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

Instructor: Sam Shpigelman
Contact Info: sshigel@mail.sdsu.edu
Course Title: Introduction to Cinema
Session/Year: Fall 2015
Course Code: TFM160
Day: Mondays
Time: 4:00PM

Teacher Assistants: Caroline Andrew cjlandrew@gmail.com
Kimberly King kimmyking155@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 talking and/or texting
during films. I will remind the class to be silent and turn off electronic devices before the film,
but if you are found talking or texting after that, you will be asked to leave class for the day.
Talking and 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:
Louis Giannetti, Understanding Movies, (Custom Edition for San Diego State University / Sam
**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>
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<tr>
<td>87 % and Less Than 90%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84 % and Less Than 87%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 % and Less Than 84%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 % and Less Than 80%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74 % and Less Than 77%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 % and Less Than 74%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>67 % and Less Than 70%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>64 % and Less Than 67%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>60 % and Less Than 64%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Than 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Process for Evaluation:**
- Test 1: 20 points
- Test 2: 20 points
- Quiz 1: 10 points
- Quiz 2: 10 points
- Quiz 3: 10 points
- Quiz 4: 10 points
- Quiz 5: 10 points
- Quiz 6: 10 points
- Quiz 7: 10 points
- Quiz 8: 10 points
- Quiz 9: 10 points

Total Possible: 130 points
I will offer an additional Quiz 10 as Extra Credit: 10 points

**Student Evaluation/Grading Policies:**
- All points are weighted equally
- Midterm and Final Tests will be given in accordance with the Weekly Class Schedule
• Quizzes will be given at random.

**Scantron**
• Each student must bring two appropriate blank scantrons and two #2 pencils to every class.
• Each student must properly fill out his or her scantrons. First Name, Last Name, Red ID number, Class Name and Number, Section Number, Date must be clearly written on every scantron. If any of this information is unclear or missing, the student will receive “0” points for that assignment.
• Answers must be clearly marked.
• Graded scantrons will NOT be returned to students.

**General Assignment Submission Policies**
• All Tests and Quizzes will be given in Class (Scantron Style)
• Students must bring two appropriate blank scantrons and two #2 pencils to every class.
• Midterm and Final Tests will be given in accordance with the Weekly Class Schedule
• Quizzes will be given in class at random.
• All students must be absolutely silent during examination.
• All Tests and Quizzes require individual effort.
• Students are not allowed to share answers.
• Cheating will not be tolerated.
• Violators will receive a grade “F” for that assignment, a referral to Judicial Procedures and the possibility of failure in the course, and possible expulsion from the University.

**No Makeup Policy**
• Students will not be able to makeup missed tests or quizzes.
• Exception 1: Students with valid medical excuse will be allowed to make up no more then one missed assignment. You must email a copy of a valid medical document to your professor for validation.
• Exception 2: Student athletes with valid travel/game excuse will be allowed to makeup no more then one missed assignment. You must email a copy of an official travel letter or letter of excuse signed by your coach to your professor for validation.

**Attendance Policy:**
• Students must arrive on time.
• Students must be present for the entire duration of every class.

**Classroom Policy:**
• Students are expected to be respectful to the instructor and their classmates.
• No food allowed in class at any time.
• Edible items brought to class or lab must be thrown out.
• Water in closed containers is allowed.
• 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 TFM160Section (YOUR SECTION NUMBER) in the subject line of your email. Emails without TFM160Section1 in the subject line may not be answered in timely fashion or at all.
• Test and Quiz related issues must be emailed to TA’s and resolved within two weeks of the disputed assignment.
• All other classroom related issues must be emailed to Professor.

Weekly Class Schedule:
Lecture1 ......................... Film Making Process: From Start to Finish (Within a Minute: StarWars III) 8-24-2015


No Class................................................................. Labor Day 9-7-2015

Lecture3 ................................. Photography: From Realism to Formalism: Part II (The Cell) 9-14-2015

Lecture4 ................................................. Visual Design: Mise En Scene (Casino Royale) 9-21-2015

Lecture5 ............................................. Movement and Kinematics (Moulin Rouge) 9-28-2015

Lecture6 ......................................................... Film Editing (Snatch) 10-5-2015

Lecture7 ............................................... Watching Pre-Midterm Film (to be announced) 10-12-2015

Lecture8 ......................................................... Midterm Examination 10-19-2015

Lecture9 ......................................................... Sound (Rush) 10-26-2015

Lecture10 .................................................... Acting (Django) 11-2-2015

Lecture11 ....................................................... Visual FX Part I (Oblivion)
11-9-2015

Lecture12 ............... Visual FX Part II (Documentary: Moments that Change the Movies - Jurassic Park)
11-16-2015

Lecture13 .................................. Animation as Technology & Entertainment (Various Films)
11-23-2015

Lecture14 .................................. Extra Credit Quiz 10 / Watching Pre-Final Film (to be announced)
11-30-2015

Lecture15 .......................................................... Final Examination
12-07-2015