INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES
HUM 2810

Class Hours: 3.0           Credit Hours: 3.0
Laboratory Hours: 0.0      Date Revised: Spring 03

Catalog Course Description:
An overview of film history using selected world cinema feature films. Basic elements of film expression for understanding and analyzing narrative cinema. Some research is required.

Entry Level Standards:
Students must be able to read and write at the college level.

Prerequisites:
None

Corequisites:
None

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:
Text: Understanding Movies
Films: in Media Center

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Note: Different film genres may be studied each semester. The following schedule outlines the classic mystery film genre.</td>
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<td>Introduction to course and syllabus - Best 100 films- Why study film? Various approaches to film study - Detective/mystery/crime genre in films; Technological factors behind film - Lumiere films (1895) - Melies film (1905); Homework: Read Understanding Movies, pages xi-17 Discuss Film Classification and Shots; Discuss factors in &quot;Formalist Analysis of Classic Film Style &quot; (handout); Screening: Musketeers of Pig Alley (1912, D.W. Griffith) 18 min.; Homework: Read pages 133-154, &quot;Editing&quot;</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Discuss Continuity and Cutting; &quot;Hollywood Behind the Badge&quot; (police, crime, mystery genre films); Schedule a research paper; Homework: Read 112-123, &quot;The Moving Camera&quot;</td>
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Oral research report (D.W. Griffith, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chapman); Discuss 7 Moving Camera Shots, etc.; Screening: Sherlock Jr. (Buster Keaton, 1924) 48 min.; Homework: Read pages 18-21, "Light and Dark"

Discuss value of light and sound in film; Conventions of Classical Hollywood cinema; American film movements; Oral research report (Fritz Lang); "Visions of Light: The Art of Cinematography"; Homework: Read 207-219, "Sound" Introduction to German Expressionist film, M (Fritz Lang, 1931); Homework: Read 333-348, "Story"


Citizen Kane

RKO 281, 1999 movie about Citizen Kane; Homework: Review "Class Notes" on Classic Hollywood Style Discuss Citizen Kane and Classic Hollywood Style; Sight and Sound's List of 10 Greatest Films; Review for Test 2

TEST TWO; Homework: Read pages 181-206. [MIDTERM] Discuss Test 2 and reading assignment; Intro to North by Northwest (Hitchcock, 1959); Homework: Read pages 383-392 "The Screenplay"

Finish discussion of North by Northwest; Homework: Read pages 245-276, "Acting" Discuss Hollywood in Transition (WW II - early 60's); Technological changes in the 1950's; Oral research reports*; Class Presentations

Introduction to In the Heat of the Night (1967) Discussion of In the Heat of the Night (1967); Homework: Read pages 405-409, "Literary Adaptations"

American Film Renaissance (early 1960's-1975); 3 types of literary adaptations; studio logos; Agatha Christie and characters in Murder on the Orient Express Introduction to Murder on the Orient Express (1974)

Finish screening: Murder on the Orient Express (1974); Review for TEST 3 Credits and opening scenes of two films; TEST 3

Discussion of Who Framed Roger Rabbit? (1988) and American film after 1975; Homework: Read pages 123-132, "Mechanical Distortions of Movement" Discuss animation in film and Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

Introduction to Silence of the Lambs (1991); Homework: Read pages 66-83, "Territorial Space and Proximic Patterns" Discussion and handout on Silence of the Lambs; Homework: Read chapter 10, "Ideology" pages 411-454.
Discuss The Spanish Prisoner (1997) and ideology
Comparison of The Spanish Prisoner and The 39 Steps; Review for TEST
FOUR/FINAL EXAM

II. Course Objectives*:

A. Develop an understanding and appreciation of human culture through directed study of selected films and through discussion. IV. 1, IV.2, IV

B. Encourage critical participation with specific elements of film form and style analysis. IV. 1, IV.2, IV.3

C. Develop an understanding of the interrelationship between technological advances and the culture they enhance. IV. 1, IV.2, IV.3

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Discuss and analyze themes and language systems in films. Communications Outcome, Personal Development Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Active Learning Strategy

2. Read assigned text and participate in class discussion. Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Active Learning Strategy

3. Develop research skills using and evaluating library and internet sources. Technological Literacy Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome

4. Attend various cultural, historical, or educational opportunities on or off campus. Personal Development Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Transitional Strategy

5. Internalize the work ethic by regularly attending class, being punctual, being dependable, cooperating with the teacher and other classmates, contributing to class discussion and projects, and acting in a professional manner while in class. Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategy

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State’s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the contribution of film to the development and reflection of modern civilization and cultural values. A

2. Articulate and support personal opinion with specific reference to the primary works. B

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic values which support the tradition of the culture(s)
presented. A

4. Analyze the effects of the historical context on specific elements of human artistic expression in film. A, C

5. Write insightful, appropriately developed and documented research paper on a topic related to the film industry and/or the art of film making. A,B

6. Trace the historical development of the film industry and the art of film making, which both reflect and influence cultural values. B, C

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 80-90% of grade

   Test 1 (20)
   Test 2 (20)
   Test 3 (20)
   Test 4/FINAL (20-30)
   [Note: Tests will cover lectures, reading assignments, oral reports, handouts, and films]

B. Laboratory Expectations:

   N/A

C. Field Work: 10-15% of grade

   Research Paper/Oral Presentation (10-15%)

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

   Attendance and participation (2-5) (awarded for no more than 1 absence)

E. Grading Scale:

   90-100 = A
   86-89 = B+
   80-85 = B
   76-79 = C+
   70-75 = C
   60-69 = D

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

   Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course (Pellissippi State Catalog). Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent.

B. Academic Dishonesty:
In keeping with college-wide policies, the student is expected to adhere to the general rules and regulations relevant to academic and classroom misconduct as outlined in the catalog.