

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

1. **Course Number:** COM 221
Course Title: American Film
2. **Description:** This course provides the student with an appreciation of the film experience through a survey of American film from historical, aesthetic, economic, technological, critical, and appreciative viewpoints. Particular attention is given to important techniques, theories, and genres. Concepts are illustrated through viewing classic American cinema. (4 contact hours)
3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.
 - Write well-informed critiques of films
 - Identify filmmakers and their contributions
 - Explain the significance of American films and filmmakers studied
 - Discuss film genres and movements and apply them to each of the films screened
 - Explain the progress and impact of American films 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 and societal impact of each film screened
 - Demonstrate information literacy in researching film genres and film movements
 - Utilize technology to screen films
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Humanities and Fine Arts
6. **Prerequisite:** ENL101
7. **Semesters Offered:** Fall, Spring
8. **Suggested 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:**
 - Comprehensive history of American films
 - Aspects of filmmaking
 - History of filmmaking, trends, styles
 - Important developments in American film

Topics are explored through readings, lectures, viewing films, and class discussions.