

THFM-1010-050 (6)
INTRODUCTION TO FILMMAKING

Fall/ Winter 2019/20
Wednesdays: 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Classroom: 1L11
Credit Hours: 6

Instructor: Milos Mitrovic
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Office Time: By appointment only
Course Section: 1010 - 050

Course Description:

Introduction to Filmmaking is a course that aims to investigate and explore the various aspects of filmmaking and the filmmaking approach including: aesthetic, historical, theoretical, critical and practical approaches to the cinematic medium. Through a combination of lectures and labs, the class will seek to teach the very principles that lie at the core of the art form. The course's main objective is to educate and inspire students by teaching them the language of cinema through lectures, screenings, discussions and practical filmmaking exercises. The class will also explore the relationships that filmmaking has had with society over the course of its existence and how it continues to impact society as the medium evolves with the help of cutting edge technology.

Required Reading:

Richard Barsam, Dave Monahan, *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film* (5th Edition)

Handouts pertaining to Assignments, Journal Entries, Group Film Projects, and miscellaneous articles that refer to the language of cinema. Class handouts will be added to nexus.

Learning Objectives:

Students who complete this course will have a good knowledge of the following:

- *The Language of Cinema:* A general understanding of the cinematic world and the vocabulary used to describe important elements and tools at the filmmaker's disposal
- *Film and Theory:* Through screening excerpts and full length films, we will discuss and analyze the complexities and varying structures of films that will provide the viewers with a deep understanding of a filmmaker's intent
- *History of Film:* A general understanding of how filmmaking began and later evolved into what it is today with the help of the screening of seminal works with high cultural relevance to the art form
- *The Pre-Production, Production and Post-Production processes:* How to make a film and the key roles/jobs on set
- *Mechanics of Writing a Screenplay:* How to write a screenplay: the process, structure, techniques and tools used
- *Basics of Film Components:* Editing, Lighting, Shooting and Complexities of Shot Composition
- *Film Festivals:* You will learn what film festivals are and how they work
- *Winnipeg Film Community:* You will have a greater knowledge of the Winnipeg film community and its impact on Canadian cinema, through the visits and guest presentations of various filmmakers, curators and administrators from the Winnipeg film community

Class Participation / Attendance

Introduction to Filmmaking should be a fun, team driven class that is rich with class discussions and participation by all students. Your opinion and analysis is an important part of the class, so the more you participate in class discussions and team projects, the more you will get out of the class. We must all be respectful to each other, there is no such thing as a stupid question or comment in this class! Students that fail to be respectful to their peers or the instructor will be asked to leave for that period.

This class is a variation of lectures and film labs that will work towards preparing the students for their **Group Film Project**. It is required that all students participate and attend all classes, including Group Film Project meetings and labs to ensure that their final film is completed properly and the final product is at a top level. Failure to attend Group Film Project labs or meetings will result in a grade penalty.

Class lectures are very important, and the attendance/participation of students is key to creating a healthy discussion period and team environment. Students must attend every class. If a student fails to attend lectures without notifying the instructor 1 hour prior to class start, it will result in a grade penalty. Students may only be excused for missing class for emergencies, and must email the instructor at least 1 hour prior to class start. It is your responsibility to attend the course that you have registered for, and it is your responsibility to notify your instructor if you cannot make it to class. Each time you miss class without following the above rules, you will be deducted 1% from your participation/attendance grade.

Class starts at 6pm sharp. It is irresponsible to show up to class late and disrupt a class discussion. If you are late, and miss the attendance call without emailing the instructor prior to class start, you will be marked as late. If you are late more than 3 times without notifying the instructor prior to class, you will be deducted 1% of your participation/attendance mark for each class you are late following that.

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class as long as they are being used to take notes during the lectures. Social media and off-topic websites are not permitted. If you fail to adhere to this rule you will be asked to leave the class for that period.

Photographing or filming lectures is forbidden unless it has been discussed with the instructor prior to class start. Please do not photograph the instructor or any student without their permission. If you fail to adhere to this rule you will be asked to leave the class for that period.

Please do not conduct private conversations in class during screenings, class discussions or when the instructor is speaking to the class. If you use your laptop to take notes, make sure the light from your screen doesn't distract students during screenings. During class please keep devices on SILENT.

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

Leaving the class prior to class end is very disruptive. Should you need to leave a discussion before the end of the class, let me know ahead of time through email or come chat with me in person prior to the start of class. **This is a film course, so let's talk about film:** Class discussions should be film related, and related to what we are discussing. Any irrelevant, non-film related topics brought up during class discussion will be shut down immediately.

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 2019 - 2020 (online at www.uwinnipeg.ca)

COURSE EVALUATION	
Class Participation/Attendance	10%
Fall Term Research Essay/ 90 Second Video	10%
Journal Entry #1	5%
Mid - Term Test (date and location TBA)	20%
Group Film Project (Pre-Production, Production, Post - Production)	20%
Winter Research Essay	10%
Journal Entry #2	5%
Final Examination (date and location TBA)	20%
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 FOR INTRO FILM

The lab portion of this course (the group film project) requires certain equipment and supply costs. 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.

Also - your Journal Entries will require you to attend a total of **2 films** at the Winnipeg Cinematheque (100 Arthur Street). Because you are in this class, you will receive a student discount for each of the screenings. It will be a total of \$4.99 per screening. You must provide your name to the box office worker and tell them you are in the University of Winnipeg Introduction to Film course to receive the discount.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

This is a brief description of the assignments that the students will need to submit throughout the academic year. Each assignment will feature its own hand outs with a much more in depth description. Please note that these assignments are subject to change throughout the school semester.

Research Essays & 90 Second Video (Fall term paper option only)

There will be a total of 2 research essays that the students will have to complete during the school term. There will be one essay in the Fall term and another one in the Winter term. For the Fall term essay, students will be shown a specific scene from a film and then will be asked to create a thesis based paper that investigates the various techniques used to push forth the director's vision. The paper must discuss the various film techniques and film language learned in class. Alternatively, in the Fall term only, students will have the option to not do an essay but instead choose to shoot a 90 second silent video (on their phone, own camera, etc). This 90 second video must follow the rules that are given out by the instructor when the Fall term essay is announced to the class. *Please note: Students will not be permitted to use the University of Winnipeg's film equipment for the 90 second video.*

For the Winter term, students will be asked to choose a film from a wide selection. This will be another analysis based essay that will focus on the full scope of the film and not just one scene. Unlike in the Fall term, students **MUST** write an essay for the Winter term as there will be no option to do a video instead. More information on these assignments will be given later on in the class year.

Journal Entries - Mini Film Review

Students will be tasked to put their reviewer hats on and go to the Winnipeg Cinematheque (100 Arthur Street) on their own time. They will be allowed to pick any film of their choice to watch and review. Students will be tasked to write a 500 word mini-review on the film. These journal entries cannot be a simple "I liked the movie" or "I didn't like the movie". Instead the reviews must provide in-depth analysis on the film and must explore and investigate the various elements of cinematic language (motifs, mise-en-scene, shot composition) used by the director to tell the story.

Group Film Project

The group film project is the most important practical, hands - on filmmaking portion of the course. Students will be asked to break off into teams of 5. Each team will work together on the Pre-Production, Production and Post-Production of a 7 minute silent film that will be shot in the Winter term. The Pre-Production, Production and Post - Production process of the film will be done during a series of in class AND out of class workshops/labs. Please note that the schedule for the group shoots will be on different days than the lectures. Students will be accompanied by a camera and editing instructor that will help

guide the team as they shoot their short film. There will be more information on the group shoots later in the class year. Group Film Projects are due the class following the group's editing lab.

Tests

There will be a total of 2 tests, one in the Fall and one in the Winter. The tests are based on everything the class covered during each term. There will be both multiple choice and long answer questions. There will be one class dedicated entirely to a test review during both the Fall and Winter term of the course. There will be more information on the class tests later in the year.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change with notice.

Week	Date	Class Description & Assignment Launch	Assignment Due
1	04 September 2019	Introduction & Syllabus review How we got here: What is film? ... and the early beginnings of the celluloid practice	
2	11 September 2019	It starts with a story: The language of screenwriting and story, elements of a narrative and the 8 sequence method. Feature Film vs Short Film <u>*Assignment: Mini- Review Journal Entry #1 launch day</u>	
3	18 September 2019	The Mechanics of Film Form: The Shot, scene and sequence. The importance of Shot Composition, 180 Degree Rule, 3 Point lighting system + more. <u>*Assignment: Introduction to the Group Film Project</u>	
4	25 September 2019	Editing: Principles of Picture Editing, realism editing and Adobe Premiere Pro, Hot keys and an introduction to the theory behind the practise with assistance from screening excerpts from contemporary films.	
5	02 October 2019	Cinematography: The Visual Language Explored	
6	09 October 2019	Components of Film Expression: Mise - En Scene, scene design explored	
	October 13 - 19	READING WEEK - NO CLASSES	
7	23 October 2019	Directing 101: How to direct your actors. The importance of a director's vision and how to put your vision on the screen. Producing 101: What is a producer, what is the process of a producer and how are they important to the production.	<u>*Assignment: Mini- Review Journal Entry #1 Due</u>

Week	Date	Class Description & Assignment Launch	Assignment Due
8	30 October 2019	<p>*Screening of Essay Assignment: Film Theory and Analysis: Analyzing a sequence in a film. We will screen the film sequence for the assignment for this term and you will be provided with an option to the essay.</p> <p>*Assignment: Fall Research Essay or 90 Second Film Launch Day</p>	
9	06 November 2019	Journey through the Narrative Styles: Realist vs Expressionist vs Classical Narrative	
10	13 November 2019	<p>Group Film Project Script Development Lecture: Discuss and explore previous group film project films. Break off into groups and begin screen development process.</p> <p>Lab 1: In Class Script Development</p> <p>*Assignment: Group Film Project Screenplay/Shot list/Storyboard Assignment Launch Day</p>	
11	20 November 2019	Lab 2: In Class Script Development	
12	27 November 2019	Lab 3: In Class Script Development	
13	04 December 2019	Fall Term Review: Test Prep	*Assignment: Fall Research Essay or 90 Second Film Due
	December 5 - 19 2019	FALL TERM EVALUATIONS - NO CLASSES	
	December 23 2019 - January 1 2020	UNIVERSITY CLOSED - NO CLASSES	
14	08 January 2020	<p>Group Film Project Camera Lab: Guest Instructor and students go through the camera they will be using in their Group Film Project shoots.</p> <p>*Assignment: Mini- Review Journal Entry #2 launch day</p>	*Group Film Project Screenplay/Shot list/Storyboard Assignment Due
15	15 January 2020	<p>Group Film Project Lighting Lab: Guest Instructor and students go through the use of lighting in their project.</p>	
16	22 January 2020	The Film Crew Experience: Working with a film crew, Screening of <i>Living in Oblivion</i>	
17	29 January 2020	Sound Design: The Importance of Sound and Sound Editing in Film	
18	05 February 2020	Components of Film Expression: Classical and Formalist Editing, the Kuleshov Effect. Editing Theory Explored	
19	12 February 2020	<p>Discovering Reality: The Art of Documentary Filmmaking, Screening of <i>American Movie</i></p> <p>*Assignment: Winter Research Essay Launch</p>	

Week	Date	Class Description & Assignment Launch	Assignment Due
	February 16 - 22 2020	READING WEEK - NO CLASSES	
20	26 February 2020	Beyond Form and Expression: Experimental Filmmaking is explored	*Assignment: <u>Mini-Review Journal Entry #2 Due</u>
21	04 March 2020	True North: Exploring the Impact of Canadian Cinema throughout the years, Screening <i>Werewolf</i>	
22	11 March 2020	Filmmaker next door: Exploring the University of Winnipeg filmmaking scene with visits from past students	
23	18 March 2020	Prairie Celluloid: An examination of Winnipeg Filmmaking and the impact it has had on Canadian Cinema.	*Assignment: <u>Winter Research Essay Due</u>
24	25 March 2020	Contemporary Cinema: The future of filmmaking, VR/AR, 3D, IMAX and Screening of <i>Songs my Brothers Taught Me</i>	
25	01 April 2020	Winter Term Review: Test Prep	
26	03 April 2020	LECTURES END for the 2020 Winter Term	
27	April 7 - 21 2020	WINTER TERM EVALUATIONS - NO CLASSES	

NOTE: Specific reading assignments from *Looking at Movies* text and film screening titles will be handed out in class early in the Fall and Winter terms.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your 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. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film presents 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**:

September 18th (Yvette Nolan, playwright/director/author/arts administrator)
 October 30th
 November 13th
 January 22nd
 February 12th
 March 4th

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 at **ALL** lectures is **MANDATORY** for **ALL Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II**. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

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

2019 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; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11th, 2019, 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.

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. Activities organized by TAFSA include regular **Performance Jams, Department parties** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and **24/7** (an event in which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours!).

Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting, tentatively scheduled for Mon Sept 16th, 12:30-13:20 pm, Room OT10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am to 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.

All studios and labs are locked outside of building hours. Evening and weekend access can be added to your student card by visiting Melinda in the Department office, 3T03.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> 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.
- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and

Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

- Students are strongly advised to read the sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).
- Detailed information regarding these policies can be found at the following:
 - Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
 - Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- *Misuse of Filesharing Sites.* Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.
- *Avoiding Copyright Violation.* Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor /presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.
- Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including 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>

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES (all courses)

The voluntary withdrawal dates for each term, without academic penalty, are:

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 12, 2019 for Fall courses which begin September 2019 and end December 2019
- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 14, 2020, for Fall/Winter courses which begin September 2019 and end April 2020
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 13, 2020, for Winter courses which begin January 2020 and end April 2020

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT

Theatre & Film are communal art forms in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people cooperate 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, meetings or shoots both within and outside of class times; and, in short, 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

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.