

THFM-1010-001 (6 credit hours)

INTRODUCTION TO FILM

Fall/Winter 2013-14
Wednesdays: 2:30–5:15 pm
Classroom 1L11

Instructor: Howard Curle
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Office time: Wed. 1:30-2:20 p.m..

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Film studies various aspects of film: aesthetic, theoretical, critical, and practical. Through lectures, screenings, discussion, and practical filmmaking experience, students will learn the basic grammar of film and develop a deeper understanding of how movies work. The course takes an historical perspective, establishing the nature of what has come to be called the classical narrative film style and contrasting that style with realist and formalist alternatives. We will also be concerned with the idea of film as personal expression and the relationship of film to society.

REQUIRED TEXT

Richard Barsam, Dave Monahan, *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*, (4th edition)

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend screenings and participate in class discussion. Students are also expected to participate in the lab portion of the class which will be designated as the **group film project** and involves the group preparation and production of a short digitally-shot film. Students must attend all group pre-production meetings concerning their film shoots, assume a pre-production role in the project, attend every day of the shoot, and contribute to the editing of the film project. Further instructions for the group film project are forthcoming.

CLASS Demeanour

Classes begin promptly at 2:30 p.m. – please be on time. Persistent unexcused absences are subject to a grade penalty. Assignments handed in late are subject to a grade penalty, however I am willing to listen to reasonable excuses. Do not miss a class – mine or any other instructor's – because you have not completed an assignment on time. Instructions for the essay assignments are forthcoming.

Please do not conduct private conversations in class during screenings or class discussions or when the instructor is speaking.

Food and drink (water excepted) are not permitted in the classroom during class.

Leaving the room before the end of class is disruptive. Should you need to leave a discussion before the end of the class, let me know ahead of time by either contacting me by phone or e-mail or seeing me at the beginning of class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are reminded that plagiarism is a serious academic offence. You should acquaint yourself with the regulations regarding plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as well as the rules for registration, withdrawals and appeals in the University of Winnipeg Calendar for 2013-14 (on-line at www.uwinnipeg.ca/Student).

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grade evaluation will be based on the two essay assignments, script preparation for the group film project, participation in the shooting and editing of the group film project, the mid-term test, and the final examination. General class participation grade will also be calculated in part based on attendance. The breakdown of marks is as follows:

Fall term essay	10%
Mid-term test (Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 6:00-9:00 pm, Location TBA)	20%
Group film project: script/storyboard/shot list.....	10%
Winter term essay.....	15%
Group film project: film labs/film shoot/editing	20%
Final examination (Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 6:00-9:00 pm, Location TBA)	20%
Class participation (Fall and Winter terms)	5%
TOTAL:	100%

CONVERSION SCALE

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	66 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 65.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	76 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 75.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0.

COSTS

The lab portion of this course (the group film project) requires certain equipment and supply costs. The total these expenses has been set at \$90 per student this year. You paid this fee with your tuition.

Keep in mind as well that there may also be certain expenditures in the execution of your film project. Potential costs may include props, art supplies, transportation, wardrobe, etc. It is entirely up to the group members how much, if anything, you want to spend.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Fall Term:

Sept. 4:	introduction
Sept. 11:	principles of film form: the shot
Sept. 18:	elements of narrative: the sequence
	introducing the group film project
Sept. 25:	components of film expression: mise-en-scene
Oct. 2:	components of film expression: cinematography
Oct. 9:	in-class assignment
Oct. 16:	Fall term essay assignment screening
Oct. 23:	the narrative film: realism
Oct. 30:	the narrative film: formalism
	Fall term essay assignment due
Nov. 6:	the narrative film: classical narrative style
Nov. 13:	Group Film Project: lecture on script
Nov. 20:	Group Film Project: staging exercise
Dec. 10:	Mid-Term Test, 6:00-9:00 pm, location TBA

Winter Term:

Jan. 8:	Group Film Project script work
Jan. 15:	Group Film Project camera lab
Jan. 22:	Final date to withdraw without Academic Penalty
Jan. 22:	Group Film Project lighting lab
Jan. 29:	the film crew experience
Feb. 5:	components of film expression: sound
Feb. 12:	components of film expression: classical editing
	Winter term essay assigned
Feb. 17-21:	midterm break – no class Feb. 19
Feb. 26:	components of film expression: formalist editing
	Winter term essay due
Mar. 5:	documentary film
Mar. 12:	experimental film
Mar. 19:	Canadian fiction film
Mar. 26:	U of W filmmaking
April 2:	review
April 22:	Final Exam, 6:00-9:00 pm, location TBA

NOTE: Specific reading assignments from the *Looking at Movies* text and film screening titles will be indicated on a reading, assignment and screening schedule to be handed out in class at the beginning of the Fall and Winter terms.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW:** Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students; to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities.

Cellular phones and other noise-making devices **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2013 and end in April 2014 (2013/14 Fall/Winter Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.;

attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.