
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Effective: Fall 2011

1. Course Number: COM120

Course Title: Introduction to Film

2. Description: This course provides the student with an appreciation of the film experience. Particular attention is given to important techniques, theories, and genres which influenced the technical and aesthetic development of the medium. Concepts are illustrated through the viewing of classic American and International cinema. (4 contact hours)

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:

- Write well-informed critiques of films
- Apply knowledge of film genres and significant film movements (French New Wave, Italian neorealism) to critiques of the films screened
- Recognize how cultural background influences film criticism
- Distinguish the cultural influences at work in various film movements (French New Wave, Italian neorealism)
- Identify the filmmakers and their contributions
- Explain the significance of the films and filmmakers studied to both the film industry and society at large
- Explain the historical development of films
- Evaluate the impact film has on society
- Apply terminology including composition, mise-en-scene, editing, montage, expressionism, surrealism, cinematography, and context in discussion and written work
- Develop an informed opinion on films screened
- Explain why an informed opinion is important in film criticism
- Identify, both orally and in writing, the underlying themes, the importance of context, and the societal impact of each film screened
- Utilize current technology to research film genres and film movements
- Utilize technology to screen films

4. Credits: 3 credits

5. Satisfies General Education Requirement: Humanities and Fine Arts

6. Prerequisite: ENL101

7. Semester Offered: Fall

8. General Guidelines for Evaluation: Students are evaluated on an understanding of the film experience as demonstrated by their performance on exams, written critiques of films, and class participation.

9. General Topical Outline: Using a variety of American and International films, students are introduced to the following, which are explored through readings, lectures, viewing films, and class discussions.

- Different aspects of filmmaking trends, styles, and important developments in cinema
- Important styles and movements such as cinema verite, neorealism, surrealism, and French New Wave
- The techniques of directors and the significant aspects of films