

**CINEMA 003 – HISTORY OF MOTION PICTURES
FALL 2015**

INSTRUCTOR: Elise Forier Edie

CLASS HOURS: W: 1-4:10 pm , ATA 128

OFFICE/VISITING HOURS: M 12pm-12:50pm, 4:30-6:30pm, T 11am-12pm, W 12pm-12:50pm, R 11am-12pm (ATA 212) or by appointment forierem@wlac.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History of the development of motion pictures from their beginning to the present day.

TEXTBOOK

Turning Points in Film History by Andrew J. Rausch

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

Describe major movements and moments in the history of American film

Identify significant artists from each cinematic movement

Differentiate among movie styles and recognize how they reflect the culture and history of the time they were made

Recognize and use specific terms from cinema and cinema history

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Critical Thinking: Students will exercise critical thinking in class discussion and in a response paper to a specific film. They will trace the way in which films reflect the times in which they were made and the culture from whence they came.

Communication: Students will practice critical writing and analysis in paper and tests. They will practice oral communication skills in class discussion.

Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills: Student will apply self-awareness strategies as they review and critique films.

Technical Competence: Student will practice using correct language and terms to discuss and write about the history of film.

Cultural Diversity: Students will respectfully engage with other cultures by studying their film contributions and artworks

Ethics: Students will practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.

Aesthetics: Students will use multiple approaches—discussion, writing-- to respond to a variety to films and film makers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Written assignments

Students will write one 2-7 page paper about a film we watched in class, or one from

an assigned list, and how it reflects the culture and history of the time in which it was made.

Tests

There will be a midterm and final exam on material in the book, and in lectures

Quizzes

There will be 10 quizzes on assigned readings. Quizzes will be given at the BEGINNING of class, from 1:00-1:25. All quizzes will be collected at 1:25. If you are late, there will be no opportunity to make up the quiz.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily at the END of class, when the movie and final discussion are over. If you are in the habit of leaving class early, you will not receive attendance credit.

Late Assignments

NO late assignments will be accepted without prior approval from the instructor.

Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period.

Grade Breakdown:

Daily quizzes : 100 points

Attendance: 120 points

Original Paper: 80 points

Midterm and Final Exams: 100 points

GRADES - A: 361-400 B: 321-360 C: 281-320 D: 241-280 F: anything 240 and below

Walking In and Out of Class

When you arrive to class, make sure you have used the restroom, had a chance to eat, checked your messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude and disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some other problem, you need to notify the instructor in advance.

Preparedness

You are expected to arrive on time. You will come to each class session prepared having done your homework, and done required reading and writing assignments. Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

Turn them off and put them away when class begins! Although it may not seem possible, you can survive without talking and texting on your cell phone, or listening to your iPod. Talking and texting on cell phones not only distract you, but they are a distraction for me and your peers.

Contacting Instructor

E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me. If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact me immediately. Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructor via email and/or during office hours.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this class. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

Student Conduct

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for more information.

Recording Devices

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (WLAC College Catalog)

CAMPUS RESOURCES

As stated earlier in this syllabus, if you are having problems, don't let them snowball. Come and talk with me and check out some of the campus resources available to you.

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support

services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center
Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486
Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center. Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects (WLAC College Catalog).

Library Services

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486
The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog).

Daily schedule (Subject to change):

WEDS 9/9 – Lecture: the Industrial Revolution, the origins of film

Watch: Selected Shorts

HOMEWORK: Read pages 1-17 (Chapters 1-2) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

What was a Thaumatrope?

What was a Zoetrope?

Who were the Lumiere Brothers?

What were some of Georges Melies filmmaking “discoveries” or special effects?

What the names of some of Melies most famous films?

Who was DW Griffith and why is he important to film history?

WEDS 9/16 – Lecture: World War 1, The Russian Revolution, The Roaring Twenties, and the development of the film art

Watch: The Great Train Robbery, The Battleship Potemkin,
The Cabinet of Dr. Calgari

HOMEWORK: Read pages 18-27, 48-54, 69-76, (Chapter 3, 7,10) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

Who was Edwin Stanton Porter and what was his contribution to cinema?
 What techniques did “The Cabinet of Dr. Calgari” use to achieve its effects?
 Who was Sergei Eisenstein and what important editing technique did he bring to cinema?

WEDS 9/23 – Lecture: The Great Depression, The studio system, the movie musical, animation

Watch: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

HOMEWORK: Read pages 43-47, 61-68, 77-84, 93-102 (Chapter 6, 9, 11,13) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

Describe the “three part strategy” of (1) differentiating products, (2) distributing nationally and internationally (3) dominating exhibition employed by the early Hollywood studios and how it helped the studios dominate film production for many years

What were some of the film restrictions placed on cinema by the original Production Code (try to name at least three)

What was the first “talking” motion picture? What year was it made?

What were some of the changes brought about in the film business and filmmaking by talking pictures? (Besides that films had sound?)

WEDS 9/30 - Lecture: Citizen Kane and Modern Cinema

Watch: Citizen Kane

HOMEWORK: Read pages 103-113 (Chapter 14) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

What were some of the innovative shooting and storytelling techniques Orson Welles used in his cinema masterpiece “Citizen Kane”? Please be prepared to answer questions about—and describe examples from the movie of—deep focus photography, low-key lighting, low angle shots, overlapping dialogue, long, uninterrupted shots, nonlinear storytelling, flashbacks, creative use of shadows.

WEDS 10/7 – Lecture: World War 2, The 1950’s, The auteur, Film Noir

Watch: Strangers on a Train

HOMEWORK: Read pages 114-119 (Chapter 15) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

What does term “film noir” refer to?

What were film noir pictures usually about?

In terms of filmmaking, how were they different from the “standard” Hollywood film?

What was a film auteur?

Who were some of the more famous auteurs of the 1940-50s?

WEDS 10/14 – Lecture: The Hollywood Blacklist

Watch: On the Waterfront

HOMEWORK: Study for Midterm Exam

WEDS 10/21 – Midterm Exam

WEDS 10/28 – Lecture: The 1960's, Rise of Television, Ratings and Hollywood and the Civil Rights Movement

Watch: In the Heat of the Night

HOMEWORK: Read p143-147, 148-153, 162-170 (Chapters 19, 20, 22) in "Turning Points in Film History"

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

Name at least three technological improvements cinema makers employed in the 1950s to make movies more "special" and combat the popularity of television.

Be prepared to talk about the sensational advertising and outrageous titles used for cheap "exploitation" films designed to coax teens to come to the movies: biker films, juvenile delinquency films, monster movies, women-in-prison movies, etc. ("Attack of the Puppet People," "I Was A Teenage Werewolf," "Attack of the Giant Leeches" "1,000 Convicts and a Woman!") that also became popular in the 1950s

What two Supreme Court decisions helped give rise to the more modern movie rating system (G, M, R, X) and how did this system provide more freedom for filmmakers?

WEDS 11/4 – Lecture: Hollywood in the 1970's – the New Wave

Watch: Easy Rider

HOMEWORK: read p 171-183 (Chapter 23) in "Turning Points in Film History"

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

Please be able to identify and name some of the seminal works AT LEAST THREE of the following 1970s filmmakers: Woody Allen, Robert Altman, Peter Bogdanovich, Francis Ford Coppola, Brian De Palma, Martin Scorsese

WEDS 11/11 – NO SCHOOL – THANKS TO ALL OUR VETERANS

All PAPERS are due in class on 11/18. Write your papers!

WEDS 11/18 – Lecture: The rise of African American cinema

Watch: The Hollywood Shuffle **PAPERS ARE DUE!**

HOMEWORK: Read pages 184-193 (Chapter 24) in "Turning Points in Film History"

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

What is the meaning of the term “blaxploitation”?

What years were blaxploitation films made?

Who was Melvin Van Peebles and how did he become a filmmaker?

WEDS 11/25 – Lecture: The Blockbuster Takes Over the Movie Business

Watch: Jaws

HOMEWORK: Read pages 199-210 (Chapter 26) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

What were some of the production and budget problems plaguing the production of “Jaws”?

How did these problems ultimately work to the film’s advantage?

What kind of promotional blitz did Universal employ to generate interest in “Jaws”?

How did the success of “Jaws” change movie production?

What were some of the problems encountered in filming “Star Wars”?

What were some of the innovations in terms of moviemaking and merchandising that “Star Wars” brought to the film business?

WEDS 12/2: Lecture: Animation to CGI

Watch: Tron

HOMEWORK: Read pages 211-222 (Chapters 27, 28) in “Turning Points in Film History”

OR be prepared to answer the following questions by doing your own research

When did computer generated graphics first appear in the movies?

What is Menv and RenderMan Toolkit?

Who is John Lasseter?

In terms of computer graphics, what is “modeling,” and “shading”?

WEDS 12/9 : Lecture: Independent Filmmaking of the New Millenium

Watch: El Mariachi

HOMEWORK: Study for Final Exam

Student Acknowledgment
(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:

Signature: _____

Date: _____