

# MEDIA 10

## CINEMA SERIES

# SYLLABUS

**ELLIS AUDITORIUM**

**W 6:00PM-10:00PM**

Welcome to the Cinema Series, a unique opportunity to learn about cinema in an interdisciplinary, cinemathèque-style environment open to the general public! Throughout the term we will invite a variety of special guests to enrich your understanding of the films in the series. The films will be preceded by formal introductions and followed by public discussions. You are welcome and encouraged to bring guests throughout the term! This is not a traditional class, therefore it is important for you to review the course assignments and due dates carefully to ensure that you fulfill all the requirements to earn the grade you desire. We want the Cinema Series to be both entertaining and enlightening for students and community alike. Welcome to our college film club!

**INSTRUCTOR:** Alex Pirolini | **Email:** [apirolini@santarosa.edu](mailto:apirolini@santarosa.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** T (5:30-7:30pm), W (3-5pm) **PC 674**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will introduce students to one of the most powerful cultural and social communications media of our time: cinema. The successful student will become more aware of the complexity of film art, more sensitive to its nuances, textures, and rhythms, and more perceptive in “reading” its multilayered blend of image, sound, and motion. The films, texts, and classroom materials will cover a broad range of domestic, independent, and international cinema, making students aware of the culture, politics, and social history of the periods in which the films were produced.

### **RECOMMENDED PREPARATION**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent.

### **REQUIRED ITEMS**

- iClicker
- Students are expected to join Associated Student Programs (\$15) in lieu of a course materials fee. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Reading assignments will be available for free online.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of the course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Analyze motion pictures utilizing precise film vocabulary.
2. Distinguish among the various phases of motion picture production.
3. Differentiate among multiple film forms, narratives, and genres.
4. Appraise films and filmmakers in terms of style and mise-en-scene.
5. Evaluate a diverse range of international cinema in both a historical and cultural context.
6. Examine motion pictures as a technology, business, cultural product, entertainment medium, and industrial art form.

## GRADES

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS	PTS POSSIBLE	% of grade
Online discussion	64	17
Quizzes	66	17
Film Fest Review	25	6
Auteur worksheet/Storyboard	15	4
Peer critiques	15	4
Auteur Project	85	22
Final exam	60	16
Participation and discussion	55	14

Total: 385 points

### **Your final letter grade will be calculated according to the following:**

A = 345

B = 307

C = 268

D = 230

F = less than 230

## FILMS

All the films screened in class and recommended in the syllabus have been carefully selected for their artistic value because they provide fitting examples of movements and trends in world cinema. As every student, with no exception, will be required to watch every movie, it is important that you understand that some of the movies in class may be rated R or unrated. Students who will not tolerate scenes involving adult content, such as nudity, sexuality, violence, or coarse language are strongly advised to enroll in a different class.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is expected every day and will be recorded with the iClicker. It is your responsibility to have your iClicker in class every day with working batteries. No special accommodations will be made for broken, lost, or forgotten devices. Absences will result in lower participation grades. Students are allowed to miss one class period without penalty. A student arriving late or leaving early will only receive partial credit for the class session. Students are responsible for all lecture material presented in class regardless of attendance. According to SRJC District Policy, if you miss more than 10% of the total hours that the class meets (2 weeks), you may be dropped from the course. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency develops that prevents attendance in class. Cellular phones & other mobile devices must be turned off when in class. Students should not be text messaging or web surfing during class time! No hot food in the auditorium.

## CLASS PARTICIPATION AND DISCUSSION

It is important that you make an effort to be an active participant in the class. It is strongly recommended that you take notes on the films for use in discussions. All students are expected to contribute orally. It is customary to state your first name before making comments in the theatre. In addition to participating in the post-screening discussions, you are encouraged to communicate via email and visit me during office hours, as well as introduce yourself during breaks before and after the screenings. iClicker participation and the quality and frequency of your oral comments will determine your participation grade.

## **DISCUSSION POSTS**

Online discussion boards will be created for all of the films in our series. Each student will be expected to participate in at least eight of these online discussions. You will receive 1-8 points for a thoughtful, well written, high quality post. A high quality post integrates information from the course materials or another valid source and/or applies course vocabulary and concepts in a meaningful way. Students should strive to earn at least 64 discussion points over the term. Students exceeding the 64 points will earn extra credit. Discussion posts should be made by the Monday following our class screening. Check the Discussion Forum regularly to create a dialogue on the films. If someone replies to your work, or someone else's post inspires you, take the time to engage. Enhance posts with images, media clips, and active hyperlinks. If you are earning less than 6 points on a post, consult with a TA or the instructor on how to improve your scores.

## **FINAL PROJECT**

Each student will utilize their newly acquired knowledge of film form to either (1) perform an **auteur critique** on a major filmmaker or (2) create a 90-second **short film** based on a predetermined treatment. Additionally, students will peer critique each other's work. Detailed instructions on each of the assignments will be posted in the Assignments section.

## **QUIZZES AND THE FINAL EXAM**

Quizzes and exams will be skills-based tests requiring students to recognize and interpret many of the cinematic techniques that are presented throughout the semester. Quizzes and exams may not be made up. Quizzes and exams must be taken during the scheduled times unless advance arrangements are made.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocol, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts that are prohibited by the instructor of record.

A student who plagiarizes an assignment, in part or in full, will receive no credit for the assignment. A second offense will result in failure of the course. Plagiarism – from the Latin word for “kidnap” – involves using another's work without giving proper credit, whether done accidentally or on purpose. This includes not only words and ideas, but also graphs, artwork, music, maps, statistics, diagrams, scientific data, software, films, videos, and the like. Plagiarism is plagiarism whether the material is from published or unpublished sources. It does not matter whether ideas are stolen, bought, downloaded from the Internet, or written for the student by someone else – it is still plagiarism. Even if only bits and pieces of other sources are used, or outside sources reworded, they must still be cited. To avoid problems, students should cite all sources and check with the instructor before submitting an assignment or project. Students are always responsible for any plagiarism in their work.

## **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

If you need disability related accommodation 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.

Except under unusual circumstances, the guidelines in the syllabus will not change. If any changes are necessary, all changes will be communicated in writing as an addendum to the syllabus.