TFM 160: CINEMA AS ART AND COMMUNICATION
Section 1, Spring 2017

Classroom & Meetings: AL-201, 3:30-6:10 pm Mondays
Instructor: Stuart Voytilla
Office/Hours: DA-203, Mondays and Tuesdays 10-11:30 am, and by appointment
Contact: SVoytilla@mail.sdsu.edu / 1-619-594-1375
TFM 160 GAs: Jiarui Bai, Tamara Popovic, Kimberly King

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.

Required Text: Barsam and Monahan, Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film, (5th Edition). (in Bookstore)

Required Online Content: For student success in this course, two online sources are required:

1. Looking at Movies Student Web Resources (through our Blackboard). The Required Text includes access to ebook and Student Website for online Tutorials, Short Films, Study Guides and more, provided by the publisher and accessible through our Blackboard course. Student use of these valuable sources is essential for success in this course. Access is included with the purchase price of new textbooks; use the reg card and access code included with your textbook.

Students purchasing used copies or renting the text can purchase the access code through the publisher. The link is available through our Blackboard course.

2. CourseKey (through www.thecoursekey.com). CourseKey is a classroom engagement software designed to increase lecture interaction and facilitate peer-2-peer learning. CourseKey allows your instructor to ask questions, take polls, give quizzes, and get feedback from you during class. CourseKey is a bring-your-own-device system, which means that you can use any web-enabled device (laptops, tablets, smart-phones) to participate. It combines features that help the professor more efficiently manage the class and allows students to connect more effectively inside and outside of class. Instructions/links to create and register your account are posted on Blackboard.

Course Goals: Film is an entertainment and art form that has directly influenced the life and culture of virtually every person in this country, but rarely do we pay attention to that influence. In this course we will study movies rather than just watch them. We will learn how to deconstruct and examine movies based on their formative elements (narrative, mise-en-scène, cinematography, etc.), to better understand the power of cinematic language and its impact on the viewer. We will look at how movies 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, with the course readings and Blackboard explorations, exemplify the various topics we study. After taking this course you will most likely watch films differently for the rest of your life.

Course Learning Objectives:
• to identify and understand the defining characteristics that distinguish movies from other forms of art
• to discern and examine the formative elements of film and to explain how cinematic language, its techniques and concepts, connect the audience to story while deliberately concealing the means by which it does so
• to distinguish between formal analysis and the types of analysis that explore the relationship between culture and the movies
• to describe how movies are produced and marketed and the key roles of the people who make movies
• to evaluate movies more analytically and perceptively, and to cultivate an appreciation of the difference between passively watching movies and actively looking at movies
Assignments:
1) Exams: 3 Exams (multiple choice & true/false) covering the course material including reading assignments, Looking at Movies online tutorials, Lectures, Class Screenings. Exams require Red ParScore Form (F-289-PAR-L; “Thin”/half-page form). Make-up tests only given for academically excused absences.
2) Class Attendance: Class attendance is essential for student success in this course. Students earn attendance points through the CourseKey web source. Classes begin promptly at 3:30 pm, and students log in to CourseKey before 3:40 pm for attendance credit. Attendance is tracked again later in the same class session; these are unscheduled and at the discretion of the instructor. Attendance points cannot be made up.
3) Class Participation: Class Participation is based on in-class discussions, and CourseKey “assessments” and written “flash” responses to class screenings. These are unscheduled and will not be pre-announced. These assessments and responses cannot be made up except for academically excused absences.
4) Blog Project: Students are required to create/maintain a personal blog (within our Blackboard course). Blog entries will be based upon two (2) instructor prompts presented during the course of the semester. Specific guidelines will be posted on Blackboard. To complete each Blog prompt, students are required to post a personal blog and post a response to a peer’s blog. Your blogs should be thoughtful, well-written and reflect your understanding of the topic and course material, and your engagement with the media text(s) presented in class. You are free to use any resource you like but please cite your sources; do not plagiarize (even a peer’s work), as it is grounds for failing this course. Please proofread your work for grammar and spelling. Responses will be graded based on content and on form.

Percentage Distribution and Grading Process:
Grading is based on percentages weighted on the course activities, and broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation (in-class responses)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Your final grades are based on the following Course Grading Scale:

- 94-100% yields an A
- 90-93% an A-
- 88-89% a B+
- 84-87% a B
- 80-83% a B-
- 78-79% a C+
- 74-77% a C
- 70-73% a C-
- 68-69% a D+
- 64-67% a D
- 60-63% a D-
- 0-59% an F

If Credit/No Credit is selected:
- 70-100% earns “Credit”
- 0-69% earns “No Credit”

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.
Contacting the Instructor: If there is a question (not answered by this syllabus), email the instructor at svoytilla@mail.sdsu.edu. If the email requires a detailed response, visit the instructor during office hours (or arrange an appointment outside office hours). Allow 24 hours for email responses from the instructor during weekdays (allow 48 hours for emails sent over the weekend). When emailing instructor, you must include the course name and section in the subject heading.

CourseKey Technical Support: Should you require assistance with CourseKey at any time, CourseKey will likely require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues. Please contact THEIR Support Team directly by way of email (support@coursekey.com) or by using any of the tools found in the app itself under the “Support” button.

Improper Behavior: Cheating on exams, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are completely unacceptable. The first incident will cause the student to fail that assignment. A second incident will cause the student to receive a failing grade for the entire course. All cheating will be reported to the dean of student affairs. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If you are removed from the classroom, the incident will be reported and I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

Technology in Class: Please set Cell Phones to silent mode before each class. Aside from CourseKey participation, do not text during class, especially during screenings. Using laptops during class screenings is also unacceptable. Whether it is a laptop or a cell phone, glowing screens all over the room are simply too distracting for your classmates. Please, no talking during screenings. Students unable to follow these guidelines may be asked to leave the class session.

Film Screenings: Because of the course objectives, film screenings are given the same weight as required textbooks. If you miss a screening, it’s your responsibility to view the film on your own. Although in-class writing responses cannot be made up, the questions will be available for review as the material and details of the film may be covered on exams.

Important note: Some of the films screened in this class are rated R or unrated, and contain subject matter that some may find objectionable (including violence, language, nudity, sexuality, stereotyping, gender bashing, heretical thought and action.) If you have a problem viewing this type of material, please see me.
TFM 160: Course Schedule
Section 1, Spring 2017

This list is subject to change. Reading assignments are from the Required Text, *Looking at Movies* (5th Edition), and companion student web sources available through our Blackboard classroom.

Assignments are due for class for that designated week. For example, Week 4 (2/13) Reading/Online BB Explorations are due for class on February 13.

**Week 1: (1/23)** Welcome! What is cinematic language?
*Case Studies:* *Juno* (2007) 96 min; Pixar

**Week 2: (1/30)** What are the principles of film form?
*Case Study:* *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004) 108 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 1 “Looking at Movies”, Ch. 2 “Principles of Film Form”

**Week 3: (2/6)** Documentary and Experimentation
*Case Study:* Selections
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 3 “Types of Movies”

**Week 4: (2/13)** Movie Genre: The Western
*Case Study:* *Unforgiven* (1992) 131 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 11 “Filmmaking Technologies and Production Systems”
*BLOG PROMPT #1 DUE (Guidelines posted on Blackboard)*

**Week 5: (2/20)** Exam #1
*Case Study:* *Singin’ in the Rain* (1952) 103 min
**Prepare for Exam:** Use Exam #1 Study Guide posted on Blackboard. Exam #1 (T/F, Multiple Choice) covers Weeks 1-4 Class Explorations, including Lectures, Class Screenings, and Reading Assignments Chapters 1-3, 11 (*Looking at Movies* with online BB Explorations). Bring Parscore Red Form and #2 Pencil.

**Week 6: (2/27)** Animation and Narrative
*Case Study:* *Spirited Away* (2001) 125 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 4 “Elements of Narrative”

**Week 7: (3/6)** Mise-en-Scène
*Case Study:* *Rear Window* (1954) 112 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 5 “Mise-en-Scène”

**Week 8: (3/13)** Cinematography
*Case Study:* *Fargo* (1996)
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 6 “Cinematography”
Week 9: (3/20) Acting
Case Study: The Silence of the Lambs (1991) 118 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 7 “Acting”

SPRING BREAK (3/27-3/31) NO CLASS

Week 10: (4/3) Exam #2
Case Study: Fruitvale Station (2013) 85 min
Prepare for Exam: Use Exam #2 Study Guide posted on Blackboard. Exam #2 (T/F, Multiple Choice) covers Weeks 5-9 Class Explorations, including Lectures, Class Screenings, and Reading Assignments Chapters 4-7 (Looking at Movies with online BB Explorations). Bring Parscore Red Form and #2 Pencil.

Week 11: (4/10) Editing
Case Study: City of God (2002) 130 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 8 “Editing”
BLOG PROMPT #2 DUE (Guidelines posted on Blackboard)

Week 12: (4/17) Sound
Case Study: Mad Max: Fury Road (2015) 120 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 9 “Sound”

Week 13: (4/24) Bringing it Together: The Studio Era
Case Study: Citizen Kane (1941) 119 min
Reading/Online BB Explorations Due: Ch. 10 “Film History”

Week 14: (5/1) Bringing it Together: Independent Filmmaking; Review for Final Exam
Case Study: Me and Earl and the Dying Girl (2015) 105 min

“Final” Exam (Exam #3): Monday, May 8, 4-6 pm (Take careful note of start time!)
Prepare for Exam: Use Exam #3 Study Guide posted on Blackboard. Exam 3 (T/F, Multiple Choice) covers Weeks 10-15 Class Explorations, including Lectures, Class Screenings, and Reading Assignments Chapters 8-10 (Looking at Movies with online BB Explorations). Bring Parscore Red Form and #2 Pencil.