



**DRAM 2366.141CL**  
**Introduction to Cinema**  
**Fall 2022**

**11:00am – 12:20pm / M-W / Learning Resource – 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.

**Required Textbook/Materials:** No textbook required. (NETFLIX, Amazon Prime, HULU, Disney+, HBO Max, Peacock, 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:** 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
Films	25%	
Creative Projects	25%	
Quizzes	25%	

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

**MISERY:** September 8<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> \*Contains themes and elements of violence and adult language

**ON THE AIR!:** November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

All performances run Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00pm 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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Blackboard or other LMS)

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<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
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](mailto:hrussbrown@com.edu).

**Class Rules:**

1. No food, gum 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.
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. Please 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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](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](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](mailto: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 for the FALL session is November 18th.**

**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).

### Course Outline:

Week 1 M. Introductions, Syllabus, Class Design

W. Movies are Stories (Story Elements), Story FIRST, and intro to ALIEN (Ridley Scott)

Week 2 M. Screening ALIEN, review story, genre(s), director and discussion 1<sup>st</sup> half

W. Finish screening ALIEN, Review and Quiz

Week 3 M. HOLIDAY

W. Paradigms, building story, conflict, intro to SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (Frank Darabont)

Week 4 M. Screening SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION, genre and discussion first half

W. Screening SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION, plot points discussion, and quiz

Week 5 M. Silent movies (genre), dialogue, movie history, and Hollywood

W. \* If possible silent movie argument film project

Week 6 M. Director (job, style) genre, introduction to Francis Ford Coppola

W. Screening 1<sup>st</sup> half of THE GODFATHER

Week 7 M. Screening 2<sup>nd</sup> half of THE GODFATHER, review and quiz

W. Sets, Props, construction and period pieces

Week 8 M. Wardrobe, Makeup, monsters, aliens, FX creatures, and genre(s)

W. GUEST SPEAKER or short film

Week 9 M. Review Set, props, makeup, wardrobe and introduction to PULP FICTION

W. Screening 1<sup>st</sup> half PULP FICTION

Week 10 M. Screening 2<sup>nd</sup> half PULP FICTION, review and quiz

W. Director of Photography, cameras, lens and crew, framing, composition and genre

Week 11 M. Introduction to PSYCHO and Alfred Hitchcock

W. Screening 1<sup>st</sup> half of PSYCHO

Week 12 M. Screening 2<sup>nd</sup> half of PSYCHO, review and quiz

W. Unions, Royalty, MPPAA, SAG-AFTRA, IATSE, Guilds, Legal Paperwork, IMDb, and Jobs

Week 13 M. Writing Project

W. writing day

Week 14 M. Design Project

W. Application of design and writing

Week 15 M. Work on group projects, details provided closer

W. Work on group projects, details provided closer

Week 16 M. Work on group projects, details provided closer

W. Present and Discuss Final Projects

**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 (Depending on time, weather, class ability and COVID)

Possible Short Films:

Curfew (YouTube)

The Phone Call (Amazon)

Feeling Through (YouTube)

Caroline (Vimeo)

The Neighbors Window (Vimeo)

Two Distant Strangers (Netflix)

Possible Project Assignments:

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