

THE ART OF MOTION PICTURES**THTR-2690 / Spring 2024****Format: Online/Asynchronous****Credit Hours: 3**

Instructor: Jennifer Walker
Email: jawalker04@ysu.edu

Office Hours: Fri 12-1pm (remote, by appt)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Analysis of the structure of the motion picture, the development of the script, the function of editing, the approach to acting in film production, and the problems faced by a director in film production. Criteria of artistic film making. Examples from motion pictures are screened and discussed.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of the motion picture as an art form. It will examine the principles, techniques and complex technologies that give film its power to tell stories, express emotions, and convey ideas. The course will enable a student to become a better-informed member of the viewing audience, and the student will be better equipped to understand and evaluate the objectives and quality of the film product.

Honors Contract Option Available: Honors students may contract this course for honors credit. Notify your instructor of your interest to discuss options, complete required electronic paperwork, and submit to the instructor by the semester deadline.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Students will understand and employ principles, terminology, and methods applicable to the art of motion pictures (OTS 1)
2. Students will analyze and evaluate the elements and the personal and societal impact of multiple types of literary and artistic expressions applicable to the creation of motion pictures (OT36 2, 3)
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical or cultural values in shaping the human experience. (OT36 3)
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of a breadth of motion pictures dating from the late 19th century until the present (OTS 4)
5. Students will clearly and effectively convey concepts and evidence of artistic endeavors applicable to the motion pictures (OTS 5)

This course satisfies the general education requirement in Arts and Humanities.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Film Art: An Introduction, Twelfth Edition by Kristin Thompson, David Bordwell and Jeff Smith, Published by McGraw-Hill Education.

This is a SmartBook with Learn Smart (LS) reading progress assistance.

This course is part of the “First Day Inclusive Access” model where the cost of your Smart Book (“Film Art: An Introduction”) with Connect, an online homework system, has been significantly discounted and is included in the cost of your tuition. If you would like a physical copy of the textbook, you can purchase it at a discounted rate through the University Bookstore or directly from the link in Connect.

MATERIAL FEE

The materials fee assessed for THTR2690 is used to maintain access to film streaming catalogues and technologies.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course will include readings, quizzes, discussion forums, and the streaming of films online.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Each week, students are required to:

- Read the assigned textbook chapter.
- Complete a quiz on each of the assigned textbook chapter.
- Stream the assigned film.
- Respond to the discussion prompt for each of the assigned films.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Final grades are based on the following:

Weekly Chapter Quizzes	45%
Weekly Discussion Posts	55%

A =	90-100 percent
B =	80-89 percent
C =	70-79 percent
D =	60-69 percent
F =	0-59 percent

Late Work Policy: Students are responsible for submitting all quizzes and discussion forum posts by the specified deadline. Because this course is asynchronous and provides students with a maximum of flexibility and time to complete assignments, opportunities to take quizzes and post to discussion forums after the specified deadlines will not be provided.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to:

- Maintain access to campus email and Blackboard.
- Complete all readings and quizzes on time.
- Screen films and participate in assigned discussion forums on time.
- Submit all assignments by the required due date.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This schedule should not change dramatically during the term, but I reserve the right to make minor adjustments as the course develops.

WEEK 1: Welcome to the Course	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 1/14
READ: The Course Syllabus	
WATCH: N/A	
WEEK 2: Film as Art	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 01/21
READ: Chapter 1 - Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business	
WATCH: <i>La La Land</i> by Damien Chazelle (2016)	
WEEK 3: Film Form	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 01/28
READ: Chapter 2 - The Significance of Film Form	
WATCH: <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by Victor Fleming (1939)	
WEEK 4: Narrative Form	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/04
READ: Chapter 3 - Narrative Form	
WATCH: <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> by Michel Gondry (2004)	
WEEK 5: Mise-en-Scene	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/11
READ: Chapter 4 - The Shot: Mise-en-Scene	
WATCH: <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> by Wes Anderson (2014)	

WEEK 6: Cinematography	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/18
READ: Chapter 5 - The Shot: Cinematography	
WATCH: <i>Blade Runner</i> by Ridley Scott (1982)	
WEEK 7: Editing	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/25
READ: Chapter 6 - The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing	
WATCH: <i>Memento</i> by Christopher Nolan (2000)	
WEEK 8: Sound in the Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/03
READ: Chapter 7 - Sound in the Cinema	
WATCH: <i>The Matrix</i> by Lana and Lilly Wachowski (1999)	
SPRING BREAK – NO ASSIGNMENTS	WEEK OF 03/04 - 03/10
WEEK 9: Style and Film Form	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/17
READ: Chapter 8 - Summary: Style and Film Form	
WATCH: <i>Citizen Kane</i> by Orson Welles (1941)	
WEEK 10: Film Genres	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/24
READ: Chapter 9 - Film Genres	
WATCH: <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen (1952)	
WEEK 11: Documentary Films	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/31
READ: Chapter 10 - Documentary, Experimental and Animated Films	
WATCH: <i>Waste Land</i> by Lucy Walker (2011)	
WEEK 12: Experimental Films	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/07
READ: Article - Memory's Movies by Patricia Hampl	
WATCH: <i>Meshes of the Afternoon</i> by Maya Deren (1943)	
WATCH: <i>Sink or Swim</i> by Su Friedrich (1990)	

WEEK 13: Animated Films	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/14
READ: Article - Against Animated documentary? by Annabelle Honess Roe	
WATCH: <i>Coraline</i> by Henry Selick (2009) WATCH: <i>Waltz With Bashir</i> by Ari Folman (2008)	
WEEK 14: Critical Analysis of Films	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/21
READ: Chapter 11 - Film Criticism: Sample Analyses	
WATCH: <i>Do the Right Thing</i> by Spike Lee (1989)	
WEEK 15: Historical Changes in Film Art	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/28
READ: Chapter 12 - Historical Changes in Film Art: Conventions, Choices, Tradition, Trends	
WATCH: <i>E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial</i> by Steven Spielberg (1982)	
WEEK 16: FINALS WEEK	Extra Credit Assignment Due: 05/02

HOW TO GET HELP

YSU is committed to your success. As a student you have access to several resources that may be instrumental in helping you succeed in this course and others. Please do not hesitate to utilize any of these [free support services](#) to support your academic success, physical and mental health, and help you navigate your time as a YSU student.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

[University policies](#) can be found online and provide you guidance on your rights as a student in this course. The links below take you directly to a specific policy. Should you have any questions about a policy, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information at the top of the syllabus.

- [Statement of Non-Discrimination from the University](#)
- [Academic Integrity/Honesty](#)
- [Student Accessibility](#)
- [Incomplete Grade Policy](#)
- [Academic Grievances and Complaints](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)