

## Course Information

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Number:	HU237
Name:	Essentials of Watching Films
Description:	Many people go to the movies as a means of momentary escape from everyday reality. Films, however, can lead the viewer out of the theater and back into the midst of reality, where the human spirit delights, suffers, triumphs, and fails as it encounters life. The challenge for the movie-goer is to develop an "eye" that can perceive how cinematic elements (camera shots, angles, lighting, etc.), narrative technique, and dramatic performance are employed to reveal understanding of the human condition. This course aims at helping film viewers develop eyes of perception so they can appreciate the insights into the human drama offered by the movies they watch.
Credit(s):	3
Offered (DAY schedule):	
Instructor Permission Required:	N
Pre-Requisite(s):	

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## Course Objectives

Students will gain a more complete understanding of what goes into making a film and will be able to examine a film's content and style while comparing it to established norms for various film genres.

HU 237, Essentials of Watching Films, Fall, 2018  
Dr. Douglas Lepley  
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TTh 2:00-3:30  
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**Please note: this syllabus is tentative and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.**

**Please note: you must be age 17 or older to take this course. Some of the films shown are R-rated and contain violence, sexual relations and brief nudity, profanity, and drug use. Furthermore, if you are 17 or older but believe you would be offended by such content, you may not wish to take this course, although provision can be made for individual students to view alternate films in place of the ones that might prove offensive. Please see the instructor to make arrangements.**

### **Course Objectives**

1. The students will be able to identify and analyze the elements of film art and explain how those elements can be used to convey ideas about such topics as societal values, human psychology, ethics, relationships, aesthetics, and philosophy. (Core Competency III, Critical Thinking, Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving)
2. The students will be able to identify and analyze the elements of narrative development and explain how those elements can be used to convey a theme. (Core Competency III)
3. The students will be able to identify and analyze the elements of character development and explain how those elements can be used to provide insight into the human condition. (Core Competency III)
4. The students will be able to identify and comprehend some common ideologies and analyze films to show how cinematic art can be used to convey an ideology. (Core Competency III)
5. Through essays and class discussions, the students will practice articulating their appreciation of film art and their interpretations of films. (Core Competency I, Communications & Core Competency III)

### **Grade Determination**

Three Exams = 3/4  
Quiz Average = 1/4 (Quizzes will be essay analyses of film clips; one essay quiz should be included in each student's **e-portfolio**)



### **Late-Work Policy**

Any quiz not completed during the period when it occurs may be made up. If, however, a quiz is not made up, the grade for that quiz will be a zero. No quiz grade will be dropped. A missed exam may be made up, but for a grade of no higher than 50/F, unless the student submits appropriate written documentation attesting to serious illness (College administrator's verification), family crisis (College administrator's verification), or team travel (coach's notification). In these cases an exam may be made up without penalty at a time arranged between the instructor and the student. Any exam not taken will receive a zero. No exam grade will be dropped. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Any incident of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment for all class members proved to be involved in the dishonesty.

### **Attendance Policy**

Each unexcused absence exceeding two may result in a five-point deduction off of the final course average. Excuses will not be accepted unless the student submits appropriate written documentation attesting to serious illness (College administrator's verification), family crisis (College administrator's verification), or team travel (coach's notification). Total absences (excused and/or unexcused) exceeding four may result in the instructor withdrawing the student from the course. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

### **Instructor's Grade Scale**

A =92-100	B+ =88-89	C+ =78-79	D+ =68-69	F=59 and below
A- =90-91	B =82-87	C =72-77	D =62-67	
	B- =80-81	C- =70-71	D- =60-61	



Date	Topics and Assignments
8/28	<b>UNIT I. CINEMATIC TECHNIQUES</b> Introduction to the Art of Looking Stills for Analysis Selections from <u>Love Actually</u> and <u>Apocalypse Now</u>
8/30	Settings, Frame Compositions, and the Dynamics of Composition Selections from <u>Friday Night Lights</u> , <u>Twelfth Night</u> , and <u>Benny and Joon</u>
9/4	Essay Quiz (frame composition) Angles, Shots, Editing Shots Together into Scenes and Sequences Realistic and Expressionistic Filmmaking Selection from <u>The Natural</u>
9/6	Lenses, Filters, Superimposing, Interposing, Planes of Focus <u>Apocalypse Now</u> (revisited) and <u>Backdraft</u>
9/11	Essay Quiz (shots, angles, interposing, filters) Symbolism, Color Symbolism, Lighting Selection from <u>The Wall</u> (opening sequence)
9/13	Essay Quiz (symbolism, color, lighting, angles, shots) Movement (camera and subject), Slow Motion, Freeze Frame Selections from <u>Clockwork Orange</u> and <u>Brotherhood of the Wolf</u>
9/18	Editing, Montage, Cross-cutting, Juxtaposition, Transitions Selections from <u>Glory</u> , <u>Supersize Me</u> , <u>The Butler</u>
9/20	Sound and Transitions Selection from <u>Romeo and Juliet</u>
9/25	Essay Quiz (cumulative)
9/27	<u>Essay Quiz</u> (cumulative)
10/2	<u>Crash</u>
10/4	<u>Crash</u>
10/9	No Classes
10/11	Discussion of <u>Crash</u> Review for Exam #1
10/16	Exam #1. Cinematic Techniques
10/18	<b>UNIT II. CHARACTER AND NARRATIVE</b> Elements of Characterization Presentation of Character in Films Selection from <u>Juno</u> <u>I Am Sam</u> (opening sequence)
10/23	Internal and External Conflicts <u>I Am Sam</u>
10/25	Character Development (Rita) <u>I Am Sam</u>
10/30	Essay Quiz (cumulative to show character) Elements of Narrative <u>Dead Poets Society</u>
11/1	<u>Dead Poets Society</u>



11/6 Dead Poets Society  
11/8 Dead Poets Society  
11/13 Exam #2. Character and Narrative  
11/15 UNIT III. FILM MEANING  
Ideological Views in Films  
Hearts and Minds (selection)  
Baraka (selection)  
11/20 Born on the Fourth of July (selections)  
Walkabout (selection)  
11/22 Thanksgiving Vacation—no classes  
11/27 Pleasantville  
11/29 Pleasantville  
12/4 The Truman Show  
12/6 The Truman Show  
Final Exam  
Week



