

Fall 2019

HSS 403-103: Introduction to Film

Rodney Reyes

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	<u>Syllabus HSS 403 - LIT SEM: INTRODUCTION TO FILM</u>
	<u>Instructor: Rodney Reyes</u>
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Office Hours:	Kupfrian Hall 133, Thursdays from 4-5pm, Fridays (by appointment)
Prerequisites:	All Lower Division and 300 level Humanities GUR requirements. Can take the 300 level HUM/LIT/HIST/PHIL during the same semester.
Required readings:	MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Joseph Gibaldi, Modern Language Association, 6th ed., 2003 (Either this manual or the APA manual is required for the course.)
	There will be no books assigned. However, you will be required to watch the films assigned. All the films assigned are available for rental off of iTunes, Amazon, Youtube or Netflix.
Technical Requirements:	A VIMEO account is required for this course. It is similar to YouTube. You will create a free account on http://vimeo.com which will enable you to upload your Visual Exercises for viewing.
	A Smartphone or Digital Camera that records HD VIDEO is required. Visual Exercise assignments require the ability to record video. Minimum editing knowledge is preferred.
Course Objective:	This is a class on the art of film and its roles in culture and exploring its relationship to our world. We will explore film on a craft level and its disciplines as an art form through analysis and critique. This is a class for those who want to know more about film through a variety of films from different genres throughout the decades. Students will also conduct research on a topic; as appropriate and formulate a critical argument related to film and its influence.
Course Goals:	Learn basic film vocabulary such as montage, mis-en-scene, various camera shots, cinematic conventions. Grasp on filmmaking through visual exercises to understand the basic theory regarding the camera's role in shaping the viewer's perception. Understanding on the purpose and function of film.
Method of Instruction:	Watch films and videos. Lecture and class discussion. Small group work. Student presentation. Library work. Quizzes and final presentations.
Attendance is mandatory	Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence. After that, each absence lowers the FINAL grade one letter grade. Three (3) absences—excused or otherwise—will result in failure for the course. An excused absence simply means that the student's missed quiz will not count against them, it's still an absence.
Policies:	No Cell phone use, including texting, during class. No Internet surfing in class. No late assignments will be accepted. No late quizzes given.
WEEK ONE	SEPT 3: INTRODUCTION OF CLASS AND SYLLABUS DISCUSSION
WEEK TWO	SEPT 10: CITIZEN KANE DISCUSSION (Quiz);
WEEK THREE	SEPT 17: SHANE/THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY DISCUSSION (Quiz);
WEEK FOUR	SEPT 24: VISUAL EXERCISES #1 PRESENTATION;

WEEK FIVE	OCT 1: CASABLANCA DISCUSSION (Quiz);
WEEK SIX	OCT 8: BLADE RUNNER DISCUSSION (Quiz);
WEEK SEVEN	OCT 15: VISUAL EXERCISE #2 PRESENTATION
WEEK EIGHT	OCT 22: THE RED BALLOON DISCUSSION (Quiz);
WEEK NINE	OCT 29: GOODFELLAS DISCUSSION (Quiz);
WEEK TEN	NOV 5: PULP FICTION DISCUSSION (Quiz); * VISUAL EXERCISE #3 DUE
WEEK ELEVEN	NOV 12: THE ROYAL TENEMBAUMS DISCUSSION (Quiz); *Research Paper Draft DUE
WEEK TWELVE	NOV 19: FISTS OF LOVE - (Independent Feature Film)/HER DISCUSSION (Quiz); Adaptation Paper DUE
WEEK THIRTEEN	NOV 26: NO CLASSES
WEEK FOURTEEN	DEC 3: THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO (Quiz);
WEEK FIFTEEN	DEC 10: FINAL GROUP PRESENTATIONS: SHORT FILM; *Final Research Paper Due
QUIZ	There will be quizzes on the day of film discussions.
ASSIGNMENTS:	
	CREATE VIMEO ACCOUNT; DUE SEPT 10
	VISUAL EXERCISE 1: Show an Ordinary Day in 60 Seconds; DUE SEPT 24
	VISUAL EXERCISE 2: 5X5; DUE OCT 15
	VISUAL EXERCISE 3: Redux; DUE NOV 5
	ADAPTATION PAPER; DUE NOV 19
	FIRST DRAFT RESEARCH PAPER; DUE NOV 12
	FINAL SHORT FILM PROJECT & PRESENTATIONS; DUE DEC 10
	FINAL RESEARCH PAPER; DUE DEC 10
GRADING	5% Attendance/Class Participation, 5% Adaptation Paper, 15% Visual Exercises 1-3, 25% Quizzes, 25% Research Paper + Draft, 25% Final Short Film Presentation (Group)
GRADING SCALE	100-90 A, 89-85 B+, 84-80 B, 79-75 C+, 74-70 C, 69-60 D, 59- F
PLAY PERFORMANCE	MACBETH; November 13-16 at 7pm; November 17 at 2:30pm - Jim Wise Theatre, Kupfrian Hall; \$15