

Understanding Film

Theatre 1023-40
Fall 2010

Instructor Contact

Brent Hanson
435-652-7792
Eccles Fine Arts Center 114

Use “Mail” in the Blackboard course page to email the instructor for this course. You will usually get a response to email questions within a twenty-four hour period on regular instruction days in the Dixie State College calendar.

In-person office hours MWF 9:30-10:20 AM, TR 1:30-2:20 PM, and by appointment.
Online students may wish to contact the instructor by telephone (435-652-7792) during these office hours.

Course Description

Fulfills General Education Humanities requirement. For all students who enjoy watching films. Explores film making techniques, aesthetic issues, film history, and the function of film criticism, using a variety of films from the Silent Era to the present. Students examine, discuss, and write about various aspects such as plot, theme, character, and setting in order to become more discerning film viewers.

Text

Film: A Critical Introduction by Maria Pramaggiore and Tom Wallis. Second Edition.
Available at the DSC Bookstore or at www.amazon.com starting at around \$54 used. A copy of the textbook will be on reserve at the library.

Other Costs

Recommended access to required film viewing is through Netflix. The cost for Netflix enrollment starts at \$8.99 per month. Films are also available for in-library viewing at the Dixie State College Library.

Objectives

This course is designed to help students accomplish the following General Education Humanities objectives:

1. Deepen aesthetic judgment, understand critical perspectives, and develop cultural sensitivity and an appreciation for human diversity
2. Recognize, evaluate, and make connections between philosophical theories that explain human thought, action, and experience
3. Analyze the various forms of human achievement and aesthetic expression
4. Identify methods for qualitative analysis of the human condition and require study to

produce such analysis

5. Illustrate ethical concepts, including virtue and integrity
6. Provide opportunities for students to think critically
7. Correlate aesthetic, philosophical, and historical periods
8. Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between current issues and those of other times, places, and cultures

In addition, students will be able to:

9. Identify the correct definitions of basic film terminology and use that vocabulary in written and oral analysis of films.
10. Identify and define major film genres, styles, and historical developments.

Skills

Film viewing abilities. College level reading, writing and discussion. A large portion of your grade is based on your written work. If you have doubts about your writing abilities, talk to the instructor.

Blackboard Vista

This online course will be managed through Blackboard Vista, accessible through the Dixie State College home page. Computer and internet access will be required for course participation. That access is available at on-campus computer labs. The “Mail” feature in Blackboard is the reliable way to communicate with the course instructor.

Policies and Procedures

1. Dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the assignment, and could result in a failing grade in the course and to other disciplinary action at the institutional level. If you list your name as the author of a paper or assignment, it means that the words and ideas are your own, unless you credit other sources. Campus policy about cheating can be found at <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>.
2. Viewing assigned films is a core part of the learning activities in this class. You are responsible to arrange your own access to the assigned film titles as scheduled in the course syllabus.
3. Adequate computer access is a requirement for this online course. The computer you use must have hardware and software that will, among other things, permit you watch and hear film clips.
4. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Plan your personal schedule to get assignments submitted on time or ahead of time.
5. Some class activities will take place in a proctored setting, which means you will be required to go to a testing center or similar location to complete the assignment.

6. Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) Coordinator for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located at the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

7. DSC E-MAIL: Important college information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, and notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned an e-mail account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to <http://dmail.dixie.edu> for complete instructions.

8. Add and drop deadlines and other important dates to know about can be found at <http://www.dixie.edu/reg/calendar.html>.

9. Information about the Library, the Writing Center, and the Testing Center can be found respectively at the following links:

<http://library.dixie.edu>

http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php

<http://new.dixie.edu/testing>

Grading

Getting Started	50
Quizzes	200
Discussion Board	100
Film Response Papers	250
Paper 1	50
Paper 2 Thesis Statement	25
Paper 2	125
Paper 3	100
Final Exam	100
TOTAL	1,000 points

Grading Scale

93% = A	73% = C
90% = A-	70% = C-
87% = B+	67% = D+
83% = B	63% = D
80% = B-	60% = D-
77% = C+	