San Diego State University - Course Syllabus
TFM-160 Introduction to Cinema

Instructor: Sam Shpigelman
Contact Info: samshpigelman@gmail.com
Course Title: Introduction to Cinema
Session/Year: Fall 2013
Course Code: TFM160 Section4
Schedule #: 23126
Day: Wednesdays
Time: 4:00PM – 6:40PM

Teacher Assistant: Louis Gregory Robinson Lora (Greg) gregory--robinson@hotmail.com

Course Description:
An appreciative survey of cinema in its diverse forms. Historical and stylistic influences on the aesthetic values and social implications of cinema. Illustrated by screen examples.

Core Course Competencies:
Our goal in this course is not to memorize the dates of the films screened, or to be able to recite the entire cast of Singin' in the Rain. Film is an entertainment and art form that has directly influenced the life of virtually every person in this country, but rarely do we pay attention to that influence. In this course we will study films rather than just watch them. We will look at how they are produced and marketed, why they appeal to us as consumers, and how they reflect the culture in which they were produced. Read and take notes with this goal in mind. You are not going to be tested on dates and character names, but will need to know how the films we see together exemplify the various topics we study. After taking this course you will most likely watch films differently for the rest of your life.

Note: Some of the films screened in this class are rated R. If you have a problem viewing this type of material, please see me. Also, there is a growing problem with students texting during films. I will remind the class to turn off electronic devices before the film, but if you are found texting after that, you will be asked to leave class for the day. A dozen glowing screens all over the room ruin the film for your classmates.

Note: Syllabus is subject to change due to incorporation of new course topics such as Animation, Film Visual Effects, etc…

Required Text:

Technology in Class:
Please set Cell Phones to silent mode before each class. If you receive a phone call please walk outside
of the classroom before starting to talk on the phone. Do NOT use laptops or other portable electronic
devices during class because they are just too distracting for those around you.

Grading Scale:
All students shall be treated equitably. It will be that student’s right to know his/her grade at any
reasonable point that information is requested by that student. The criteria for determining a student’s
grade shall be standard SDSU grading scale.

Process for Evaluation:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 1</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 2</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 3 (Extra Credit)</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance taken at random</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2% x 10 times</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Possible: 110 %

Student Evaluation/Grading Policies:
• Grading will be done on a point system 1 point = 1%
• Class time will be spent in a productive manner
• All work must be received by the set deadlines

General Assignment Submission Policies
• All Online Tests and Online Quizzes will be available online only
• All Online Tests and Online Quizzes are timed
• All Online Tests and Online Quizzes must be completed on time

Late or Missing Work Policies
• Students will not be able to complete their Online Tests and Online Quizzes outside of given
deadlines.
• Exceptions: Students with valid medical or bereavement excuse will be permitted to make up
missing work. You must email a copy of a valid medical or bereavement document to your
professor for validation.

General Guidelines for Completing Online Test
1. Dates and times for every test will be announced later.
2. Every Online Test will be available in the Assignments Section of our online classroom during our
   normal class time on the week of the test.

On the day of the Online Test:
1. There will be no class.
2. Instead of coming to class you will take an Online Test.
3. The Online Test will be available in the Assignments Section of our online classroom during our normal class time.

Before you take Online Test:
1. Download TestReferenceMaterials.zip file from the Assignments section of our online classroom.
2. This file will also be available for download in the Assignments section of our online classroom at the same time as the Online Test.
3. You will need to access these materials during the test.
4. Make sure you use reliable technology and Internet while taking the Online Test. As you will have no capability of logging in the second time if your technology crashes or your Internet disconnects or times out.
5. The Online Test must be completed in one seating.
6. There are total of 15 questions on the Online Test.
7. Each question is worth 2 point.
8. Questions are generated in random order.
9. Answers to the questions are generated in random order.
10. Test questions cover specific chapters in our textbook, lecture slides from specific lectures and the films, which we have watched in class.
11. You have 2 hours and 40 minutes to complete the Online Test so my suggestion is to start taking the Online Test as soon at it is available at the beginning of our regular class time.

During the Online Test:
1. Stay calm if you have a technical issue while you are taking the Online Test.
2. Email the Professor right away. Include TFM160Section4 in the subject line.
3. Please be patient while waiting for the professor to reply back to you.
4. Please do not send duplicate emails.

After taking the Online Test:
1. Your score is available right after you have completed the Online Test.
2. The questions and student’s answers are hidden from both the student and the Professor.

**General Guidelines for Completing Online Quizzes**
1. Dates and times for every Online Quizzes will be announced in class at random.
2. Every Online Quiz will be available in the Assignments Section of our online classroom between certain dates and times. (The window is usually 6 hours).
3. Your score is available right after you have completed the Online Quiz.

**Reading your Online Test and Online Quiz Score**
Your score may display:
- A number – This is a number of points you have scored while taking this online assignment. Each point is worth 1% of your final grade.
- In progress icon – This means that you did not complete this online assignment correctly. You must email the Professor right away. Include TFM160Section4 in the subject line. Please be patient while waiting for the professor to reply back to you. And please do not send duplicate emails within 24 hours period.
• A dash or empty slot – This means Blackboard has no record of you taking this online assignment. If you feel there is an error please contact Blackboard Helpdesk directly.

**Attendance Policy:**
• Students must be present for the entire duration of every class
• Attendance will be taken at random
• The class TA is in charge of taking the attendance so all attendance related questions and issues should be directed to our class assistant Greg: gregory--robinson@hotmail.com
• Include TFM160Section4 in the subject line of your email.
• Missing attendance must be resolved within 3 weeks of the disputed date.

**Classroom Policy:**
• Students are expected to be in class on time
• Students are expected to be respectful to the instructor and their class mates
• No food or drinks allowed in class or lab at any time
• Edible items brought to class or lab must be thrown out
• No games are allowed in class or lab (unless in course curriculum)
• Use of cell phones is not allowed during the class. All cell phones must be turned off
• Use of Internet is not allowed in any way during the class unless permitted by the instructor

**Communication with the Professor and Assistant/s:**
• You must include TFM160Section4 in the subject line of your email. Emails without TFM160Section4 in the subject line may not be answered in timely fashion or at all.
• Attendance related question or issues must be emailed to the class assistant Greg: gregory--robinson@hotmail.com
• All other classroom related issues must be emailed to Sam Shpigelman at samshpigelman@gmail.com

**Weekly Lecture Topics and Film List:**

Lecture 1 ........................................... Film as Technology, Business and Entertainment (Singin’ in the Rain)
Lecture 2 ........................................... Film Making Process: From Start to Finish (Within a Minute: StarWars III)
Lecture 3 ........................................... Styles of Film: From Realism to Formalism: Part I (film to be announced)
Lecture 4 ........................................... Styles of Film: From Realism to Formalism: Part II (The Cell)
Lecture 5 ........................................... Visual Design: Mise En Scene (Casino Royale)
Lecture 6 ........................................... Movement and Kinematics (Black Swan)
Lecture 7 ........................................... Watching Pre-Midterm Film (to be announced)
Lecture 8 .......................................................... Midterm Examination (No Class – Students are Taking Online Test)
Lecture 9 .................................................................................................. Evolution of Visual FX (film to be announced)
Lecture 10 .................................................................................................. Film Editing (Snatch)
Lecture 11 .................................................................................................. Film Theory (Melena)
Lecture 12 .................................................................................................. Sound (Black Hawk Down)
Lecture 13 .................................................................................................. Animation as Technology & Entertainment (Spirited Away)
Lecture 14 .................................................................................................. No Class / Thanksgiving Break
Lecture 15 .................................................................................................. Watching Pre-Final Film (to be announced)
Lecture 16 .................................................................................................. Final Examination (No Class - Students are Taking Online Test)