



THEA 1023

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Theater Arts

Course: THEA 1023

Title: Introduction to Film

Catalog Description:

An introduction to the elements of film, this course is designed to develop an appreciation and understanding of film as an art form. The class explores film criticism, film history, and film making techniques through discussion and examination of historical and contemporary film.

General Education Requirements: Fine Arts

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Justification:

Since film may be the only new art form of the 20th century, and probably the most popular, an understanding of the aesthetics of film is important to aid students in evaluating life through art. This course will assist students in evaluating film by developing a critical eye based on the elements of film. This course meets the Fine Arts requirements for General Education at Snow College and is a common course number at other public colleges in Utah.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will

- be able to critically analyze film
- know the terms of film criticism and film production
- appreciate and evaluate the artistic quality of film based on a sound knowledge of the elements of film

Content:

The following topics will be covered in this course:

- A brief history of motion pictures
- Photography and composition
- Mise en scene: creating the image in the frame
- Movement in film
- The art of editing
- The importance of sound

- Screen acting
- Screen writing
- Narration: Telling the story
- The documentary film
- Film genres
- Film theory (Realism, Formalism, Auteurism, etc.)
- Film criticism: Writing and responding to movies
- Film production: A film from beginning to completion
- Literature and film

Students will read information on the above topics, view a film which focuses on each of these topics, discuss and evaluate the film in the context of the topics.

Students will write two film reviews and two essays.

Students will create a group presentation of one volume of *The American Cinema Series* series, and a group project in film production.

Students will participate in field trips to a local theater in Ephraim, to a film location somewhere in Utah to observe film production, and participate in a group discussion with professional film critics during the field trip.

Students will read a selected novel or work of fiction before viewing the film based on the literature, followed with a discussion and a written evaluation comparing the two art forms.

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read a textbook and are given weekly reading quizzes. Students watch films based on novels, then read one of these novels. Afterwards, they write a comparison/contrast paper that demonstrates they understand the concepts presented in their textbooks as they apply to the different qualities of literature and film.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students will write two essays and two film reviews, which will be returned with suggestions for improving student writing.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Class discussions will focus on the influence of film on American culture, on film history as a reflection of culture, and on the ideology of film.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Evaluation and appreciation of the artistic merits of film, based on the elements of film, is a central theme of this course. Students will also create and present to the class a short film, practicing the production techniques and elements of film discussed and studied in the class.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Reading quizzes: 15-25%

- Midterm and final exam: 28-35%
- Film analyses: 5-10%
- Comparison/contrast paper: 15-20%
- *American Cinema* screenings: 8-10%
- Short film: 13-20%

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Course texts: Gianetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. New York: Prentice Hall, (current edition).

A novel that has been adapted to film.

Examples:

- Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.
- Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*.

Optimum Class Size: 35

Maximum Class Size: 40

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

’ ’

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Theater Arts Department:

Kim Christison, PhD, Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)