

Fall 2023

HSS-404 (057): Theatre Seminar: Film Studies- Art of the Short Film

Rodney Reyes

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	Syllabus HSS 404-058 - THTR SEM: FILM STUDIES: ART OF THE SHORT FILM		
	Instructor: Rodney Reyes		
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<p>"Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf. http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf. Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu</p>			
Office Hours:	Kupfrian Hall 113, Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm and/or 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.		
Instructor Information:	I will respond to all emails/Inbox messages within 24 hours. Quizzes, homework, and discussions will be graded weekly. I will deliver feedback for major course assessments in class or online using Canvas or by e-mail.		
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.)		
Required Viewings:	There will be no books assigned. However, you will be required to watch the films assigned. I will provide a link for most if not all the films assigned. Otherwise the films assigned are available for rental off of iTunes, Amazon, Youtube or Netflix.		
Homework:	Homework will be assigned throughout the semester.		
Technical Requirements:	A YOUTUBE or VIMEO account is required for this course. You will use those channels 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.		
Expecations for Class Etiquette:	Students are expected to follow NJIT's Code of Student Conduct. Students should be polite, active participants and respect their instructor, classmates, as well as ideas or opinions that differ from their own. While scholarly debates are encouraged, they should not become personal attacks.		
Course Objective:	This is a class on the art of the short 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. Learn basic film vocabulary such as montage, mis-en- scene, various camera shots and 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. By the end of the course students will create a 3-5 minute short film.		
Method of Instruction:	Watch films and videos. Lecture and class discussion. Library work. Quizzes and final presentations.		
Participation is mandatory	Assignments for that class date must be completed on that date. Quizzes also must be taken at designated dates and times, no make-up quiz will be given. Unexcused absences will count against your participation grade. 3 unexcused absences will lower your overall participation grade by a percentage; If you have extenuating circumstances for any reason and miss a class you must contact the Dean of Student's Office.		
Policies:	No make-up quizzes will be given. Late assignments may be accepted with permission.		
SESSION ONE	SEPT 5: INTRODUCTION TO CLASS AND SYLLABUS DISCUSSION;		
SESSION TWO	SEPT 7: INTRODUCTION TO CITIZEN KANE; ROLES IN FILMMAKING		WEEK
SESSION THREE	SEPT 12: CITIZEN KANE (QUIZ); POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION		
SESSION FOUR	SEPT 14: INTRODUCTION TO SHANE/THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY		WEEK 2
SESSION FIVE	SEPT 19: SHANE/THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY (QUIZ); POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION		
SESSION SIX	SEPT 21: VISUAL EXERCISE #1 PRESENTATION;		WEEK 1

SESSION SEVEN	SEPT 26: VISUAL EXERCISE #1 PRESENTATION; INTRODUCTION TO CASABLANCA	
SESSION EIGHT	SEPT 28: CASABLANCA QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION;	WEEK 4
SESSION NINE	OCT 3: INTRODUCTION TO BLADE RUNNER	
SESSION TEN	OCT 5: BLADE RUNNER QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION;	WEEK 5
SESSION ELEVEN	OCT 10: VISUAL EXERCISE #2 PRESENTATION	
SESSION TWELVE	OCT 12: VISUAL EXERCISE #2 PRESENTATION; INTRODUCTION TO THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS	WEEK 6
SESSION THIRTEEN	OCT 17: THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION;	
SESSION FOURTEEN	OCT 19: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIG SHORT	WEEK 7
SESSION FIFTEEN	OCT 24: THE BIG SHORT QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION;	
SESSION SIXTEEN	OCT 26: ADAPTATION PAPER DUE: CAMERA TECHNIQUES	WEEK 8
SESSION SEVENTEEN	OCT 31: INTRODUCTION TO MONEYBALL	
SESSION EIGHTEEN	NOV 2: MONEYBALL QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION	WEEK 9
SESSION NINETEEN	NOV 7: SPECIAL GUEST	
SESSION TWENTY	NOV 9: SPECIAL GUEST	WEEK 10
SESSION TWENTY-ONE	NOV 14: VISUAL EXERCISE #3 PRESENTATION	
SESSION TWENTY-TWO	NOV 16: VISUAL EXERCISE #3 PRESENTATION; INTRODUCTION TO THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO	WEEK 11
SESSION TWENTY-THREE	NOV 21: THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION	
SESSION TWENTY-FOUR	THANKSGIVING BREAK	WEEK 12
SESSION TWENTY-FIVE	NOV 28: NOMADLAND QUIZ AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION	
SESSION TWENTY-SIX	NOV 30: VISUAL EXERCISE #4 PRESENTATION	WEEK 13
SESSION TWENTY-SEVEN	DEC 5: IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT- PRE-PRODUCTION	
SESSION TWENTY-EIGHT	DEC 7: IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT- PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY	WEEK 14
SESSION TWENTY-NINE	DEC 12: IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT- PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY PART 2	WEEK 15

FINAL EXAM DATE	DATE TBD: FINAL SHORT FILM PRESENTATION AND Q&A	
QUIZ	There will be quizzes on the week of post-viewing film discussions in duration between 15-20 minutes each depending on the film.	
ASSIGNMENTS:	There will be additional assignments throughout the semester in class and as homework. Below are assigned assignments.	
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:	VISUAL EXERCISE 1: Show an Ordinary Day in 60 Seconds; DUE SEPT 21	
	VISUAL EXERCISE 2: 5X5; DUE OCT 6	
	ADAPTATION PAPER DUE: NOV 16	
	VISUAL EXERCISE 3: Redux; DUE NOV 14	
	VISUAL EXERCISE 4: 1 minute short film loop - Vertical Orientation; DUE NOV 30	
	FINAL SHORT FILM PROJECT & PRESENTATIONS; TBD	
GRADING	15% Assignments/Attendance/Participation, 15% Visual Exercises 1-4, 25% Quizzes, 15% Adaptation Paper, 30% Final Short Film Project	
GRADING SCALE	100 - 92.5 A, 92.4 - 85 B+, 84.4 - 80 B, 79.9 - 77.5 C+, 77.4 - 70 C, 69.9 - 60 D, 59.9 -0 F	
	This syllabus may be subject to updates throughout the semester.	
	RV: 9-8-23	