



MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HUM 160: Introduction to Film
3 Credit Hours; 4 Contact Hours

Fall 2007

Instructor Information

Instructor: Andrew Gall
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This is a survey course of American film history, theory and aesthetics. Through the study of both the *form* and the *content* of selected films, students will develop a view of motion pictures as a fine art, and will develop a critical perspective of this, perhaps the most significant performing art form of the 20th century.

After completing *Introduction to Film*, students will have a basic understanding of the history and theory of cinema. You will have developed the critical aesthetics necessary to be an active, informed viewer of films, rather than being a passive consumer of the movies.

Prerequisites: RED 090

Corequisites: None

MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

Texts: The Art of Watching Films 7th Ed. By Joseph M. Boggs & Dennis Petrie
The text for this course comes with a DVD with additional information for each chapter.
The text also has an on-line resource center for students: <http://www.mhhe.com/awf7>

Films/DVD's: Over the course of the semester students will be required to view a number of films. These films are intended to be viewed in their entirety. Students are responsible for finding and viewing the assigned films. A subscription to Netflix or Blockbuster.com is recommended but not required.

Delinquency:

All assignments have a due date and students should anticipate completing all assignment by the appropriate due date. Late work will be accepted up to 14 days after the actual due date with no penalty. Turning work in late is not recommended, however, given the self-directed nature of this course, the “grace period” should allow students with jobs, children, or substantial responsibilities time to complete all the work associated with this course. Mid-terms, tests, the Final Exam, and any/all assignments associated with the research paper **MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE DUE DATE.**

LEO:

Students should be fluent and familiar with Mayland CC’s LEO interface. This will be the primary channel for communicating information about this course and related assignments. Students are responsible for all emails, announcements, and any other material posted by the instructor on LEO with regard to this course.

Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:

In addition to good academic performance, students should exhibit qualities of honesty and integrity. Any form of dishonesty, cheating, fabrication, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and plagiarism will make students subject to disciplinary action. *At the minimum, these students will receive an “F” for the course.* Measures for probation, suspension, or expulsion may also result.

Withdrawal Dates:

The following dates apply for withdrawal from this course or any course at Mayland Community College:

September 25, 2007:	Last day to drop (Unconditional Withdrawal)
November 1, 2007:	Last day to drop (Conditional Withdrawal)

Accommodation:

Any student requiring special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will

document the disability. A counselor will then help which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.

Disclaimer:

Course procedure may vary from this syllabus to meet the needs for this particular class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

The best way to self-schedule is to allow 3-4 hours of course work each week. Assignments will be due every Friday before 5:00 PM. Each week you may have some combination of:

1. Reading assignments from the required text with a writing assignment based on the reading.
2. Viewing a film in its entirety (you may need to watch some films twice) and writing short summary (400 words min) about it and/or using the prescribed films to answer questions related to reading assignments from the required texts.

Assignments will be submitted electronically as an email attachment in MS Word or .pdf file. You may send the email to me through LEO. Emailed assignments MUST arrive by 5:00 PM each Friday, or they will be considered late. Please include the date on each assignment.

GRADES: Your grade will be determined from the following formula:

25% Weekly Assignments & Film Viewings: Each week students will have a regular reading assignment from the text. Students should be prepared to write and respond to their reading via assignment parameters.

For each complete film, write about several aspects of the film that are important to you (for example, a character, some action, a setting, the lighting, the music, an actor, the editing of a scene, an idea, etc) Each journal entry should be 1page minimum 2 pages max. All entries are to conform to MLA standards and formatting. *Be sure each paragraph explains only one major aspect, and make sure you give enough specifics so that the paragraph's point is clear and persuasive.*

While your writing should contain your thoughts and opinions, it is also an opportunity for you to demonstrate your skills as a critical thinker and writer. Your opinions must be supported by evidence and examples. I advise that you approach each assignment as if it were being published in a newspaper, blog, magazine- that will be read by the public. So you may need to consider going through a series of drafts before submitting the final entry. During the first draft, it may help you to write quickly, focusing on what want to say and not worrying about how well you are writing. Most people find that it helps to write immediately after seeing a film, then to re-write later in the day or on the next day. Assignments will be graded on a simple scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest) based on adherence to these guidelines, completeness, clarity, factual accuracy, and originality of

insights. Summarizing of the plot of a movie will cause me to stop reading your assignment and give the journal entry a “1”.

Generally speaking, the grading scale for assignments can be summarized as follows:

10-	A	100%
9-	A-	90%
8-	B+	88%
7-	B	85%
6-	B-	80%
5-	C+	78%
4-	C	75%
3-	C-	70%
2-	D	60%
1-	F	0%

20%: Final Exam: At the end of the semester there will be a comprehensive final exam. The final exam will consist of objective, short answer, and possibly some essay questions.

20% Midterm: This will be an entirely objective test that will include terms and definitions found in the reading, as well as film viewings.

10% An outline and summary for your planned Analysis Paper: This is an outline of the Analysis Paper you will complete. The outline should include a list of sources you have derived your research from, and should represent a working skeleton of your paper. Detailed instructions will be distributed. I also advise that you make an appointment with me after your outlines is complete and prior to commencing work on drafting your paper.

25% Analysis Paper: This is a 2000-2500 word paper that is a detailed description and analysis of a film. Detailed instructions will be distributed.

GRADING PAPERS:

Your written work is my only window into your understanding of this coursework. Your interest and delight must come through your writing. Please be generous with your observations and insights. You will be able to convince me that you have read and viewed all of the material by making specific reference to it.

Evidence of earnest effort, honest opinions and intelligent enthusiasm for the subject of film history, theory, and technique will be rewarded in the grading. But you must also be logical and coherent in your writing, using proper form and grammar. Your papers must be written carefully, with attention to details. Carelessness will not be rewarded in the grade book.

The grading scale for the class is as follows:

A= 90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=0-59%

You are your own teacher. You will learn only as much as you teach yourself.