

INTRODUCTION TO FILM

Fall/Winter 2015 - 2016
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 designated as the **group film project** which involves the group preparation and production of a short digitally-shot film. Students must attend all group pre-production meetings concerning their project, 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. If you use your laptop to take notes during screenings, make sure the light from the screen does not distract other students. During class please keep devices turned off unless you are using them for classroom work.

Food and drink (water excepted) are not permitted in 1L11 during class period.

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 2015 – 2016 (on-line at www.uwinnipeg.ca).

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, in addition to grades for 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 (date and location to be announced)	20%
Group film project: script/storyboard/shot list.....	10%
Winter term essay	15%
Group film project: film labs/film shoot/editing	20%
Final examination (date and location to be announced)	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. 9:	introduction
Sept. 16:	principles of film form: the shot
Sept. 23:	elements of narrative: the sequence introducing the group film project
Sept. 30:	taking notes and writing about a movie
Oct. 7:	components of film expression: mise-en-scene
Oct. 14:	components of film expression: cinematography
Oct. 21:	narrative film styles: realist, formalist, classical
Oct. 28:	Fall term essay assignment screening
Nov. 4:	Group Film Project: script development lecture Fall term essay assignment due
Nov. 11:	Remembrance Day – no class (Make-Up Class on Thurs, Dec 3)
Nov. 18:	Group Film Project: in class script development
Nov. 25:	Group Film Project: script development
Dec 3 (Thurs):	Make-Up class for Remembrance Day: Fall term review

Winter Term:

Jan. 6:	Group Film Project camera lab
Jan. 13:	Group Film Project lighting lab
Jan. 20:	the film crew experience
	Final date to withdraw without Academic Penalty
Jan. 27:	components of film expression: sound
Feb. 3:	components of film expression: classical editing
Feb. 10:	components of film expression: formalist editing
	Winter term essay assigned
Feb. 15 – 19:	reading week– no class Feb. 17
Feb. 24:	documentary film
	Winter term essay due
Mar. 2:	experimental film
Mar. 9:	Canadian film
Mar. 16:	U of W filmmaking
Mar. 23:	contemporary film
Mar. 30:	Winter term review

NOTE: Specific reading assignments from the *Looking at Movies* text and film screening titles will be indicated on a screening, reading, and assignment 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 (except where noted) during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW: FRIDAY** Sept 18, Oct 21, **FRIDAY** Nov 13, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9. 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.

2015 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, 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 16, 2015, 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.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm 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 *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film, 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.

Cellular phones **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 with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/new-faculty-handbook/appeals-and-academic-misconduct.html>) for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Student's Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensure students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at <http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy> or call 204-786-9780.

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate

ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin on September 9, 2015 and end on April 5, 2016 (2015/6 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.