

**ART K186/COM K154**

## **Introduction to Film/Film Study & Appreciation**

**CRN 13815/13814**

**Three Rivers Community College**

**Spring 2018**

Monday, 6:00pm – 8:45pm

Room C-101

Instructor: Jason M. Sheldon

E-mail: [jsheldon@threerivers.edu](mailto:jsheldon@threerivers.edu)

Office Hours: Monday, 5:00pm – 6:00pm, Room D-205E

Friday, 10:00am – 11:00am, Room E-114

### **Prerequisites**

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

### **Course Description**

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

### **Course 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*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. 2018. Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN 9781319059514.

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

### **Blackboard**

This course uses Blackboard which is accessible through your myCommNet account. This course will use Blackboard for assignments, quizzes, and discussions. Additionally, you can find copies of the syllabus and other helpful links on the site. Blackboard will also be used for general announcements concerning the course. Please check Blackboard before emailing 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**

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

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)

## **Attendance**

Your attendance is mandatory. I will regularly take attendance. Be on time and stay for the entire class. Arriving late and leaving early from class will not be tolerated. Poor attendance will negatively impact your grade.

## **Title IX**

Statement of Policy for Public Act No. 14-11: An Act Concerning Sexual Assault, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence on Campus: “The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) is committed to insuring that each member of every BOR governed college and university community has the opportunity to participate fully in the process of education free from acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence and stalking. It is the intent of the BOR and each of its colleges or universities to provide safety, privacy and support to victims of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence.”

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS  
TITLE IX STATEMENT OF POLICY: “Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities in federally funded schools at all levels. If any part of a school district or college receives any Federal funds for any purpose, all of the operations of the district or college are covered by Title IX. Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. All students (as well as other persons) at recipient institutions are protected by Title IX – regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, part-or full-time status, disability, race, or national origin-in all aspects of a recipient’s educational programs and activities.”

If any student experiences sexual misconduct or harassment, and/or racial or ethnic discrimination on Three Rivers Community College Campus, or fears for their safety from a threat while on campus, please contact Victoria Baker, the Title IX Coordinator:

Victoria Baker  
Title IX Coordinator  
Three Rivers Community College, Room E-110  
574 New London Turnpike, Norwich CT 06360  
860.215.9208  
[VBaker@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:VBaker@trcc.commnet.edu)

## **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**

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 discussions 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.

A student who has plagiarized will fail his/her assignment and will be reported to the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean for disciplinary action.

## **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 Center  
Room A-116

Contact Matt Liscum at 860-215-9265 or Elizabeth Wilcox at 860-215-9289.

## **Method of Evaluation**

This course uses a 1000 point grading system.

*Online Discussions* – There will be weekly discussion questions posted on Blackboard. You are expected to participate by respectfully sharing your thoughts and views. You must participate in these discussions twice a week, once by Thursday and again by Sunday. Discussions compose 100 points, or 10%, 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 300 points, or 30%, of your final grade.

*Quizzes* – There will be quizzes 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. Quizzes may be administered in-class or on Blackboard. These quizzes will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Quizzes compose 300 points, or 30%, of your final grade.

*Papers* – There will be 2 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 300 points, or 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.threerivers.edu](http://www.threerivers.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 email 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. A tutorial is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page of the web site. Please visit this link for more details:

<http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/President/Policies/weather.shtml>

## **College Withdrawal Policy**

Course withdrawals are accepted up until the week before classes end. Withdrawal forms are available online or at the Registrar's Office. The withdrawal does not have to be signed by the instructor, but it is strongly advised that you speak with your instructor before withdrawing. If necessary, you can withdraw over the phone by calling the Registrar's Office at 860-215-9064. Emails and faxes are also accepted. If you are receiving Financial Aid, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing. Withdrawing from a course may affect your Financial Aid for current and/or future semester(s). It is your responsibility to confirm that the withdrawal has been received. The deadline for students to withdraw is May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **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. No late work is accepted in this class.

All assignments are expected to be typed, printed, and stapled. Failure to do so will result in penalization.

I will not accept work sent via email; only hard copies of assignments will be accepted.

My mailbox is located in room D-207. 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:

[http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div\\_IT/EducationalTechnology/Student.shtml](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Student.shtml)

## **Communication**

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

For more information on student e-mail accounts:

[http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div\\_IT/EducationalTechnology/Student.shtml](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Student.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, discussions, quizzes, papers, attendance, etc.) for this course.

## **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

#### **1/22 – Class Overview / Preproduction, Production, Postproduction, Marketing/Advertising, Exhibition**

##### READING:

None

##### SCREENING:

*MULHOLLAND DR.* (France/USA, 2001), Dir. David Lynch, 5 mins. [Clip];

Behind the Scenes – *THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON* (USA, 2008), Dir. David Fincher [Clips]

### WEEK 2

#### **1/29 – History & Historiography: Hollywood and Beyond**

##### READING:

Chapter 1, pgs. 17-53

Chapter 2, pgs. 55-66 (stop at Postwar Cinemas)

##### SCREENING:

*THE STORY OF FILM: AN ODYSSEY*, Episode 1, 20 mins. [Clip]

*THE KISS* (USA, 1896), Dir. Thomas Edison, 1 min.

*SWIMMING IN THE SEA* (France, 1895), Dir. Auguste and Louis Lumière, 2 mins.

*THE BLACK IMP* (France, 1906), Dir. Georges Méliès, 4 mins.

*THE POLICEMAN'S LITTLE RUN* (France, 1907), Dir. Ferdinand Zecca, 6 mins.

*THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY* (USA, 1903), Dir. Edwin Porter, 12 mins.

*SUNRISE* (USA, 1927), Dir. F.W. Murnau, 94 mins.

### WEEK 3

#### **2/5 – History & Historiography: Hollywood and Beyond, continued**

##### READING:

Chapter 2, pgs. 67-93 (start at Postwar Cinemas)

##### SCREENING:

*BICYCLE THIEVES* (Italy, 1948), Dir. Vittorio De Sica, 89 mins.

#### WEEK 4

##### **2/12 – Narrative Films: Telling Stories**

READING:

Chapter 7, pgs. 243-281

SCREENING:

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

#### WEEK 5

##### **2/19 – Presidents' Recess (No Class)**

#### WEEK 6

##### **2/26 – Mise-en-Scène: Exploring a Material World**

READING:

Chapter 3, pgs. 97-127

SCREENING:

*SNOWPIERCER* (USA/South Korea/Czech Republic/France, 2013), Dir. Joon-ho Bong, 126 mins.

#### WEEK 7

##### **3/5 – Cinematography: Framing What We See**

READING:

Chapter 4, pgs. 129-165

SCREENING:

*CHILDREN OF MEN* (USA/UK, 2007), Dir. Alfonso Cuarón, 109 mins.

#### WEEK 8

##### **3/12 – Spring Break (No Class)**

READING:

Chapter 12, pgs. 429-461



## WEEK 9

### **3/19 – Editing: Relating Images**

#### READING:

Chapter 5, pgs. 167-207

#### SCREENING:

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

## WEEK 10

### **3/26 – Film Sound: Listening to the Cinema**

#### READING:

Chapter 6, pgs. 209-239

#### SCREENING:

*BRINGING OUT THE DEAD* (USA, 1999), Dir. Martin Scorsese, 121 mins.

## WEEK 11

### **4/2 – Documentary Film: Representing the Real**

#### READING:

Chapter 8, pgs. 283-309

#### SCREENING:

*THE FOG OF WAR* (USA, 2003), Dir. Errol Morris, 107 mins.

## WEEK 12

### **4/9 – Experimental Film and New Media: Challenging Form**

#### READING:

Chapter 9, pgs. 311-337

#### SCREENING:

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

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

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

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

*THE SEASHELL AND THE CLERGYMAN* (France, 1928), Dir. Germaine Dulac, 5 mins.

[Clip]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### WEEK 13

#### **4/16 – Movie Genres: Conventions, Formulas, and Audience Expectations**

READING:

Chapter 10, pgs. 339-373

SCREENING:

*MURDER, MY SWEET* (USA, 1944), Dir. Edward Dmytryk, 95 mins.

### WEEK 14

#### **4/23 – Movie Genres: Conventions, Formulas, and Audience Expectations, continued**

READING:

TBD

SCREENING:

*THE GAME* (USA, 1997), Dir. David Fincher, 129 mins.

### WEEK 15

#### **4/30 – Reading about Film: Critical Theories and Methods**

READING:

Chapter 11, pgs. 397-427

SCREENING:

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

WEEK 16

**5/7 – Reading about Film: Critical Theories and Methods, continued**

READING:

TBD

SCREENING:

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