



****CORRECTED****

Media 15: Course Syllabus for Modern Film History Units: 4
Full Title: Modern Film History Course Hours per week: 4
Grading: GC Credit Course for grade or CR/NC Weeks: 17
Repeatability: One Repeat if Grade was D, F, or NC Class Times: Tues 1:30-5:30
Section: 4277 Location: PC 310
Instructor: Nick Hoffman
Contact information: nhoffman@santarosa.edu
707.508.7298
Office Hours and Location: Before class, After class and by
arrangement
Arrange visit with me
Cafeteria

Course Description

From the Catalog: A survey of international film history from the 1950s to the present with emphasis on the New Waves and the New Hollywood. The course will also cover the historical evolution of the narrative form, as well as development of formal devices such as shot, mise-en-scene, editing, and sound design.

From the Instructor: As one of the few art forms that nearly all of us have direct experience with on a near daily basis, it seems natural for an educated person to acquire some understanding of the history of film. Understanding film history requires a study of technology, culture, the development of film as an art form, an appreciation of where film fits in the scope of social history, the evolution of film as an economic force and how films and film analysis from a given country can influence the development of the whole of film art.

Learning Objectives

The student will:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of American and international film history from the 1950s to the present.
2. Recognize and distinguish films according to the period in which they were produced.
3. Examine the evolving art of the motion picture in social, cultural, artistic, technological, and economic contexts.
4. Evaluate the contributions of significant historical movements and filmmakers in shaping the history of motion pictures.
5. Relate the transformation of film technology to the evolution of film form, with particular attention to narrative and aesthetic developments.

Grading:

Writing Assignments	60%	3 essays worth 100+200+300
Objective Examinations	30%	3 exams worth 100 points each
Participation & Attendance	<u>10%</u>	<u>worth 100 points total</u>
	100%	1000 points total

Through essays on films and film topics, the writing assignments will demonstrate the students' understanding of the lectures and discussions. The exams will ask the student to demonstrate knowledge of terms and topics via multiple choice, and true/false.

Participation will be a demonstration of the student's willingness to share knowledge of the topics with his/her fellow students as well as a willingness to actively listen to other students' perspectives and engage one another in active discussion.

Santa Rosa Junior College has a pretty clear policy on attendance: "...a student is expected to attend all sessions of each class in which he/she is enrolled." It should also be noted that my lectures come from my notes, which is the same place I pull many of the questions for the exam, as such; students that need to miss a class should have a very serious reason to do so. Unless your reason was an unexpected emergency, you need to clear any missed classes with the instructor **before** you miss the class. **GET NOTES FROM YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES.**

Three Papers will be assigned during the course of the semester. 60% of your grade comes from the points you earn on these three papers. All three will require critical analysis of a given topic, the first will be due at the end of the third week, the second will be due about half way through the semester and the third will be turned in on the last day of class. More details will be given when the papers are assigned. Stay tuned.

"I need an A or a B in this class for my major...to transfer...to keep my funding for school...etc. etc. etc." Unfortunately, this is a sentence I usually hear near the end of the course when the student is panicking about grades, and hasn't taken advantage of any extra credit options or my assistance on papers. Please, take time **NOW** to seek out opportunities to do well in this course; don't wait until the day before the final to say the above sentence to me. I care, but there is only so much we can do once the class is nearly over.

On that note... Extra credit is a possibility. I believe that not all people are built for exams, information recall under test conditions make some people forget even the most basic of facts. With this in mind I allow students to rewrite their incorrect answers following tests and turn them in for half credit. These rewrites need to be **typed** and in **sentences that reflect both the correct answer as well as the question itself.** By doing this, even if you missed the answer on the exam, I can be sure that you have ultimately had exposure to the info, which is the whole point of taking the class in the first place.

A couple of key points on these rewrites... **They are due the week after I hand the exam back to the class. If you are going to miss the class session when I am passing back exams, make arrangements with me to give your exam to somebody else in the**

class to get to you, or make arrangements to meet me to get your exam. Once the week has come and gone, we are moving on.

The College has asked me to include some items in my syllabus...here are those items:

Emergency Evacuation Plan

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Our class will meet in the parking closest to the building to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located in Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

Course Outline

Please note... Items on this outline are subject to change

Week One (January 23rd)

Syllabus Review, Greetings and Salutations

Topic: Hollywood In Transition: 1946-65

Viewing: *The Searchers*

Week Two (January 30th)

Topic: Neorealism & The Romantics

Viewing: *Bicycle Thief*

Week Three (February 6th)

Topic: The New Wave

Viewing: *400 Blows*

Essay 1 assigned (due February 20th)

Week Four (February 13th)

Topic: Nat'l Cinemas 1945- (Sweden, Denmark, England, Cen & Eastern Europe)

Viewing: *Hard Days Night*

Exam One

Week Five (February 20th)

Topic: National Cinemas 1945- (Asia)

Viewing: *Rashomon*

Essay 1 Due

Week Six (February 27th)

Topic: Hollywood Renaissance: 1964-76 Part One

Viewing: *American Graffiti*

Essay Two Assigned (Due March 27th)

Week Seven (March 6th)

Topic: Hollywood Renaissance: 1964-76 Part Two

Viewing: *Mean Streets*

Week Eight (March 13th)

Topic National Cinemas 2: 1968- (Germany and Third World)

Viewing: *Grizzly Man*

****March 19th through 25th Spring Break****

Week Nine (March 27th)

Topic National Cinemas 2: 1968- (Other English Language Cinema, Iran, etc.)

Viewing: *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*

Essay Two Due

Week Ten (April 3rd)

Topic: Independent Cinema/ Sundance

Viewing: *Pulp Fiction*

Week Eleven (April 10th)

Topic: Documentaries

Viewing: *I Am Not Your Negro*

Exam Two

Week Twelve (April 17th)

Topic: The Return of the Myths 1977-

Viewing: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Week Thirteen (April 24th)

Topic: The Return of the Myths 1977-

Viewing: *Princess Bride*

Final Essay Assigned (Due May 15th)

Week Fourteen (May 1st)

Topic: Conglomerates and Video 1975 –

Viewing: *Rainman*

Week Fifteen (May 8th)

Topic: Digital Cinema 1999 –

Viewing: *District 9*

Week Sixteen (May 15th)

Topic: Pixar

Viewing: *Pixar Story*

Final Essay Due

Final Exam is:

Grade Tracking Sheet

Item	Points Possible	Your Points	Running Total
Essay #1	100		/100
Exam #1	100		/200
Essay #2	200		/400
Exam #2	100		/500
Essay #3	300		/800
Final Exam	100		/900
Participation	100		/1000
Extra Points	Variable		/1000
Total	1000		/1000
Final Grade based on % of the total possible			

Grades are *loosely* broken down as follows:

900 to 1000 points:	A	(90% and above)
800 to 899 points:	B	(80% to 89%)
700 to 799 points:	C	(70% to 79%)
600 to 699 points:	D	(60% to 69%)
599 and below:	F	(59% and below)