

A HISTORY OF MOTION PICTURES**THTR-1590 / Spring 2025****Format: Online/Asynchronous****Credit Hours: 3**

Instructor: Jennifer Walker
Email: jawalker04@ysu.edu

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

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The history of the motion picture from its beginnings to the present, with emphasis on the milestones of film as a performing art. Viewing of significant films from various periods and countries.

Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the major industrial, technological, aesthetic, and cultural developments in motion picture history. Topics will include the invention of motion picture technologies, the establishment of the US film industry, developments in the use of cinematic technique, and evolving approaches to narrative storytelling.

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 History 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 History 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 history of motion pictures (OTS 5)

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

REQUIRED TEXTS

Film History: An Introduction, Fifth Edition by Kristin Thompson and David Bordwell, 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 History: 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 THTR1590 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	50%
Weekly Discussion Posts	50%

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: 1/12
READ: The Course Syllabus	
WATCH: N/A	
WEEK 2: The Invention of Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 01/19
READ: Chapter 1 - The Invention and Early Years of the Cinema, 1180s -1904	
WATCH: <i>A Personal Journey with Martin Scorsese through American Movies</i>	
WEEK 3: The Expansion of Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 01/26
READ: Chapter 2 - The International Expansion of the Cinema, 1905 – 1912	
WATCH: <i>The Great Train Robbery and other Primary Works</i>	
WEEK 4: World War I and National Cinemas	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/02
READ: Chapter 3 - National Cinemas, Hollywood Classicism, and World War 1, 1913 – 1919	
WATCH: <i>Broken Blossoms</i> by DW Griffith (1919)	
WEEK 5: German Expressionism	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/09
READ: Chapter 5 - Germany in the 1920s	
WATCH: <i>Metropolis</i> by Fritz Lang (1927)	

WEEK 6: The Late Silent Era	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/16
READ: Chapter 7 - The Late Silent Era in Hollywood, 1920-1928	
WATCH: <i>City Lights</i> by Charlie Chaplin (1931)	
WEEK 7: The Introduction of Sound	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 02/23
READ: Chapter 9 - The Introduction of Sound	
WATCH: <i>Stagecoach</i> by John Ford (1939)	
WEEK 8: The Hollywood Studio System	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/02
READ: Chapter 10 - The Hollywood Studio System, 1930-1945	
WATCH: <i>Meet John Doe</i> by Frank Capra (1941)	
SPRING BREAK – NO ASSIGNMENTS	WEEK OF 03/03 - 03/09
WEEK 9: American Postwar Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/16
READ: Chapter 15 - American Cinema in the Postwar Era, 1945-1960	
WATCH: <i>Royal Wedding</i> by Stanley Donen (1951)	
WEEK 10: Art Cinema and Authorship	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/23
READ: Chapter 19 - Art Cinema and the Idea of Authorship	
WATCH: <i>The Man with the Golden Arm</i> by Otto Preminger (1955)	
WEEK 11: Hollywood's Fall and Rise	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 03/30
READ: Chapter 22 - Hollywood's Fall and Rise: 1960–1980	
WATCH: <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> by Stanley Kubrick (1968)	
WEEK 12: Continental Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/06
READ: Chapter 26 - Continental and Subcontinental Cinemas Since 1970	
WATCH: <i>The Cyclist</i> by Mohsen Makhmalbaf (1987)	

WEEK 13: Pacific Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/13
READ: Chapter 27 - Cinema Rising: Pacific Asia and Oceania Since 1970	
WATCH: <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> by Zhang Yimou (1991)	
WEEK 14: The Entertainment Economy	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/20
READ: Chapter 28 - American Cinema and the Entertainment Economy, the 1980s and After	
WATCH: <i>Lost in Translation</i> by Sofia Coppola (2003)	
WEEK 15: Toward a Global Film Culture	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: 04/27
READ: Chapter 29 - Toward a Global Film Culture	
WATCH: <i>Moonlight</i> by Barry Jenkins (2016)	
WEEK 16: FINALS WEEK (NO FINAL EXAM)	Extra Credit Assignment Due: 05/01

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](#)