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

Instructor:  Sam Shpigelman  
Contact Info:  sshpigel@mail.sdsu.edu  
Course Title:  Introduction to Cinema  
Session/Year:  Spring 2014  
Course Code:  TFM160 Section1  
Day:  Mondays  
Time:  3:30PM  

Teacher Assistant:  Will Wellman – WillWellman@hotmail.com  
Moises Esparza – Esparza.m@gmail.com

Course Description:  
This course is an appreciative survey of cinema in its diverse forms. It will include historical and stylistic influences on the aesthetic values and social implications of cinema, which will be 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:  
You can purchase a hard copy of a book or the access code for an eBook.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 % and Above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 % and Less Than 94%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 % and Less Than 90%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84 % and Less Than 87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 % and Less Than 84%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 % and Less Than 80%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 % and Less Than 77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 % and Less Than 74%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 % and Less Than 70%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 % and Less Than 67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 % and Less Than 64%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Than 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Process for Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 1</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 2</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 5 (Extra Credit)</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance taken at random 2% x 10 times</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 for Midterm and Final tests are listed in Weekly Lecture Topics section of this syllabus
2. Online Tests will be available in the Assignments Section of our online classroom, during our normal class time on the day 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 20 questions on the Online Test.
7. Each question is worth 1 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 5 hours to complete the Online Test so my suggestion is to start taking the Online Test as soon as 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. If you got logged out, or your technology crashed. Please try logging in again to continue taking the test.
3. If you can’t login to continue taking the test, then email the Professor right away. Include TFM160Section1 in the subject line.
4. Please be patient while waiting for the professor to reply back to you.
5. 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. You must check the score right after taking the Online Test. If your score does not appear, you must email the Professor right away. Include TFM160Section1 in the subject line.
3. The questions and answers are hidden from both the student and the Professor.

General Guidelines for Completing Online Quizzes
1. Dates and times for every Online Quiz will be announced in class at random. You have to be present in class, to know when Online Quizzes will be available.
2. Online Quizzes will be available in the Assignments Section of our online classroom between certain dates and times. (The window is usually 12 hours).
3. Your score is available right after you have completed the Online Quiz.
4. You must check the score right after taking the Online Quiz. If your score does not appear, you must email the Professor right away. Include TFM160Section1 in the subject line.
5. The questions and answers are hidden from both the student and the Professor.

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 TFM160Section1 in the subject line. Please be patient while waiting for the professor to reply back to you. 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 TAs are in charge of taking the attendance so all attendance related questions and issues should be directed to our class assistants
• Include TFM160Section1 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 classmates.
• 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 TFM160Section1 in the subject line of your email. Emails without TFM160Section1 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 assistants.
• All other classroom related issues must be emailed to Sam Shpigelman.

Weekly Lecture Topics and Film List:

Lecture 1 ........................................... Film Making Process: From Start to Finish (Within a Minute: StarWars III) 01-27-2014

Lecture 2 ........................................... Styles of Film: From Realism to Formalism: Part I (2001: A Space Odyssey) 02-03-2014

Lecture 3 ........................................... Styles of Film: From Realism to Formalism: Part II (The Cell) 02-10-2014

Lecture 4 ........................................... Visual Design: Mise En Scene (Casino Royale) 02-17-2014

Lecture 5 ........................................... Movement and Kinematics (Snatch) 02-24-2014

Lecture 9 ........................................... Film Editing (….) 03-03-2014

Lecture 7 ........................................... Watching Pre-Midterm Film (to be announced) 03-10-2014

Lecture 8 ........................................... Midterm Examination (No Class – Students are Taking Online Test) 03-17-2014

Lecture 9 ........................................... Sound (Black Hawk Down) 03-24-2014

Lecture 10 (No Class – Spring Break) ........................................... Acting (Black Swan) 03-31-14

Lecture 11 ........................................... Drama (Cloud Atlas)
04-07-2014

Lecture 12 ........................................................................................................... Critique (Melena)
04-14-2014

Lecture 13 ........................................................................................................... Visual FX (to be announced)
04-21-2014

Lecture 14 ........................................................................................................... Animation as Technology & Entertainment (Spirited Away)
04-28-2014

Lecture 15 ........................................................................................................... Watching Pre-Final Film (to be announced)
05-05-2014

Lecture 16 ........................................................................................................... Final Examination (No Class - Students are Taking Online Test)
05-12-2014