

Lassen Community College Course Outline

FILM-1 History of the Cinema

3.0 Units

I. Catalog Description

This course is designed as an introduction to film history, focusing on methods and analysis. Works of Edison, Lumieres, Chaplin, J. Ford, Hitchcock, Wells, Allen, Brooks, Coppola and others will be examined. This course has been approved for online delivery.

Recommended Preparation: Successful completion of ENGL105 or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Transfers to both UC/CSU
General Education Area: C
CSU GE Area: C1
IGETC GE Area: 3A
51 Hours Lecture
Scheduled: Fall, Spring

II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable, Take 1 Time
Grading Option: Graded or Pass/No Pass
Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable
TOP Code: 061200

III. Course Objectives

A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. After viewing an assigned film, the student will write an analysis of the work, including the identification and critical evaluation of the director, actors, plot, cinematography, transitions, editing, tempo, and sound track. The student will recognize the social and cultural climate in which the film was produced and its historical value.
2. Given a number of film selections, the student will recognize the major film genres represented their characteristics and changes over time as well as the elements of the director's style and the camera or computer work. The student will demonstrate this knowledge in classroom discussion, short papers and exams.

B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the technical aspects that are vital to the understanding and analysis of film.
2. Identify major film genres and their main characteristics.
3. Critically analyze the elements of dramatic structure relative to film.
4. Critically analyze the principles of characterization in cinema.

IV. Course Content

- A. Technical Aspects of Film
1. Cinematography
 - a. Movement

- b. Specific camera angles and lens
 - c. Tonality
 - 2. Editing and Transitions
 - a. Fade in/out
 - b. Cut
 - c. Dissolve
 - d. Wipe
 - e. Cross cuts
 - f. Juxtaposition
 - 3. Tempo
 - a. Manipulation of time
 - b. Manipulation of distance
 - 4. Sound
 - a. Effects
 - b. Voice
 - c. Music
 - d. A.D.R. (Automatic Dialogue Replacement)
- B. Major Film Genres
 - 1. Animated Film
 - 2. Action/Adventure
 - 3. Western
 - 4. Detective
 - 5. Psychodrama
 - 6. Comedy
 - 7. Satire
 - 8. War Films
 - 9. Gangster Films
 - 10. Horror
 - 11. Propaganda
 - 12. Musicals
- C. Elements of Dramatic Structure in Film
 - 1. Plot
 - a. Theme
 - b. Character
 - c. Crises
 - d. Climax
 - e. Denouement
 - 2. Conflict
 - 3. Dramatic unity
 - 4. Suspense
 - 5. Symbolism
- D. Principles of characterization in Cinema
 - 1. Character development
 - 2. Plot and character relationships
 - 3. Consistency of Character
 - 4. Interrelationship of characters

V. Assignments

A. Appropriate Readings

Standard college level texts will be the primary source of course readings. Additional articles and materials from cinema reviews in Journal, newspapers, magazines, and television.

B. Writing Assignments

A critical critique of at least three full length films will be required of all students.

C. Expected Outside Assignments

This three unit class will involve six hours of homework per week. The six hours will include reading, writing assignments, reports, analysis of periodicals, journals, and newspaper movie reviews.

D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking

Students will analyze the elements of dramatic structure relative to film history in both oral and written reports. Students will compare and contrast technical aspects of various films. Emphasis will be placed upon production style.

VI. Methods of Evaluation

Traditional Classroom Evaluation

Student's grades will be determined by participation in class discussion and performance on homework assignments, quizzes, midterms and final examinations.

Online Evaluation

Weekly assignments posted and submitted Online (via Canvas), student participation in online discussion fora (via Canvas), online quizzes, term paper, midterm and final examination (via Canvas).

VII. Methods of Delivery

Check those delivery methods for which, this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

Traditional Classroom Delivery Correspondence Delivery

Hybrid Delivery

Online Delivery

Traditional Classroom Delivery Lecture, discussion, audio-visual, television, and other methods as determined by the instructor.

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Online Delivery

Synchronous Online lecture and discussion (via Zoom), asynchronous online lecture (recorded, via Zoom), regular Electronic communication between instructor and students (via Canvas Email).

VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies

The Art of Watching Films, 9th edition, by Dennis Petrie and Joe Boggs,
ISBN: 978-0-07-351428-4 Copyright: 2018, McGraw Hill

IX. Discipline/s Assignment

Film Studies, Art, Journalism, Mass Communication

X. Course Status

Current Status: Active

Original Approval Date: 5/8/1990

Revised By: Richard Swanson

Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 10/17/2023