

Introduction to Film Studies - FDMA 2110 - Section 501

Syllabus - REMOTE ASYNCHRONOUS - Fall 2021

Instructor: André Callot

acallot66@unm.edu

Credit Hours

This is a 3 credit-hour course. Students are expected to work on their own and in groups to complete assignments using school-supplied resources within the timeframe outlined for each assignment. The course is remote and asynchronous, meaning that class work will be turned in through the Blackboard Learn website (learn.unm.edu) by midnight Mountain Time the night before the class in which the assignment is due.

Course Learning Objectives

Introduction to Film Studies presents students with the opportunity to learn foundational concepts in the field of film studies, as well as the chance to develop their own writing style and personal ideas of film history and film language. Course objectives include:

- Identify key movements in film history.
- Demonstrate a basic vocabulary in film production, as well as film studies and criticism.
- Recognize and identify the specific formal elements that make up a film.
- Interpret and analyze how formal elements contribute to the implicit meaning of a film.

Grades

Grades are based on participation in weekly class discussions in Blackboard Learn, as well as weekly written assignments and a final project. Class participation in out-of-class projects is mandatory. Grades will be divided as so: 20% class participation, 5% each for 8 weekly writing assignments, and 40% for the final paper.

Letter grades correspond to point totals:

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 61-69%

Office Hours

Please email me (acallot66@unm.edu) before October 25, 2021 to schedule a one-hour consultation session to occur before November 1, 2021. We will discuss your interest in the course, your hopes for covering specific subject matter, and your access to library resources. Additional sessions are available for scheduling upon request.

I am available on Fridays between 1 PM and 4 PM for additional meetings. If you would like to meet with me but haven't scheduled a time, you can email me during this weekly period for an immediate meeting, if I am not already meeting with a student.

Final Paper

During the week of Class Five, the students will meet individually with the instructor to discuss their concepts for a final, eight-page paper due on December 13, 2021. The paper may take as a subject any film the student has not already written about, and may address any subject related to the film.

Class Participation

A portion of your final grade (defined above) will depend on the student's weekly participation in class discussions on the Blackboard Learn Discussion Board for this course. Failure to contribute significantly to the weekly forums created for each class will result in a lower final grade for the course. The student's final grade will be reduced by 2.5% for each week you fail to post responses to the prompts in the Discussion Board.

Weekly Writing Assignment

Each week, the student will be responsible for writing a two-page response to a prompt and posting the completed assignment to the Discussion Board for peer feedback.

Course Agreement

Please complete, sign and email to me a copy of the Course Agreement, available at the end of this syllabus, before the start of the second week of this course.

Course Access

This course will occur entirely on Blackboard Learn. A reliable internet connection and a computer capable of accessing the Blackboard Learn online platform are required for this course. For assigned readings provided as hyperlinks or PDF downloads, appropriate additional software for accessing class materials may also be required. Video conference appointments will be conducted on Zoom, using a webcam, a microphone and headphones. Film screenings will occur on Blackboard Learn, which may require minimum internet data speeds. Please test your internet speeds in the first week of class and report issues to me.

Privacy, Equal Access and Title IX

Please inform me of your needs regarding disability as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner. In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM Faculty are considered responsible employees. This designation requires that any report made to a faculty member regarding sexual misconduct or gender discrimination must be reported to the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator. For information on accessibility at UNM-Valencia, Title IX and student privacy, please [click this link](#).

[UNM-Valencia's Equal Access Services](#)

Plagiarism

The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University.

Student Resources

For tutoring resources, information about the library, career counseling, financial aid and other student resources, please [click this link](#).

Watch Along

Each week, I will record a "watch along" of the required screening that will put the film in the context of the week's assigned reading through recorded simultaneous audio commentary. This recording will be posted to the Discussion Board.

Read Along

Each week, I will record a "read along" of the required reading that will elaborate on the text through interjections of explanations of key terms, historical context and theoretical associations. This recording will be posted to the Discussion Board.

Week One: Class 01 - The Visual Language of Cinema October 18, 2021

Students will read [Bordwell and Thompson's Film Art](#), and familiarize themselves with the traditional language of Western Hollywood-style filmmaking. Students will learn how the technology, economics and politics of contemporary filmmaking determine the content of films that are produced on large budgets and distributed to an international audience.

Assignment One - Write a two-page paper on a film of your choice, identifying elements of editing, camera, sound, writing, production design, and performance, using the Bordwell and Thompson text as a reference.

Class Discussion - The Grapes of Wrath

Week Two: Class 02 - Film Genre October 25, 2021

Students will read a selection from [Rick Altman's Film/Genre](#), and learn how film genre as a concept orders our contemporary understanding of feature films.

Assignment Two - Write a two-page paper on a film of your choice, identifying the film's genre by analyzing elements of the film in the context of Altman's definitions.

Class Discussion - Hamlet 2

Week Three: Class 03 - Film and Sound November 1, 2021

Students will [read a selection](#) from [Rick Altman's Sound Theory/Sound Practice](#), and learn how sound as a category operates within cinema.

Assignment Three - Write a two-page paper on a film of your choice, analyzing the use of sound in the context of Altman's writing.

Class Discussion - The Man Who Fell to Earth

Week Four: Class 04 - The History of Film November 8, 2021

Students will read Richard Maltby's "[Censorship and Adaptation in Hollywood](#)," and learn the outline of the history of film as a business, as an art, and as a political enterprise.

Assignment Four - Write a two-page paper on the economic, technological and political circumstances of a film of your choice, focusing on film history.

Class Discussion - The Milagro Beanfield War

Week Five: Class 05 - International Cinema November 15, 2021

Students will read Ella Shohat and Robert Stam's "[The Imperial Imaginary](#)", and learn how international cinema communities have attempted to stand against Western hegemony.

Assignment Five - Write a two-page paper on a non-American film of your choice, discussing the national and international context of the film's content.

Students will also submit a concept for a final eight-page paper that will be due December 13, 2021.

Class Discussion - Los Olvidados

Week Six: Class 06 - Film and Identity November 22, 2021

Students will read Laura Mulvey's "[Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema](#)," and learn how dynamics of personal identity affect the creation and consumption of film.

Assignment Six - Write a two-page paper on the identity politics of a film of your choice, in the context of de Lauretis's ideas of identity and semiotics.

Class Discussion - Gas Food Lodging

Week Seven: Class 07 - Film Theory November 29, 2021

Students will read François Truffaut's "[A Certain Tendency of the French Cinema](#)", and learn about various theories of cinema attributed to André Bazin, Siegfried Kracauer, Christian Metz, Gilles Deleuze, Noel Carroll, Noel Burch, Jacques Ranciere and Sergei Eisenstein.

Assignment Seven - Write a two-page paper on a film of your choice, in the context of a theory of film of your choice.

Class Discussion - Tank Girl

Week Eight: Class 08 - Film and Mass Culture December 6, 2021

Students will read Guy Debord's "[The Society of the Spectacle](#)," and learn about the role that film plays in "the spectacle."

Assignment Eight - Write a two-page paper on a film of your choice, in the context of Debord's concept of "the spectacle."

Class Discussion - Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice

Week Nine: Finals December 13, 2021

Students will turn in their final paper.

Additional Contact Information

Program Chair	-	Alexa Wheeler	-	alexa08@unm.edu
Department Chair	-	Justin Bendell	-	jbendell@unm.edu

Mental Health and Counseling Services

UNM-Valencia has one part-time mental health counselor, Arturo Fierro. His hours are Wednesdays, 3pm - 6pm and he is located in the SCC (Student Community Center) Room 206. (phone # and email will be shared via Learn). He is able to see patients in-person or in Zoom. He may have more hours throughout the semester, but this is the current info. I will update this via Learn if/when it changes. Services available in Valencia County and around the state: <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/student-resources/index.html>

COURSE AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, commit to fulfill the expectations of this course as laid out in this syllabus, specifically regarding these requirements:

1. I will participate each week in the course Discussion Board in Blackboard Learn, providing evidence that I have completed the week's reading. I will interact in a meaningful way with my fellow students while demonstrating respect and courtesy. I will demonstrate my understanding of each week's reading by commenting meaningfully on the week's film discussion, in a timely manner.
2. I will complete each week's two-page writing assignment on time, with an eye toward grammar, spelling, sentence construction, the week's film studies concepts and a progression over the semester toward refinement of my personal understanding of film studies as a discipline. I will post on the Discussion Board with any relevant thoughts or questions that arise through my reading of the week's assigned text.
3. I will complete an eight-page final paper and turn it in before the deadline, having acknowledged here that I am aware before the course begins that this assignment constitutes 40% of my grade and has a deadline of December 13, 2021. My final paper will include a bibliography page, a coherent argument and evidence to support my premise.
4. I will meet one-on-one with the course instructor before November 1, 2021 to discuss my goals for the course, my potential topics for the final paper, and my ability to use school resources to successfully fulfill my obligations outlined in the points above.

If at any point during this semester I become aware of conditions in my life that make any of these requirements difficult or impossible to fulfill, I pledge to contact my instructor through email (acallot66@unm.edu) to discuss what mitigations may be enacted to provide for my continued success in my education at the University of New Mexico.

Full Name

UNM ID

DATE