

# FDMA 2110 - Intro to Film Studies

UNM-Valencia, Blackboard LEARN Online Course, Summer 2020

updated 5-2020

**Professor: Alexa Wheeler** | [alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu)

Campus Office Hours: none

Virtual Office Hours: M 10am - 10:30am & Th 6pm - 6:30pm\*  
\*and by appointment  
\*see "How to Contact the Instructor" below  
\*off-campus

Office: Academic Building Rm. A142F

## Course Description

This course introduces students to the fundamentals in film history, criticism, and theory. Through viewing and analysis of a variety of narrative, documentary, and experimental films, students will advance their understanding of key issues in filmic representation and aesthetics. A range of approaches will be employed in understanding the aesthetic and cultural significance of the medium, including feminism, post-colonialism, critical race theory, and modernism.

## Objectives

- 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.

## Required Films

All required films will be delivered online via throughout the semester in the Weekly Learning Modules.

## FDMA 2110 Introduction to Film Studies, Summer 2020

Alexa Wheeler, [alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu)

### **The book we are using for this course is:**

**Film Art, An Introduction**

**11th Edition**

**ISBN: 978-1-259-53495-9**

**By David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, Jeff Smith**

#### - University of New Mexico Valencia Bookstore:

- o <http://bookstore.valencia.unm.edu/Home>
- o The book is estimated at \$171.00 new, and estimated at \$129.00 used.
- o It looks like you are able to order from the UNM-Valencia Bookstore online- <http://bookstore.valencia.unm.edu/SelectTermDept>
- o You, of course, can also order at a variety of other places online, for purchase or rent.

#### - Library System:

- o University of New Mexico Valencia Campus Library:
  - <http://valencia.unm.edu/library/>
  - There is one copy on reserve.
  - See UNM-Valencia Library webpage for information on access: <http://valencia.unm.edu/library/>
- o University of New Mexico Main Campus Fine Arts Library:
  - <http://library.unm.edu/about/libraries/fadl.php>
  - They may have a copy for checkout.

\*Due to the pandemic, I am working with UNM-Valencia Library staff to do our best to scan and post in Learn as much of the text as possible on a weekly basis. I am anticipating that this service should run smoothly. If you have the ability to purchase and/or rent the book, you may have more of a possibility of reading ahead. Otherwise, I will attempt to post each chapter ASAP as the semester goes on.

## Method of Instruction

Methods of instruction include screenings, lecture, textbook readings, threaded discussions, reading online articles/websites, quizzes, projects, and other activities will all presented to the student through Weekly Learning Modules. This course is run from week to week on Tuesday. This means that you will have from Tuesday, when the Learning Module is opened, to the next Monday at midnight MOUNTAIN TIME to complete and submit all course requirements for that particular week.

**Textbook Readings** - Each week you will be required to read certain chapters and/or pages of the required textbook (**Film Art: An Introduction**, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Bordwell, Thompson, Smith).

**Screenings/Film Viewings** - The student will be required to watch films for this course. All films will be delivered in the Weekly Learning Modules.

**Lecture** - In the Weekly Learning Module, the student will access the lecture. The lecture will be presented in any number of formats, including written, photo, audio, video, and more.

**Threaded Discussion** -You will be required to participate in discussions throughout the semester meant to simulate classroom discussion. The due date for discussion postings is located on the course schedule and in the Yellow Box on our class home page, and always in the learning modules. The student should post their own message (Create Thread) to the listed topic and then post a reply to at least three other student's postings before each due date. I encourage you to post throughout the week, and not wait until the last day. You have the opportunity to make-up the points for only ONE missed discussion posting by doing the Discussion Make-Up Assignment (see "Grading Policy").

**Online Reading/Content** - The student will be required to read and/or review a variety of online articles and content. Links to these articles/content will be posted in the Weekly Learning Modules.

**Quizzes** - There will be 2 quizzes presented in the beginning of the semester (Week 1) that will include multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank covering the syllabus and textbook. Throughout the semester, there will be weekly quizzes covering the chapters in the textbook. Each chapter will have 2 true/false questions, and 3 multiple choice. The quizzes are not timed, and you have 3 attempts for the week. Quizzes will not be opened up for a retake and students will not be able to make-up the quizzes, so plan on never missing a quiz. All quizzes are open-book, open-note.

**Projects** - You will have 1 project, considered as a final project, that is a project-based video assignment. See "Projects" section below.

**Other Activities** - There may be other learning activities associated with the weekly content of the course that will be found in the Learning Modules.

## Participation

Weekly student participation and response in online courses is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. In this form of computer-based learning, weekly course participation is equivalent to class attendance. If no student response occurs during a week of the semester, the student is considered absent. Students are still held responsible for all academic work required or performed during their absence regardless of the reasons for those absences. Class participation influences your grade heavily. Participation includes:

- Successful participation in this course requires access to the correct technology with the necessary computer skills. Please see "Student Responsibilities." Not being able to access the content delivered for this course for a "slow" internet connection or inability to access a computer WILL NOT be sufficient excuses for the inability to successfully complete work for this online course.
- Students are required to complete all work on time. This includes doing the following by the posted deadline dates:
  - o Viewing all the films by the required dates
  - o Complete and comprehend the weekly lecture within the week it is posted
  - o Contribute to all threaded discussions in a timely manner
  - o Do all the required reading within the week it is posted
  - o Complete each Learning Module successfully and within the timeframe allotted
  - o Prepare for and complete all quizzes and projects

## Student Responsibilities

- **UNM Email/Black Board Learn Access:** Beginning Fall 2015 semester, all UNM-Valencia students will be required to have a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: <http://it.unm.edu/accounts/>. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, blackboard learn and UNM Email. Make sure to update this information as your method of contact under personal information on Lobo Web.
- **Computer Lab Responsibility:** Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM properties is governed by "Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use" which can be found at <http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html>. Food and drink are also prohibited in any computer lab on campus. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.
- If you have a disability, please inform me of your needs as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner. For information on Equal Access at UNM-Valencia, please see <http://valencia.unm.edu/students/advisement-and-counseling/equal-access-services.html>
- 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 more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>
- Students MUST have access to a computer with **high-speed Internet** for this course. If you do not have access to a computer with high-speed internet at home, I know there are **limited options right now during this pandemic**. Normally, you could access a computer and internet at a variety of public libraries and labs, and this is not an option this Summer. UNM-Valencia and UNM Main Campus have implemented **laptop checkout options**. If you are a UNM-Valencia student and you need access to a laptop, please

## Student Responsibilities, continued...

contact me (Alexa Wheeler, [alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu), or in LEARN via Course Messages). I will be able to act as an intermediary between you, the student, and Technology Support to advocate for you. If you are a UNM Main Campus student, you will need to fill out this form:

<https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/laptop-request-form.pdf> and send it to [avdept@unm.edu](mailto:avdept@unm.edu). For more information on computer checkout and wifi access for UNM Main Campus, visit this website: <https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/student-tech-access.html>.

- **Access to internet:** many companies are offering extended options and/or free/inexpensive plans during this pandemic.
  - o Comcast: <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19> - sign up by June 30
  - o Xfinity: <https://www.xfinity.com/student> - sign up by July 1
  - o CenturyLink: <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html>- financial assistance and waiving late fees
  - o At UNM-Valencia parking lots: <https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/technology-support/tech-how-tos.html>
  - o At UNM Main Campus parking lots: <http://it.unm.edu/wireless/coverage-map.html>. Here is how to connect: <http://it.unm.edu/wireless/>
  - o City of Albuquerque Outdoor Wifi hotspots: <http://www.cabq.gov/coronavirus-information/wifi>
  - o If you are unable to access any of these options, please contact me and I will advocate for you!
- Students must have basic computer and file management skills for all DMA courses, especially online courses. Students that fall behind due to lack of basic computer skills will be dropped.
- **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. 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.
- Students must successfully complete all online requirements and be an active participant in this online course's community
- Students must log on to this course at a minimum of three times a week. It is a requirement to check your email regularly for any communication from the instructor. I honestly suggest logging into this course DAILY.
- Be prepared to spend, on average, anywhere from 8 - 12 hours per week on this course.
- Always keep a backup of your work!

## Grading Policy

- Grading is based on a timely completion of course participation requirements, the quality of individual critical development, and a personal commitment to your work. Personal commitment involves regular participation, consistent effort, completion of work, and the general willingness to try.
- No full credit will be given for any late work. If work is not delivered on time, an automatic 0 points will be given. No late discussion postings or exams will be accepted. Full credit will never be issued for late work except in extreme cases and with **prior** notification - no exceptions.
  - o There will be one discussion posting make-up assignment: To substitute for one missed discussion posting, the student can write a 500-word article summing up the missed discussion board content. The student will summarize the content of the discussion board posts based on what OTHER students have posted. The student is no longer answering and responding to the initial question(s) posed. This assures the student has read and understands the missed discussion. It is markedly more difficult to read through a discussion and summarize all the content than it is to have answered the question(s) initially. Directions on how to submit will be provided online.
  - o Do not miss any quizzes as they will NOT be reopened. You have one chance to take the weekly quizzes and that is it. If you miss multiple quizzes, the likelihood that you can pass this class is extremely low.
- Incompletes are rarely issued. If 75% of the semester's work/deliverables and participation have been completed with a satisfactory grade, and incomplete may be issued.

## Grading Policy, Point Breakdown

### **Semester Requirements:**

Syllabus Quiz	3 points
Textbook Access Form	3 points
Discussions:	
Intro Discussion	3 points
Reading Discussions (3)	30 points (10 each)
Final Film Analysis	15 points
Quizzes (6)	36 points (6 each)
Projects (1)	10 points (10 each)

A+	101+
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	50-59

### **Make-Up/Extra Credit:**

Make-Up Discussion (1)	10 points
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Extra Credit will be offered throughout the semester for various points at a maximum of 10 points for the entire semester

Points will be added up and a letter grade will be issued according to the scale above.

## How to Contact the Instructor

### **Remind App:**

The instructions on how to join the REMIND App portal for this course are posted online in our UNM Learn Portal. My official virtual office hours are M 10am - 10:30am & Th 6pm - 6:30pm and by appointment. I am available on the Remind App everyday between 8am and 8pm.

### **Email:**

I prefer all email to be from the internal UNM Learn "Course Messages". I will check this UNM Learn email regularly and will respond to all emails within 48 hours, and usually sooner. Although less preferred, you can email me at [alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu). In the Subject Line of the email, ALWAYS write your full name and class number. For example - "Laurie Anderson FDMA 2110"

### **Phone:**

I am not available via phone call for this course. Please use Remind and email to communicate. If absolutely necessary, you can TEXT ONLY (no calls please) to my personal cell phone if needed: 505-515-1055.

## Covid-19 Resources

### **UNM-Valencia Resources:**

<https://valencia.unm.edu/class-updates-covid-19.html>

### **UNM Main Campus Resources:**

<http://advisement.unm.edu/resources/covid-19-student-resources.html>

## Support Information, Resources, & Tutorials

### **Support for UNM Learn:**

- UNM Learn help: <http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/support/>.

### **UNM Valencia Tutoring Services:**

- Custom tutoring services are available through The Learning Center at <https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/the-learning-center/index.html>. Even online tutoring is available!

### **Instructor Support:**

- Please see "How to Contact the Instructor" for methods of contacting the instructor for help.

### **Community Support:**

- We will have a HELP FORUM discussion board in the UNM Learn course. Use this as a place to post questions to the community. It is important for peer learning and peer communication to enhance our community.

### **Accessibility & Equal Access:**

- UNM-Valencia's accessibility/ADA compliance website: <http://valencia.unm.edu/about/accessibility.html>
- UNM-Valencia's Equal Access Services website: <http://valencia.unm.edu/students/advisement-and-counseling/equal-access-services.html>

# Netiquette

**Include an informative subject line.** In every email/message that you write to your professor, the subject line should contain a descriptive phrase specifically about the problem. For example, "Problems with Nouns Worksheet in Lesson 5, question 4" is clear and helpful, but "Homework" is not. Unclear subject lines slow response time because your professor may not have enough information to help you without having to asking you for clarification.

**Include a salutation.** Emails/Messages/Posts do not usually include "Dear," as a letter does, but they do include titles and last names. When you write to your professor, use "Professor". When you write to your classmates, use their name. Informal words of address, such as "Hey," are never appropriate and are often rude.

**Include a closing.** Please close with an appropriate phrase and sign with your name. Signatures help faculty; they may not recognize your email address. Some examples of appropriate phrases are "Sincerely" or "Thank you for your help."

**Use short paragraphs.** Because legibility on the screen is not as good as legibility on paper, use short paragraphs (3-4 lines maximum) to make the post/message easy to read. In addition, be sure to skip lines between paragraphs.

**Do not use TXT spelling.** BTW, if u want 2 b treated like a pro, write like 1 LOL.

**Adhere to the conventions of Standard English.** Please edit and proofread for spelling errors and grammatical mistakes. Use your spell/grammar check in Blackboard Learn, located above the right hand side of the text box. In addition, the computer does not catch all errors (form/from), so give your document one final read before submitting or sending it.

**DO NOT SEND ALL CAP MESSAGES.** All capital letters means you are screaming at your professor. This is inappropriate behavior. To emphasize a point, underline it or put it in **bold** font.

**Participate.** In the online environment, it's not enough to show up! Professors need to "hear" students' voices to feel their presence, and they especially need student comments to evaluate their own performance as a facilitator and teacher.

**Be persistent.** If you run into any difficulties, you should not wait to submit a report! Contact the professor and/or the proper support services immediately.

**Share tips, helps, and questions.** For many of us, taking online courses is a new experience. There are no dumb questions, and even if a solution seems obvious, please share it with classmates!

**Think twice before pushing the Send button.** Both students and professors need to be sure to say just what they meant. How will the person on the other end interpret a message? While no one can anticipate all reactions, read over each message before sending.

**Remember that we can't see the grins on each others' faces.** When students or professors make a sarcastic comment, others online can't decipher if the person is serious or not. Explain ideas fully and clearly, and try using emoticons, when appropriate.

**Remember that there's a person on the other side.** Students should ask for feedback if they're not sure how their ideas and comments were construed. If others disagree with what someone has said, "flaming," or ranting at someone else is unacceptable; it's the equivalent of having a tantrum, something most of us wouldn't do in a traditional classroom setting.

**Stalking and derogatory comments are inappropriate.** Stalking someone, or any derogatory or inappropriate comments, jokes, and forwarded emails regarding race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, are unacceptable and subject to the same disciplinary action that they would receive if they occurred in the physical classroom. If students have concerns about something that has been said to or about themselves or other classmates, they should let the professor know and/or contact the appropriate services, such as the Office of Equal Opportunity.



# Projects

## **Film Analysis Project**

This is a written assignment. You will be using a film provided for free in Learn to write a formal written analysis using guides and the textbook as a basis for your research and writing.

## **Project 1 (final)**

This is a project-based assignment. Choose a film genre, including but not limited to: Action/Adventure, Comedy, Crime/Gangster, Drama, Horror, Experimental, Documentary, Science Fiction, War, Animation, and create a short 5 minute film using the definition of that genre as the context for creating your film. You will discuss how your film fits into the aesthetics and context of the genre you choose. You will pick one filmmaker from the genre of your choice to discuss their work in relation to yours.

*More detailed information on the projects will be available in the learning modules.*

# Course Schedule

Summer 2020

Dates	Schedule	Textbook Readings
<b><u>Week 1</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 1 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome!</li> <li>• Intro to UNM Learn</li> <li>• Meet the Instructor</li> <li>• Syllabus/Schedule                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Intro to Discussions</b></li> <li>◦ <b>Syllabus Quiz</b></li> <li>◦ <b>Textbook Access Form</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Chapter 1:</u> Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business</p> <p><u>Chapter 2:</u> The Significance of Film Form</p>
<b><u>Week 2</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 2 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Discussion 1 open</li> <li>◦ Quiz Chapter 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Chapter 3:</u> Narrative Form</p> <p><u>Chapter 4:</u> The Shot: Mise-en-Scene</p>
<b><u>Week 3</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 3 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Discussion 1 due</b></li> <li>◦ Quiz Chapter 3 &amp; 4</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Chapter 5:</u> The Shot: Cinematography</p> <p><u>Chapter 6:</u> The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing</p>
<b><u>Week 4</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 4 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Discussion 2 open</li> <li>◦ Quiz Chapter 5 &amp; 6</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Chapter 7:</u> Sound in the Cinema</p> <p><u>Chapter 8:</u> Summary: Style and Film Form</p>
<b><u>Week 5</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 5 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Work on Film Analyses</li> <li>◦ <b>Discussion 2 due</b></li> <li>◦ Quiz Chapter 7 &amp; 8</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Chapter 9:</u> Film Genres</p> <p><u>Chapter 10:</u> Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films</p>
<b><u>Week 6</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 6 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Work on Film Analysis</li> <li>◦ Quiz Chapter 9 &amp; 10</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Chapter 11:</u> Film Criticism: Sample Analyses</p> <p><u>Chapter 12:</u> Historical Changes in Film Art: Conventions and Choices, Tradition and Trends</p>
<b><u>Week 7</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 7 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Submit Film Analysis Assignment</b></li> <li>◦ Quiz Chapter 12 (no quiz for Chapter 11)</li> <li>◦ <b>Project open</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 8</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 8 Learning Module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Discussion 3 open and due</b></li> <li>◦ <b>Project due</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	