

## **Cinema Studies 200 Introduction to Cinema Studies**

### **Course Text**

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction* (8<sup>th</sup> edition)

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

In this course, you will

- Build a foundation of skills and experiences for advanced study of cinema.
- Develop your understanding of and familiarity with the technical components of cinema.
- Develop your understanding of and familiarity with the basic terminology of movie analysis.
- Practice and improve your analysis of the movie-watching experience, including the recognition of significant patterns of meaning and the formation of coherent arguments.
- Practice and improve your ability to write about cinema, including the use of specific examples and proper formatting and style.

### **Learning Assessment**

In this course, you will demonstrate and measure your learning by

- Completing weekly quizzes based on your completion and comprehension of the assigned texts
- Maintaining a weekly personal blog that discusses your reactions to the movies and class discussions
- Responding to at least two different student blog entries each week.
- Taking two exams asking you to write brief explanations of key concepts in the analysis of cinema
- Practicing the knowledge you have learned by writing a 2-3 page analysis of a particular scene from a movie we will watch in class
- Writing a comprehensive final exam essay that applies concepts from the course to selected movies we will study.

## Grade Calculation

Weekly quizzes (10 pts each)	150
Blog (15 pts per entry)	225
Blog responses (5 per response)	150
Two midterms (100 pts each)	200
Scene analysis	100
Final exam	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1025</b>

## Attendance

Regular attendance is an important criterion of all passing grades. The equivalent of two weeks absence will result in the loss of a letter grade; each subsequent absence will result in the loss of a further letter grade. If special problems should arise during the semester, be sure to contact me as soon as possible so that we can work something out.

## Honesty

The work you will do in this course is subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

## Special Needs

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Disability Services Office. Please contact the Disability Service Office immediately in the University Center, suite 320, or call 859-572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the DSO for you to receive reasonable academic accommodation. Visit the DSO website at [www.nku.edu/~disability/](http://www.nku.edu/~disability/) for more information

## Movie Screenings:

An in-person screening of the movie for next week's class will be held on Tuesday evenings at 4:45 (room TBA). Movies will also be available via streaming video on the class Blackboard site. You are responsible for either attending the weekly screening or watching the movie online.

## Course Calendar

Please have all readings completed by the dates listed below. Schedule is subject to change according to course needs.

Week One	Introduction
Week Two	Chapter One: "Film as Art" Movie: <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
Week Three	Chapter Two: "The Significance of Film Form" Movie: <i>Citizen Kane</i>
Week Four	Chapter Three: "Narrative as a Formal System" Movie: <i>Magnolia</i>
Week Five	Chapter Four: "The Shot: Mise-en-Scene" Movie: <i>Marie Antoinette</i>
Week Six	Chapter Five: "The Shot: Cinematography" Movie: <i>Badlands</i>
Week Seven	Chapter Six: "The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing" Movie: <i>Memento</i>
Week Eight	Chapter Seven: "Sound in the Cinema" Movie: <i>Moulin Rouge</i>
Week Nine	Chapter Eight: "Summary: Style as a Formal System" Movie:
Week Ten	Chapter Nine: "Film Genres" The Crime Thriller Movie: <i>Jackie Brown</i>
Week Eleven	Chapter Nine: "Film Genres" The Western Movie: <i>The Searchers</i>
Week Twelve	Chapter Nine: "Film Genres" Horror Movies Movie: <i>The Shining</i>
Week Thirteen	Chapter Nine: "Film Genres" Musicals Movie: <i>Singing in the Rain</i>
Week Fourteen	Chapter Ten: "Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films" Movie: <i>The Thin Blue Line</i>
Week Fifteen	Chapter Eleven: "Film Criticism: Critical Analyses" Movie: <i>North by Northwest</i>
Week Sixteen	Chapter Eleven: "Film Criticism: Critical Analyses" Movie: <i>Breathless (A Bout de Souffle)</i>

## Final Exam