

MEDIA 14

EARLY FILM HISTORY

SYLLABUS

ELLIS AUDITORIUM

T 1:30PM-5:30PM

A survey of international film history from pre-cinema machines to the 1950s, with emphasis upon D.W. Griffith, German Expressionism, Soviet Montage, film genres, and the Hollywood Studio System. The course will also cover the historical evolution of the narrative form and formal devices such as the shot, mise-en-scene, editing, and sound design.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Differentiate among the various movements in international film history through the 1950s.
2. Evaluate the impact of historical movements, social and cultural trends, and new technologies on the development of motion pictures.

INSTRUCTOR: Alex Pirolini | **Email:** apirolini@santarosa.edu

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

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent. Be realistic about your skill levels and seek help when you need it. Bring drafts of your work by my office for consultation.

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

The list of homework and reading assignments will be published on Canvas after every class and must be completed before the following meeting—i.e., by 1:30 PM. Students are responsible for all lecture material regardless of attendance, internet connection, or computer issues. If you are unable to view or download the readings, you should send an email to your instructor immediately. You'll be evaluated through:

Online discussions

Quizzes

Paper workshops

Two exams

Participation and discussion

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Attendance and participation: **20%**

Midterm: **20%**

Final Exam: **20%**

Papers: **20%**

Homework Assignments: **20%**

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.

HOMEWORK AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

The list of homework and reading assignments will be published on Canvas after every class and must be completed before the following meeting—i.e., by 1:30 PM. Students are responsible for all lecture material regardless of attendance, internet connection, or computer issues. If you are unable to view or download the readings, you should send an email to your instructor immediately.

EXAMS

The **Midterm** will take place on **Oct 9** and the **Final exam** on **Nov 27**. Both exams are cumulative and include multiple choice questions about clips, films, reading assignments, lectures, and discussions. They will be taken at the beginning of class on the aforementioned dates. If you're late to class you will NOT be able to take the exam at a later time. See the paragraph **Excused Absences** for more information.

Answer sheets will be provided—you don't need to bring any Scantron form.

PAPERS

Students must submit the equivalent of TWO papers—i.e., a series of short exercises and film analyses assigned throughout the semester with the following goals:

- Gather information
- Evaluate sources
- Organize and synthesize data
- Form ideas and cohesive thoughts
- Create a polished, finished product
- Cite where you got your information

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.