



DRAM 2366.140CL
Introduction to Cinema
Spring 2023

9:30am – 10:50am / M-W / Learning Resource Center – Bldg #8, Room 131

Instructor Information:

Name: Molly Vernon
Email: mvernon@com.edu
Phone: 713.894.3158

Student hours and location: By scheduled appointment only.

Required Textbook/Materials: No textbook required. (NETFLIX, Amazon Prime, HULU, Disney+, HBO Max, Peacock, Vimeo, and YouTube 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 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: Discussion, films, quizzes, and projects as assigned.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

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 (4)	25%	
Creative Projects (3)	25%	
Quizzes (6)	25%	

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

SWEENEY TODD: February 2nd – 19th *Contains themes and elements of violence
DONKEY!: April 20 – May 7th

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

- Bring ticket stub to class to turn in to 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. (If COVID impacts assignments make sure to speak to the instructor directly.)

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. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade 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 need to speak with the instructor BEFORE being late or absent. If you are impacted by COVID, 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.

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	Exams 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: 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.

Class Rules:

1. No food 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 need to inform me because the reason doesn’t change anything. *I so prefer a text!
3. The Rules of Theatre Etiquette must be observed at ALL TIMES.
4. Cell phones MUST be silent for the duration of the class period – NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. 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.

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/docs/Student_Handbook_2022-2023_v4.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.

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 Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@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 for the SPRING 2023 session is April 24th.

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.

Course Outline:

Week 1 M. HOLIDAY

W. Introductions, Syllabus, Survey, 1st Day Quiz, and Class Design

Week 2 M. Review 1st Day Quiz, DL2 Setup, Intro to Film History (video)

W. Film History Handout, Watch Early Period Films

Week 3 M. History Quiz, Review History, 3 Act Structure, Mise-en-Scene, Story Elements

W. Silent Film Project Handout, Assign Groups, Story Ideas and Concepts

Week 4 M. Film Day (Filming Silent Projects), Film Review #1 DUE

W. Watch Silent film projects and discuss, Lecture on Movie and Genre #1

Week 5 M. Watch selected Movie #1

W. Complete Movie #1

Week 6 M. Quiz Movie #1 and Genre notes, Lecture on Movie and Genre #2

W. Watch selected Movie #2

Week 7 M. Complete Movie #2

W. Quiz Movie #2 and Genre notes, Lecture on Movie and Genre #3

Week 8 M. Watch selected Movie #3, Film Review #2 DUE

W. Complete Movie #3 (SPRING BREAK)

Week 9 M. Quiz Movie #3 and Genre notes, Storyboards, Editing, Process

W. Groups for Storyboard Project #2, Work Day

Week 10 M. Present storyboard ideas by group, Genre Notes and Lecture for #Genre 4 Movie

W. Watch selected Movie #4

Week 11 M. Complete Movie #4

W. Quiz Movie #4 and Genre notes

Week 12 M. Unions, Royalty, MPPAA, SAG-AFTRA, IATSE, Guilds, Legal Paperwork, IMDb, and Jobs

W. Guest speaker on local Houston filmmaking, Film Review #3 DUE

Week 13 M. Quiz Movie on Filmmaking, Lecture on Movie and Genre #5

W. Watch Movie #5

Week 14 M. Complete Movie #5

W. Quiz Movie #5 and Genre notes, Lecture on Trailers

Week 15 M. Work Group Project #3

W. Present Group Project #3, Lecture on Marking by Genre

Week 16 M. Watch Selected Movie for Final Film Review #4

W. Complete Movie for Final and Reviews #4

Course Outline: *This outline is subject to change during the semester. Students will be notified immediately of any changes and will be 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 COVID)

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
Blade Runner

Possible Project Assignments:

Commercial, Music video, Silent film, Write story from image, Narrative short, Create a Movie Trailer