



**DRAM 2366.141H1**  
**Film Appreciation**  
**Fall 2025 / 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Weeks / Hybrid**  
**11:00 am – 12:20 pm / M-W**  
**Learning Resource Center – Bldg #8, Room 131**

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Molly Vernon  
Email: [mvernon@com.edu](mailto:mvernon@com.edu)  
Phone: 713.894.3158

**Student hours and location:**

By scheduled appointment only (F2F or Zoom.)

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

No textbook is required. (NETFLIX, Amazon Prime, HULU, Disney+, HBO Max, Peacock+, Vimeo, YouTube, TUBI and other streaming services are helpful for films.)

**Course Description:**

Survey and analyze cinema, including history, film techniques, production procedures, selected motion pictures, and cinema's impact on and reflection on society

**Course requirements:**

Discussion, films, quizzes, tests, and projects as assigned.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

Discussion, films, quizzes, and projects as assigned.

Attendance/Participation	25%	The grading scale is as follows: 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 65 – 69 = D 64 - below = F
Film Reviews	25%	
Class Projects	25%	
Tests	25%	

**Extra Credit for attending MOVIES at the CINEMA and COM Theatre Productions:**

- Bring ticket stubs to class to turn into me. Make sure your name is on it!

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:**

Satisfactory completion of all graded assignments on the date due – you may not make up a missed or late assignment without loss of credit and permission from the instructor to turn in LATE.

**Attendance Policy:**

Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed **one (1)** absence before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter with each subsequent absence. In addition to absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. If you have extenuating circumstances that affect your ability to follow these policies, you must speak with the instructor **BEFORE** being late or absent.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Apply a vocabulary and knowledge of the History, theory, and skills required to mount a film production.	Critical Thinking	Tests Film Reviews
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the variety of genres in film production.	Communication, Critical Thinking	Quizzes
3. Describe the collaborative nature of production in motion picture arts.	Teamwork, Creativity	Projects
4. Discuss/Describe the relationship of cinema to society as it relates to his/her perspective.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Social Responsibility	Daily work, Discussion, Study and Films

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Disciplinary actions will be taken for students who exhibit disorderly conduct, cheat on exams, submit plagiarized work (see below), or are involved in collusion (helping others cheat or plagiarize) as defined in the Student Handbook under the heading, “Discipline and Penalties.” The maximum penalty imposed for violations will be an F in the course. The student will also be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Please read through the “Standards of Student Conduct” in the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of these issues and your rights and responsibilities.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If you continue to have questions after discussing your concern with me, please contact Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair at [kjantz@com.edu](mailto:kjantz@com.edu) or 409-933-8255.

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**Class Rules:**

1. No food is permitted in class. ALL DRINKS must be in capped plastic bottles.
2. COM policy states that there is no such thing as a “permitted number of absences.” If you aren’t going to be in class, there’s no REQUIRED need to inform me because the reason doesn’t change anything. \*I do prefer a text!
3. Cell phones MUST be silent for the class period – NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Be respectful of your classmates by refraining from engaging in private conversation when we are having a class/group discussion or when a film is in progress.

**Course Outline:**

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Week 1 M. Introductions, syllabus, survey, 1<sup>st</sup> Day Quiz, class design, DL2 Setup

W. How to do a Film Review: Screen, Curfew (2012)

*Hybrid – Watch the film Casablanca / Project #1*

Week 2 M. (Lecture) Intro to film history (screen video), history handout

W. Screen early period silent films, history quiz, review history

*Hybrid – Film Review for Casablanca, DUE (#1)*

Week 3 M. (Lecture) Visual Storytelling - Mise-en-scene, composition, narrative basics

W. Screen short films: The Neighbors (2019), Paperman (2012)

*Hybrid – Watch the film Shawshank Redemption / Project #2*

Week 4 M. (Lecture) Cinematography and Lighting - framing, movement, natural vs. artificial light

W. Screen short films: The Club (2013), Thunder Road (2016)

*Hybrid – Film Review for Shawshank Redemption, DUE (#2)*

Week 5 M. (Lecture) Editing and Montage – continuity, cross-cutting, rhythm, montage theory

W. View short films: God of Love (2010), Stutterer (2015)

*Hybrid – Watch the film Psycho (1960) / Project #3*

Week 6 M. (Lecture) Sound and design – Diegetic vs. non-diegetic, silence, sound motifs

W. Screen short films: Boogaloo and Graham (2014), Love Is All You Need (2011)

*Hybrid – Film Review for Psycho, DUE (#3)*

Week 7 M. (Lecture) Performance and the Actor – naturalism vs. stylization, subtext, silent performance

W. Screen short films: Feeling Through (2021), Pickle (2016)

*Hybrid – Watch the film Alien / Project #4*

Week 8 M. (Lecture) Theme and Final Analysis – Authorial voice, symbolism, recurring motifs

W. Screen short films: Borrowed Time (2015), Hair Love (2019)

*Hybrid – Film Review for Alien, DUE (#4)*

**Course Outline:** *This outline is subject to change during the semester. Students will be notified immediately of any changes and given the appropriate time and accommodations in the event of those changes.*

Possible films and projects for class (Depending on time, weather, internet availability, class ability, and illness.)

Possible Short Films for Reviews:

Curfew (YouTube)  
The Phone Call (Amazon)  
Feeling Through (YouTube)  
Caroline (Vimeo)  
The Neighbors Window (Vimeo)  
Two Distant Strangers (Netflix)

Possible Feature Films for Class:

Shawshank Redemption  
Psycho  
Pulp Fiction  
The Godfather  
Apocalypse Now  
A Clockwork Orange

Possible Project Assignments:

Commercial, Music video, Silent film, writing story from image or prompt, Creating a Movie Trailer

## **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation(s) is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

### **Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### **Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.