NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

SPC 326 Film Analysis and Evaluation

Credit Hours: 3
In-Class Instructional Hours: 2  Labs: 2  Field Work: 0

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: junior or senior standing

Aesthetic and philosophical analysis and evaluation of media; focus on ethical issues and themes found in films and media; considering film as an art form; reflection on values; morals; relationships relating to social questions.

Reasons for Addition:
This course will be an elective film analysis course appropriate for Media Production and Communication Studies students, replacing the former HUM 100 course many COM students used as an elective. The new course will offer advanced analysis and critical thinking about media productions. This revision expands the Communication curriculum to reflect a broader approach to the media production field, and also adds an elective focused on Ethics, one of the requirements for Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) re-certification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes:</th>
<th>Course Content References:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Demonstrate knowledge of film elements and filmmaking techniques</td>
<td>I, II</td>
<td>1. Quizzes, Participation in class discussion</td>
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<td>2. Analyze films closely for structure and techniques</td>
<td>I, II, III</td>
<td>2. Written assignments</td>
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<td>3. Explain and differentiate characters to determine ethical implications</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>3. Participation in class discussion; written assignments</td>
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<td>4. Evaluate films for philosophical content</td>
<td>III, IV</td>
<td>4. Participation in class discussion; presentations</td>
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<td>5. Examine films for narrative themes</td>
<td>I, II, III, V</td>
<td>5. Participation in class discussion; quizzes, written assignments</td>
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<td>6. Critique films to determine aesthetic value</td>
<td>I, II, III, V</td>
<td>6. Participation in class discussion, quizzes, written assignments</td>
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<td>7. Compare films for corresponding characters, elements and themes</td>
<td>III, IV, V</td>
<td>7. Participation in class discussion, written assignments</td>
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Course Content:

I. Literary Elements
   A. Plot and conflict
   B. Characters
   C. Setting
   D. Theme
   E. Motifs
   F. Symbols
   G. Connotation
   H. Genre

II. Dramatic Elements
   A. Acting
   B. Dialogue
   C. Clothes and costumes
   D. Make-up and hairstyles

III. Cinematic Elements
   A. Framing—Mise-en-scène
   B. Montage
   C. Camera positions
   D. Camera angles
   E. Camera movements
   F. Music
   G. Sound effects
   H. Visual effects
   I. Lighting
   J. Editing

IV. Philosophical themes
   A. Moral virtues
   B. Intellectual virtues
   C. Free will and predestination
   D. Perception and misperception
   E. Utilitarianism: means and ends
   F. Friendship
   G. Eternal return and cyclical existence
   H. Existentialism
   I. Will to power
   J. Categorical imperative

V. Film themes
   A. Utopia and dystopia
   B. Individuals and the collective
   C. Institutionalization
D. Freethinking  
E. Conformity  
F. Nature of memory  
G. Guilt  
H. Art and commercialism  
I. Nature of Love  
J. Loyalty  
K. Heroism  
L. Discrimination  
M. American dream

**Resources:**


**Periodicals:**

*The Independent Journal of Film and Video*. AIVF. New York, NY.


*American Cinematographer*. American Society of Cinematographers. Los Angeles, CA.

*Cineaste Magazine*. New York, NY.

*Film Quarterly*, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

*Filmmaker Magazine: Magazine of Independent Film*. Independent Film Project. Brooklyn, NY.

*RES Magazine, of Film Music, Art, Design & Culture*. RES Media Group.

**Electronic and Audiovisual Resources:**

Internet Movie Database
http://www.imdb.com/


*Film Comment*: Film Society of Lincoln Center
http://filmcomment.com

*Millennium Film Journal: Biannual Journal of the Moving Image*
http://www.mfj-online.org

Purdue’s Online Writing Lab
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

*Senses of Cinema*: Film Victoria Australia
http://www.sensesofcinema.com

Turner Classic Movies
http://www.tcm.com/