



North Central Michigan College Master Course Syllabus

PART 1:

Course Name: Contemporary Film

Course Number: THF 276

Credit Hrs. 3

Lecture Hrs. 3

Lab Hrs. 0

Clinical Hrs. 0

Variable Hrs. 0

Total Hours of Instruction: 3

Total Contact Hours: 52.8

(Total Contact hour's formula: (lecture hrs. + lab hrs. + clinical hrs) x 17.6)

Course Description:

A survey of four basic aspects of film: history, theory, filmmaking and criticism. Students will view applicable and assigned films and discuss the aforementioned aspects of film including, but not limited to, direction, theme, content, characterization, cinematography, editing and sound. In addition, students will be introduced to the academic concepts of film theory and criticism.

Prerequisite (s): none

Co-requisite (s): none

Course Objectives:

- Define characteristics that distinguish movies from other forms of artistic expression, including but not limited to the difference between passively watching movies and actively looking at movies.
- Examine a variety of film genres and to come to an understanding of the themes and conventions of each.
- Examine contemporary American and international cinema in their broader historical and cultural contexts.
- Define the elements of film aesthetics and criticism.
- Identify some of the technical aspects of filmmaking, such as cinematography, *mise en scène*, editing, sound, narrative vs. experimental films, and so on.
- Discuss the cultural assumptions that underlie films made in and outside the United States.
- Define the elements of academic film theory and criticism.
- Identify the social and economic assumptions that influence cinematic and literary texts, including but not limited to films as a device of propaganda.

Reasonable accommodations can be provided for students with documented disabilities. Please contact Learning Support Services to arrange for these (231)348-6687 or (231)348-6817, Room 533 SCRC.



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PART 2:

- Define characteristics that distinguish movies from other forms of artistic expression, including but not limited to the difference between passively watching movies and actively looking at movies. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)
- Examine a variety of film genres and to come to an understanding of the themes and conventions of each. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)
- Examine contemporary American and international cinema in their broader historical and cultural contexts. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17)
- Define the elements of film aesthetics and criticism. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)
- Identify some of the technical aspects of filmmaking, such as cinematography, *mise en scène*, editing, sound, narrative vs. experimental films, and so on. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)
- Discuss the cultural assumptions that underlie films made in and outside the United States. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)
- Define the elements of academic film theory and criticism. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)
- Identify the social and economic assumptions that influence cinematic and literary texts, including but not limited to films as a device of propaganda. (DQP 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16)



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Suggested Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, motion picture viewing, supplemental videos, and small group work.

Suggested Methods of Assessment and Evaluation:

Current: Reading and/or Viewing Logs [DQP #'s 2-3, 6, 8, 12]; Multiple Choice & True/False Chapter Tests [DQP #'s 2,-3, 6, 10]; Compare & Contrast Essay Assignments [DQP #'s 1-3, 5-12, 14-16]; Research Paper [DQP #'s 1-3, 5-12, 14-16]; Discussion Board Assignments

Prospective: Quizzes; In-class and/or On-line Discussion

Adopted Text at Time of Course Adoption/Revision:

Barsam, R., & Monahan, D. (2013). *Looking At Movies: An Introduction to Film* (4th ed.) New York: Norton.

Topics Covered During the Semester:

Sequence of topics and time allowance are at the discretion of the instructor

Week 1	Course Introduction
Week 2	Looking at Movies
Week 3	Principles of Film Form
Week 4	Types of Movies
Week 5	Elements of Narrative
Week 6	Elements of Narrative
Week 7	Mise-en-Scene
Week 8	Cinematography
Week 9	Cinematography
Week 10	Acting
Week 11	Editing
Week 12	Sound
Week 13	Film History
Week 14	Film History
Week 15	Filmmaking Technologies and Production Systems
Week 16	Final

Part 1 & Part 2 approved by CRDAP on: 09 25 15

Part 2 approved by AD:

Date:

Part 2 approved by CRDAP Chair:

Date:

Rev02/15



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PART 3:

LUMINA DQP OUTCOMES – Use this reference sheet for **PART 2** of Master Course Syllabus.

Specialized Knowledge

1. Describes the scope and principal features of the field of study, citing at least some of its core theories and practices, and offers a similar explication of at least one related field.
2. Illustrates contemporary terminology used in the field.
3. Generates substantially error-free products, reconstructions, data, juried exhibits or performances as appropriate to the field.

Broad Integrative Knowledge

4. Describes how existing knowledge or practice is advanced, tested and revised
5. Describes and examines a range of perspectives on key debates and their significance both within the field and in society.
6. Illustrates core concepts of the field while executing analytical, practical or creative tasks.
7. Selects and applies recognized methods of the field in interpreting characteristic discipline-based problems.
8. Assembles evidence relevant to characteristic problems in the field, describes the significance of the evidence, and uses the evidence in analysis of these problems.
9. Describes the ways in which at least two disciplines define, address and interpret the importance of a contemporary challenge or problem in science, the arts, society, human services, economic life or technology.

Intellectual Skills – Analytic Inquiry

10. Identifies, categorizes and distinguishes among elements of ideas, concepts, theories and/or practical approaches to standard problems.

Intellectual Skills – Use of Information Resources

11. Identifies, categorizes, evaluates and cites multiple information resources necessary to engage in projects, papers or performance in his or her program.

Intellectual Skills – Engaging Diverse Perspectives

12. Describes how knowledge from different cultural perspectives would affect his or her interpretations of prominent problems in politics, society, the arts and/or global relations.

Intellectual Skills – Communication Fluency

13. Presents accurate calculations and symbolic operations, and explains how such calculations and operations are used in either his or her specific field of study or in interpreting social and economic trends.
14. Presents substantially error-free prose in both argumentative and narrative forms to general and specialized audiences.

Applied Learning

15. Describes in writing at least one substantial case in which knowledge and skills acquired in academic settings are applied to a challenge in a non-academic setting; applies that learning to the question; and analyzes at least one significant concept or method related to his or her course of study in light of learning outside the classroom.
16. Locates, gathers and organizes evidence on an assigned research topic addressing a course-related question or a question of practice in a work or community setting; offers and examines competing hypotheses in answering the question.

Civic Learning

17. Describes his or her own civic and cultural background, including its origins and development, assumptions, and predispositions.
18. Describes diverse positions, historical and contemporary, on selected democratic values or practices, and presents his or her own position on a specific problem where one or more of these values or practices are involved.
19. Takes an active role in a community context (work, service, co-curricular activities, etc.), and examines the civic issues encountered and the insights gained from the community experience.

The Degree Qualifications Profile was adopted by CRDAP: April 11, 2012