

SYLLABUS

Fall 2006-07

Instructor: Doug Bishop

Course Number: THEA 1023 & 1025

Office:

Course Title: Understanding Movies & Lab

Phone: (435)229-2517 bishop@dixie.edu

Credit: 3

Office hours: 10:00 to 2:00; MWF

Class Meeting: MWF 11:00am – 11:50am

MWF 12:00pm – 12:50pm

Course Description: For students in all disciplines who enjoy watching popular films and would like to increase their understanding of the film making art. This course satisfies a general education requirement in the humanities. It explores film making techniques, aesthetic issues, and the function of film criticism. Students will view films, from silent films to the present (gaining a feeling for film history), and will examine, discuss, and write about various aspects such as plot, theme, character, and setting. Lab required. 3 lecture hours and 2 lab hours per week.

Course Objectives: To acquaint students with the elements of film, the genres it encompasses, the theories of its artistry, the art of criticism and the practicalities of production.

Policies and Procedures:

Grading is done on a percentage of points earned/# of points possible:

94%= A	79%= B-	67%= D+
91%= A-	76%= C+	63%= D
87%= B+	73%= C	60%= D-
83%= B	70%= C-	

Points are distributed as follows:

Attendance	215 pts. 5pts. per class
Quizzes, etc.	100 pts
Film Review	20 pts. Two pages, typed
Film Critique	20 pts. Two pages, typed
Subject	10 pts.
Bibliography	10 pts.
Opening paragraph	10 pts.
Research paper	100 pts. Five pages or more typed.
Final Exam	<u>100 pts.</u> (On in-class notes, reading, required films)
	585 pts. total

Recommendations and Guidelines:

All work handed in is to be typed, MLA format, double-spaced lines and paragraphs, 1" margins and no larger than 12 typeface. Please **do not** use report covers or cover sheet/title pages. Please **do** staple the upper left corner. Failure to turn in the final paper will result in your failing the course.

Tests and quizzes may not be made up without prior permission. Late work will be marked down unless accompanied by a **really** good excuse involving a long hospital stay or UFO abductions.

Final Paper:

This is a simple research paper. The subject is quite open, you're encouraged to write about directors or films that somehow touched you. But what I'm looking for is *analysis*. You might ask, "What makes a Clint Eastwood film a Clint Eastwood film?" Or, "How tension is created in Saw?" What I *don't want*, is a paper that simply chronicles out films a given director has produced. In a nutshell, the best advice I can give you regarding this or any of your written assignments is this, form an opinion and defend it.

This assignment is broken down into three parts. On September 20th, you are to turn in, (typewritten); a simple statement indicating what is the subject of your paper. On October 18th you are to turn in a bibliography listing at least five sources that you will be using in your paper. On November 3rd, you are to turn in the opening "Thesis paragraph" of your paper. We will discuss them in class. The final paper is to be turned on Wednesday November 15th.

Film Selection Criteria:

In setting up this course required films have been selected using the following criteria: 1) they are the best example of the aspect of film making that we are discussing, 2) they are high quality films representing a wide range of subjects and interests and 3) they are readily available for viewing. I believe all the films chosen for this course fit these criteria.

My objective is to teach an understanding of film, what it is and how it is made to affect you. Understanding film culture makes us informed consumers of this product and an opportunity to better control (through purchasing power) what is presented to us on the screen.

Writing Lab/OWL

If you need help writing papers, visit the Writing Lab in the Browning Learning Center. You can also visit the Online Writing Lab, OWL, by going to the Dixie State home page www.dixie.edu pointing to Academics, and on the pop-up menu, click on Online Writing Lab. The direct URL to this site is <http://dsc/dixie.edu/owl/>.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to discuss their needs with the instructor, preferably during the first week of the semester. Course materials in an alternative format, (large print, audio, Braille) will be provided in cooperation with the Disability Resource Center. Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all students with disabilities to ensure equal participation in class. (Disabilities require medical documentation).

Students in need of special accommodations and auxiliary aids, or who have other needs related to their disabilities, are encouraged to utilize the support network available through the Academic Support Center.

Withdrawal from Class

Please remember that if you withdraw from this class for any reason, it is your responsibility to make this withdrawal official by completing the necessary paper work at the Registrar's office. Be sure not to miss the withdrawal deadline; you will take a grade in this class regardless of whether you attend or not.

Incomplete Grade Policy

An incomplete grade may be given only under the circumstances outlined in the Dixie State College Catalogue, page 16. Please familiarize yourself with the policy.

Syllabus

	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Reading /Tests</u>
Aug	23 The Hollywood Standard	
	25	
	28	
	30	
Sept.	1	Quiz
	6 History of Film lecture	
	8	
	11 Review and Critique	
	13	
	15	
	18 Filmmaking lecture	
	20	Subject Statement Due
	22	
	25 Screenplay lecture	
	27	
	29	Quiz
Oct.	2 Acting lecture	
	4	
	6	Review Paper due
	9 Design lecture	
	11	
	16 Cinematography Lecture	
	18	Bibliography Due
	20	
	23 Editing lecture	
	25	
	27	Critique paper due
	30 Music/sound lecture	Quiz
Nov.	1	
	3	Thesis Paragraph Due
	6 Directing lecture	
	8	

	10		
	13	Film Space and Time lecture	
	15		Research Paper due
	17		
	20	Genre lecture	
	27		
	29		
Dec.	1		Quiz
	4	Documentary, Lecture	
	6		
	8		
	11	Finals Week	Finals Test

Recommended Films

You Can't Take It With You	Heaven Can Wait
Goodbye Mr. Chips	Incredibles
Gone With The Wind	A Streetcar Named Desire
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	The Country Girl
Casablanca	Hud
It's a Wonderful Life	The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
On the Waterfront	Lion in winter
Friendly Persuasion	Stand and Deliver
Ben Her	A Cry in the Dark
To Kill a Mockingbird	Walk the Line
The Sound of Music	Pirates of the Caribbean
Souder	I am Sam
Rocky	Wizard of oz
Star War Trilogy	Doctor Zhivago
The Elephant Man	Barry Lyndon
Chariots of Fire	Obsession
Gandhi	Star Wars
The Natural	The Turing Point
Hoosiers	Interiors
Empire of the Sun	Kagemusha, The Shadow Warrior
Tucker	Batman
Dad	Henry V
Dead Poets Society	Dick Tracy
Driving Miss Daisy	Edward Scissorhands
Field of Dreams	Far and Away
Awakenings	Babe
Beauty and the Beast	Sleep Hollow
Searching for Bobby Fisher	How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Finding Neverland	Lemony Snicket
My Big Fat Greek Wedding	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Forest Gump	Lawrence of Arabia
Princess Bride	The Great Gatsby
Mrs. Doubtfire	Days in Heaven
Seabiscuit	The Black Stallion
A Beautiful Mind	Avalon
Shrek	Dances with Wolves
Apollo 13	The Fugitive
Toy Story	Bateman Forever
A River Runs Through It	A Little Princess
Fried Green Tomatoes	Evita
JKF	Fly Away Home
Big	The Phantom of the Opera
E.T.	Bateman Begins
Tootsie	Citizen Kane
On Golden Pond	High Noon

The Bridge on the River Kwai
Out of Africa
Speed
The Informer
Oliver
The Way We Were
Twister
Armageddon
The Perfect Storm
The Polar Express
War of the Worlds
Psycho
Hannah and Her Sisters
Babe
Billy Elliot

Jaws
Field of Dreams
Air Force One
Spellbound
Patton
Independence Day
Contact
The Mask of Zorro
Spiderman 2
King Kong
The Searchers
Amadeus
Quiz Show
The Truman Show