

Film Appreciation

Syllabus for Mr. Fancher

Course Description:

This one-semester course is intended for students interested in gaining an in-depth knowledge of film and film history along with developing the skills necessary for critiquing those films. Upperclassmen enrolled in the class would be introduced to a variety of theatrical experiences and film aesthetics. The course will be a survey of the history of film, various film genres, and the impact of film on society and in turn the use of film as commentary on society. The course will require students to analyze and write about various films and techniques used in making those films. This course does not count as a required English credit.

Class Materials: Blue or Black Pen and Paper

Course Projects/Requirements:

Students can expect quizzes on any lecture materials and notes delivered in class. Class participation via class discussion is essential for the class and will serve as a major component of the final grade in the course. The instructor will make every effort to ensure that any required viewing of films or film clips at home will be of easily accessed material (hopefully free and/or online). A field trip to the Crescent Theater is planned and a written assignment based on the trip will be given. Students will be required to write an essay on a film using analysis techniques developed in the course.

Class Grading System:

Assignments/grades will fall into one of three categories.

1. Class participation: Active involvement of in class discussions and/or online discussion is expected. Sleeping in class, disrupting class, or failing to participate will result in a loss of points.
2. Weekly grades: quizzes and smaller written assignments
3. Major grades: Essays and larger projects

Please refer to Student Handbook for make-up work and grading scale.

Course Outline (Tentative): See attached

Course Outline

I. Introduction to Film

- A. What is film?
- B. Basic terminology
 - 1. Who does what: knowing a gaffer from a grip
 - 2. Author/auteur
 - 3. Mise-en-scene
 - 4. Cuts, shots, framing, and more
- C. The Process-From page to screen
- D. The purpose
- E. Film Structure

II. Film History

- A. Early origins
- B. Major movements
 - 1. Moving Pictures
 - 2. Narrative Film
 - 3. Talkies
 - 4. Color
- C. Major Contributors to the Art

III. Genre

- A. Identifying major genres
- B. Conventions of various genres

IV. Screenwriting

- A. The process
- B. The rules
- C. Examine samples

V. Influence

- A. Film as commentary
- B. Film's influence
- C. Homage: allusion within film

VI. Analysis

Fun Fact: This font, Courier, is the standard font for all screenplays.