

**ART K186**  
**Introduction to Film**  
**12879**

**Three Rivers Community College**  
**Spring 2015**

Wednesday 6:30pm – 9:15pm  
Room B-125

Instructor: Jason M. Sheldon  
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Office Hours: By Appointment  
Room D-205E

**Prerequisites**

ENG K101 or ENG K101S placement or completion of ENG K096 with a C# grade or better.

**Course Description**

An aesthetic and a critical approach to film study, this course helps students develop a cinematic vocabulary and apply analytic skills. Classroom screenings provide texts for discussion and analysis; they are supplemented by lectures, readings, and writing assignments. Representative international films from the early years of the industry to the present will be taught.

**Learning Goals**

At the end of the course, students will understand, articulate, analyze, and synthesize the medium of film.

**Learning Objectives**

Actively engage in the learning process through demonstrated success on writing assignments:

- Identify topics
- Read, assess, summarize, and synthesize material
- Articulate themes

Actively engage in the learning process through demonstrated success on a research project:

- Employ correct research skills
- Synthesize information to demonstrate knowledge of subject matter
- Select, design, and present data which demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter

Demonstrate a knowledge of twentieth-century cinema:

- Its films, directors, actors, actresses, photographers and writers, and art and culture generally.

Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of twentieth-century achievements in visual and literary form.

Via the cultural, political, social, racial, architectural, topographical and human content of the films viewed and discussed, demonstrate a new and/or enhanced knowledge of the cultures, histories, politics, and the human experience of many other countries at various times in the last century's history.

## **Texts**

Corrigan, Timothy and Patricia White. *The Film Experience: An Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. 2015. Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN 9781457663543.

There will be additional readings assigned which will be announced and available on Blackboard.

## **Blackboard**

This course uses Blackboard, which is accessible through your MyCommNet account. I will use Blackboard for general announcements. Additionally, you can find copies of the syllabus, all handouts, and all homework assignments on the site. Please check Blackboard before e-mailing me questions about the class.

## **Online Content**

This course will require you to have internet access to complete additional viewing for homework assignments. There will be links posted on Blackboard to direct you to this content.

## **Digication Portfolios**

As a student you will maintain an online learning portfolio using a college-designed template in Digication ([digication.ct.edu](http://digication.ct.edu)). Through this electronic tool you will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning. It may even help you determine a major that is best suited to you. You will be able to keep and maintain your learning portfolio after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. If your work is selected and reviewed for assessment purposes, it will remain anonymous and private. Digication provides a "place" where you will connect your learning from the classroom, college, and life in general. Sometimes when you review all of the work you have done and think about it, you end up learning something different and perhaps unexpected. Please review your course outlines to determine what assignments to upload into the TRCC Digication template and please post your own choices as well.

More information, including tutorials, may be found at:  
[www.threerivers.edu/Div IT/EducationalTechnology/Digication.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Digication.shtml)

## **Responsibilities**

You are expected to regularly attend class and actively participate in discussions. These discussions will occur not only in class, but also online through Blackboard. A participation rubric will be handed out to further detail expectations.

## **Attendance**

Your attendance is mandatory. I will allow for two absences, however, subsequent absences will drop your final grade by a full letter grade for each additional absence.

Be on time. Lateness will not be tolerated and will also negatively affect your final grade. If you are tardy more than two times your final grade will drop by a full letter grade for each additional tardy. You should also stay for the entire class meeting. Leaving early will also negatively affect your grade.

## **Student Conduct**

Demonstrate respect for others by: refraining from conduct that constitutes a danger to the personal health or safety of one's self or other members of the College community and guests or licensees of the College, including intentionally causing or attempting to cause injury; refraining from conduct that obstructs or seriously impairs or attempts to obstruct or seriously impair College-sponsored or College-authorized activities; and refraining from harassment, which is defined as conduct that is abusive or which substantially interferes with a person's pursuit of his or her customary or usual affairs.

## **Technology Statement**

Any student using a cell phone, laptop, or other portable device for a purpose not related to the class in progress will be asked to turn it off or leave the class.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean and may result in the failure of an assignment or the entire course.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's work or ideas in your writing. It is often known as copying word for word. However, even paraphrasing without acknowledgement or using the ideas of peers garnered from class discussion or study groups are considered plagiarism. Whether it is conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Your writing for this course, and any other course, is expected to be original; the product of your own thinking.

## **Disabilities Statement**

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disability Service Providers  
Counseling & Advising Office  
Room A-119

Contact Matt Liscum at 860-215-9265 for physical, sensory, medical, and mental health disabilities.

Contact Chris Scarborough 860-215-9289 for learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, and autism spectrum.

## **Method of Evaluation**

*Participation* – Your participation in the classroom and on Blackboard is expected. There will be discussion threads with guided questions posted on Blackboard every week. Only mindful comments should be included. Please respect your fellow classmates' opinions, thoughts, and ideas in these conversations. You must involve yourself in these dialogues every week with at least 2 significant contributions. I will post questions or comments to help not only initiate the dialogue, but to move it along as well. The discussion will begin on Wednesday following class at 9:30pm and you must contribute to the discussion no later than the next Wednesday by 6:00pm. After that point the discussion will be closed. Participation in discussions, both in class and on Blackboard, will compose 15% of your final grade.

*Homework* – There will be weekly homework assignments that will require questions answered in response to content from the book, supplemental readings, classroom screenings, and online videos. Homework will compose 20% of your final grade.

*Weekly Quizzes* – There will be weekly quizzes on Blackboard covering material in the assigned reading(s). They will be available on Wednesday following class at 9:30pm and must be completed no later than the next Wednesday by 6:00pm. The quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. These quizzes are open-book, but will be timed and must be completed when started. There will be no make-ups allowed. Plan accordingly. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. Weekly Quizzes will compose 10% of your final grade.

*Tests* – There will be 4 tests administered throughout the semester. These will focus on vocabulary and concepts we will be discussing throughout the course and included in the readings. They will be composed mainly of film identification, multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay questions. Tests may be administered in class or given as take-home assignments. These tests will compose 25% of your final grade.

*Papers* – There will be 3 papers assigned throughout the semester. Papers will be a minimum of 4 pages and will focus on different facets of content we have covered. Additional film viewings may be required. These papers will compose 30% of your final grade.

## **Grading**

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/Below 60

## **Cancellation of Class**

If the college is closed due to inclement weather, or for any other reason, you can find out by going to the TRCC webpage at [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu) or calling the main phone number to the college, 860-215-9000. If I need to cancel class for other reasons, I will inform you via e-mail and on Blackboard. Be sure to have accurate contact information in MyCommNet.

## **MyCommNet Alert**

MyCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, TRCC sends messages when the college is delayed or closed due to weather. All students are encouraged to sign up for myCommNet Alert.

## **College Withdrawal Policy**

The deadline for students to withdraw is a week before classes end. Before withdrawing please speak with me. I encourage you to also speak with Financial Aid (if you are using Financial Aid). Non-attendance does not constitute dropping or withdrawing from class.

## **Submitting Work**

All assignments are due by the beginning of class. Please leave them on the corner of my desk before the start of class. Late assignments are not accepted.

If you find yourself in a situation where you anticipate that an assignment will be late then you need to inform me at least 2 days prior to the due date, explain the reasons why, and when you plan to hand the assignment in. The decision to allow extensions is done on a case-by-case basis. Simply telling me will not guarantee that I will accept your work late or not penalize it.

All assignments that are done outside of class are expected to be typed, printed, and stapled. Your grade will be reduced by a full letter grade for each transgression committed. Repeated offenses may result in failure of an assignment.

I will not accept work sent via e-mail; only hard copies of assignments will be accepted. There may be times when I require an electronic and a hard copy to be submitted.

Microsoft Office 365, which includes helpful programs such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint is available free to all students.

For more information on Microsoft Office 365:

[www.threerivers.edu/Div\\_StudentServices/admissions/Student\\_email.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_StudentServices/admissions/Student_email.shtml)

### **Communication**

For this course you will need to use your TRCC student e-mail account. I will not read or respond to e-mails sent from your personal e-mail accounts. All my communications and announcements regarding the course will be sent to your TRCC student e-mail accounts or posted on Blackboard.

For more information on student e-mail accounts:

[www.threerivers.edu/Div\\_StudentServices/admissions/Student\\_email.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_StudentServices/admissions/Student_email.shtml)

### **Nota Bene**

I understand other obligations (work, family, etc.) may infringe upon your ability to be present in class and to turn in assignments on time. Please contact me in advance if you anticipate problems or issues with your responsibilities (homework, tests, projects, attendance, etc.) for this course.

Also, due to the nature of the course (including the screenings with lecture and discussion) we may run over our allotted time. I will try to notify you in advance of these times and I ask that you stay to finish the material we are covering. I will try to limit these occurrences to no more than 10 additional minutes of class time.

### **Schedule**

This schedule is tentative. The readings and screenings are subject to change. Papers and test dates will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

### WEEK 1

**1/28 – NO CLASS (TRCC Closed for Weather)**

WEEK 2

**2/4 – Class Overview / Looking at Film**

READING:

None

TOPIC:

Syllabus / Studying Film / Production, Distribution, and Exhibition

SCREENING:

*MULHOLLAND DR.* (France/USA, 2001), Dir. David Lynch, 8 min. [Clip]  
*BLOW-UP* (UK/USA/Italy, 1966), Dir. Michelangelo Antonioni, 111 min.

WEEK 3

**2/11 – Mise-en-Scène**

READING:

Introduction: Studying Film – Culture and Experience, pg. 2-17  
Chapter 1 – Encountering Film: From Preproduction to Exhibition, pg. 19-59  
Motion Picture Production Code, 4 pages  
Chapter 2 – Mise-en-Scène: Exploring a Material World, pg. 60-93

TOPIC:

Mise-en-Scène

SCREENING:

*THE SHINING* (USA, 1980), Dir. Stanley Kubrick, 144 min.

WEEK 4

**2/18 – Cinematography**

READING:

Chapter 3 – Cinematography: Framing What We See, pg.95-131

TOPIC:

Cinematography

SCREENING:

*CITIZEN KANE* (USA, 1941), Dir. Orson Welles, 119 min.

WEEK 5

**2/25 – Editing**

READING:

Chapter 4 – Editing: Relating Images, pg. 133-173

TOPIC:

Editing / Narrative Development

SCREENING:

*THE SOCIAL NETWORK* (USA, 2010), Dir. David Fincher, 120 min.

WEEK 6

**3/4 – Sound**

READING:

Chapter 5 – Film Sound: Listening to the Cinema, pg. 175-209

TOPIC:

Sound

SCREENING:

*THE CONVERSATION* (USA, 1974), Dir. Francis Ford Coppola, 113 min.

WEEK 7

**3/11 – Narrative Films**

READING:

Chapter 6 – Narrative Films: Telling Stories, pg. 213-251

TOPIC:

Narrative Films

SCREENING:

*8½* (Italy/France, 1963), Dir. Federico Fellini, 138 min.

WEEK 8

**3/18 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

READING:

Chapter 12 – Writing A Film Essay: Observations, Arguments, Research, And Analysis, pg. 429-461



WEEK 9

**3/25 – Documentary Films**

READING:

Chapter 7 – Documentary Films: Representing the Real, pg. 253-281

TOPIC:

Documentary Films

SCREENING:

*THE FOG OF WAR* (USA, 2003), Dir. Errol Morris, 95 min.

WEEK 10

**4/1 – Experimental Film and New Media**

READING:

Chapter 8 – Experimental Film and New Media, pg. 283-309

TOPIC:

Experimental Film / Avant Garde / New Media

SCREENING:

*MANHATTA* (USA, 1921), Dir. Paul Strand, 11 min.

*BALLET MÉCANIQUE* (France, 1924), Dir. Fernand Léger and Dudley Murphy, 16 min.

*FANTASMAGORIE* (France, 1908), Dir. Émile Cohl, 2 min.

*UN CHIEN ANDALOU* (France, 1929), Dir. Luis Buñuel, 16 min.

*THE SEASHELL AND THE CLERGYMAN* (France, 1928), Dir. Germaine Dulac, 5 min. [Clip]

*MESHES OF THE AFTERNOON* (USA, 1943), Dir. Maya Deren and Alexander Hammid, 14 min

*WINDOW WATER BABY MOVING* (USA, 1962), Dir. Stan Brakhage, 13 min.

*KINDERING* (USA, 1987), Dir. Stan Brakhage, 3 min.

*NIGHT MUSIC* (USA, 1986), Dir. Stan Brakhage, 1 min.

*THE ALPHABET* (USA, 1968), Dir. David Lynch, 4 min.

*THE CREMASTER CYCLE* (USA, 1995-2002), Dir. Matthew Barney, 5 min. [Clip]

*DECASIA* (UK, 2002), Dir. Bill Morris, 5 min, [Clip]

WEEK 11

**4/8 – Genres (Classical)**

READING:

Chapter 9 – Movie Genres: Conventions, Formulas, and Audience Expectations, pg. 311-349

TOPIC:

Classic Film Genres / Film Noir

SCREENING:

*DOUBLE INDEMNITY* (USA, 1944), Dir. Billy Wilder, 107 min.

WEEK 12

**4/15 – Genres (Revisionist)**

READING:

TBD

TOPIC:

Revisionist Film Genres / Neo-Noir

SCREENING:

*FIGHT CLUB* (USA/Germany, 1999), Dir. David Fincher, 139 min.

WEEK 13

**4/22 – Asian Cinema**

READING:

Chapter 10 – History and Historiography: Hollywood and Beyond, pg. 350-395

TOPIC:

Japanese Cinema

SCREENING:

*RASHOMON* (Japan, 1950), Dir. Akira Kurosawa, 88 min.

WEEK 14

**4/29 – European Cinema**

READING:

TBD

TOPIC:

Italian Neo-Realism

SCREENING:

*BICYCLE THIEVES* (Italy, 1948), Dir. Vittorio De Sica, 93 min.

WEEK 15

**5/6 – Race and Representation**

READING:

Chapter 11 – Reading about Film: Critical Theories and Methods, pg. 397-427

TOPIC:

Race and Representation

SCREENING:

*BAMBOOZLED* (USA, 2000), Dir. Spike Lee, 135 min.

WEEK 16

**5/13 – Postmodernism**

READING:

TBD

TOPIC:

Postmodernism / Film Theory

SCREENING:

*KILL BILL: VOL. 1* (USA, 2003), Dir. Quentin Tarantino, 111 min.