



DRAM 2366.140CL
Introduction to Cinema
Fall 2022

T/TH 1:30pm – 2:50pm / Learning & Resource – Bldg #8, Room 131

Instructor Information:

Name: Ashley Love

Email: alove2@com.edu

Phone: 409-933-3792

Student hours and location:

Mondays from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or by appointment in-person or virtual. To make an appointment with me, please visit

<https://calendly.com/ashleylove>

Required Textbook/Materials: No textbook required. (NETFLIX, Amazon Prime, HULU, and YouTube for films.)

Course Description: Survey and analyze cinema including history, film techniques, production procedures, selected motion pictures, and cinema's impact on and reflection of society. The emphasis of this course is on the analysis of the visual and aural aspects of selected Motion Pictures; Dramatic aspects of narrative films; historical growth and sociological impact of film as art. Instruction will focus on American mainstream films.

Course requirements: Films as assigned.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Attendance/Participation	20%	The grading scale is as follows: 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 65 – 69 = D 64 - below = F
Play Reviews	20%	
Quizzes	20%	
Creative Projects	20%	
Final Exam	20%	

Grades will be determined based on qualitative (projects) and quantitative (papers and exams) formulas. 20% of your grade will be based on answering direct questions on an exam based on presentations and hand-outs. 20% of your grade will be based on two written reviews. 60% of

your grade will be determined by completion of individual projects, or quizzes, which demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts explored in the course.

Play Review Assignment Detail:

You must see a performance of the COM Theatre productions of *Misery* by William Goldman, based on the novel by Stephen King and *On the Air!* by Brett Jones. Optional extra credit/alternative performance of *Peter/Wendy* by Jeremy Bloom. You may see any preview or regular performance free of charge and you are welcome to bring a guest. There is no need to make a reservation. Your name will be on a list with the Box Office. To get credit for attending you MUST say you are in Ashley Love's Theatre Class and sign next to your name.

Misery: September 8-25th – review due by October 11th at 5:00 p.m.

**Contains themes and elements of violence and adult language*

On the Air!: November 3rd-20th– review due by November 29th at 5:00 p.m.

All performances run Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:00pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

Extra Credit or Alternative: *Peter/Wendy* October 20th and 21st (SP on 19th)

The best reviews for this purpose are approximately three (3) typewritten, double-space pages. This is not a test of whether you have seen the production -- that is a given. It should be a discussion of what you experienced and how it affected you. The following is an OUTLINE of topics which should be addressed in your review. Your point of view and critical thinking skills will be the focus of your grade. I do not care what your opinions are; I care if you are clearly communicating your opinions with evidence that supports your claims (just like with a research paper).

- I. Introductory Paragraph, including play and title
- II. Dramatic Values a. Story/Plot (keep this part short) b. Theme/Idea
- III. Personal reaction (A brief paragraph stating honestly what you think about the play)
- IV. Production Values a. Scenery b. Lighting c. Costumes d. Sound (music, special effects, etc.)
- V. Evaluate the Acting (use actors' names provided in the program, not the characters' names)
- VI. Identify and Discuss Contributions of the Director
- VII. Conclusion

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Quizzes and video assignments automatically lose half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Make-up assignments are not permitted outside of emergency situations. Performances and group presentations cannot be made up due to scheduling.

Engagement Clarifications and Grading:

The most important part of this class is showing up to the class. The in-class lectures and activities are the major tool for learning this craft. The student artist's questions and input are imperative to the learning process.

The student will receive an engagement grade for each class period on a point scale from "0" (lowest) to "5" (highest). These will add up to form the student's Engagement grade for the semester. If absent, the grade is a "0" for the day. 5=A, 4=B, 3=C, 2=D, 1=F, 0=absent.

Engagement is not about simply going through the motions of "participation," but requires you to be alert, prepared, and collaborative. To receive a 5 for the day, please offer either 2 questions or statements about the work in class. You can always email your comments or questions to the instructor should you wish to not speak out loud.

Attendance Policy:

Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed **two (2)** absences before your final grade is affected. 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 need to speak with the instructor BEFORE being late or absent. If you are impacted by COVID or Monkeypox, communicate with your instructor as soon as you are able, and modifications/accommodations will be worked out.

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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Blackboard or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Apply a vocabulary and knowledge of the History, theory, and skills involved to mount a film production.	Critical Thinking	Quizzes and Projects
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 their perspective.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Social Responsibility	Daily work, Discussion, Study and Films

Course Outline *subject to change:

- Week 1 T. Introductions, Syllabus, Class Design
TH. Movies are Stories (Story Elements), Story FIRST, and Intro to Raiders of the Lost Ark
- Week 2 T. Screening Raiders of the Lost Ark, review story, genre, composer and discussion 1st half
TH. Finish screening Raiders of the Lost Ark, Review and Quiz
- Week 3 T. Three-Act structure and Cinema terms
TH. Characters, building story, conflict, intro to Shawshank Redemption
- Week 4 T. Screening Shawshank Redemption, genre and discussion first half
TH. Screening Shawshank Redemption, Plot Points assignment, and quiz
- Week 5 T. Silent movies (genre), dialogue, movie history, and Hollywood
TH. * If possible silent movie argument film project
- Week 6 T Director (job, style) genre, introduction to Ava Duvernay
TH. Screening 1st half of Selma
- Week 7 T. Screening 2nd half of Selma, review and quiz
TH. Sets, Props, construction and period pieces
- Week 8 T. Wardrobe, Makeup, monsters, aliens, FX creatures, and genre(s)
TH. Mid-Term Evaluations
- Week 9 T. Review Set, props, makeup, wardrobe and introduction to The Matrix
TH. Screening 1st half The Matrix
- Week 10 T. Screening 1st half The Matrix, review and quiz
TH. Director of Photography, cameras, lens and crew, framing, composition and genre
- Week 11 T. Introduction to Hitchcock and Psycho
TH. Screening 1st half of Misery
- Week 12 T. Screening 2nd half of Misery, review and quiz
TH. Unions, Royalty, MPPAA, SAG-AFTRA, IATSE, Guilds, Legal Paperwork, IMDb, and Jobs
- Week 13 T. Writing Project
TH. writing day
- Week 14 T. Design Project
TH. No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Week 15 T. Work on group projects, details provided closer
TH. Work on group projects, details provided closer
- Week 16 T. Work on group projects, details provided closer
TH. Present and Discuss Final Projects

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

“Cheating on a test” shall include:

- a. Copying from another student’s test paper
- b. Using test material not authorized by the person administering the test
- c. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator

- d. Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test
- e. The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of an unadministered test
- f. Substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for oneself to take a test
- g. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test

If a student is caught plagiarizing their work, they will receive a zero for the assignment and be reported to the Academic Dean.

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, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact H. Russ Brown, Director of Theatre, at 409-933-8544 or hrussbrown@com.edu.

A Word about BOUNDARIES: At COM Theatre we strive to champion a professional atmosphere of non-judgmental inclusion, open communication, and enthusiastic consent so that all involved can feel free to be a pro-active participant in their own artistic growth. It is crucial that you gain an ever-evolving awareness of your own personal boundaries, so that you may teach those boundaries to us – in order to assure the personal comfort and safety of yourself, your partners and the ensemble. Please feel free to inform instructors of any physical or emotional limitations that may hinder your performance of any techniques/material presented in class so that they may be appropriately adapted. In performance-oriented classroom or production situations, it may sometimes be necessary during the use of techniques and exercises for the Instructor/Director to interact physically with students or for students to interact physically with one another. This is part of the learning process, and any contact is intended to be professional and clinical in nature. If at any time a student is uncomfortable with the idea or the practice of that physical contact, the student will be given an opportunity to voice their concern and the need for adaptation will immediately be respected without fear of reprisal, reprimand or dismissal.

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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf. *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.
https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

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 accommodations is requested to contact Michelle Brezina at 409-933-8124 or mvaldes1@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the 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 1st 8-week session is October 5. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 18. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 1.

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 or communityresources@com.edu.