



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

THE 2071, Cinema Appreciation, 3 credit hours, Spring 2017

- Dr. Dirk Dunbar
- Office Hours: M9:30-11,1:45-3:30; T9:30-11,3:15-3:30;W9:30-11,1:45-3:30;
R9:30-11,3:15-3:30
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- Final Exam: May 2-5
- Web Page: <http://www.nwfsc.edu/faculty/profiles/dunbar-dirk/>
- Reference Number: 20991-003
- Campus/Room: J (100) 328
- Class Days: TR
- Class Times: 2-3:15

Course Materials: *The Film Experience*. Reserved readings, handouts, and websites as assigned.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will develop an understanding of the philosophical issues and agendas of a variety of filmmakers. Besides learning about various film theories, students will apply them in the process of formulating their own perspectives. Along with a formal paper and presentation regarding those perspectives, students will be encouraged to discuss passionately and tolerantly many of the issues that concern the films' viewpoints and the theories and interpretations which lead to those viewpoints. Besides gaining familiarity with major names and concepts involved in the area of study, students will engage their own views and values in regard to the material.

Grading Procedures: Attendance and participation (10% and no more than one unexcused absence and two tardies); two exams (50%); one paper (35%); and two presentations (5%).

Course Objectives: To explore the messages of foreign, independent, and mainstream filmmakers and to examine the multicultural dimensions of the medium and the relevance of the artists' messages. Besides analyzing various aesthetic and film theories involving auteurism, genres, feminism, Marxism, structuralism, semiotics, postmodernism and deconstruction, we will apply philosophical ideas and theories—including those of a variety of Native American, Asian, and Western thinkers—as lenses into interpreting film ideology. While investigating ways in which film serves as a medium to reflect and shape cultural attitudes and values we will emphasize how issues involving race, class, gender, nationality, and the environment represent the diversity that characterizes Western civilization—and contemporary American culture in particular. Through the study of basic film techniques, students will also be trained in the analysis and appreciation of film as a uniquely modern art form that is open to multidimensional levels of interpretation.

Topic Schedule:

Week One-Introductions, students discuss favorite movies, and overview of course material, goals, and angles to be used in critical analysis. Vocabulary handout and discussion of terms.

Week Two-Excerpts on stereotypes from *Birth of a Nation*, *Stagecoach*, *Some Like It Hot*, and *From Russia with Love*; continued discussion of vocabulary. We will examine the ideology of a number of films that students find provocative and ways in which the moviemaker develops that theme (include cinematography, symbols, motifs, and character analysis).

Week Three-Ch. 1, Comparing Viewers and Views. An overview of the film making process and various theories used to interpret film including messages and taste to distribution, promotion, and visual cues. We will discuss differences between stereotypes and archetypes and watch and discuss *Do the Right Thing*.

Week Four-Ch. 2, Mise-en-Scene. A discussion of the relationship between film as a work of art and the setting of the stage, including the props, costumes, lights, and actors. The discussion will involve how and why filmmakers stage, frame, and photograph their shots the way they do, the geography of the screen, the use of the image, and the relevance of both to the ideology, including traditions and values. We will view and discuss *Life of Pi*.

Week Five-Ch. 3, Cinematography. We will examine the relationship of shots, angles, patterns, movement, and images to the filmmakers' creation of art and ideology. Discussion will include the role special effects and animation as well as the ways in which film mirrors and shapes cultural values—from fashion and sexuality to politics and religion. We will view and discuss *Pan's Labyrinth*.

Week Six-

Ch. 9, Literature, Ch. 8, Story. We will evaluate the role of the written word and its translation to film—including discussion of narration, motifs, symbols, metaphors, allegories, and allusions. This will include the uniqueness of the telling and showing of the story. After discussing the environmental relations as portrayed in films (from *Little Hiawatha* to *Civil Action*), we will view and discuss *Instinct*.

Week Seven- We will view and discuss *Good Will Hunting* and start presentations.

Week Eight- Presentations and review. **Midterm exam.**

Week Nine-Ch. 7, Drama, Ch. 6, Acting. Discussion of time, space, and language in the film medium. Analysis of the star persona and its cultural impact as well as student discussions regarding particular actors and the messages that they attempt to convey (focus will be on character transformation). We will view and discuss *Children of Men*.

Week Ten-Ch. 5, Sound. Discussion of the evolution of sound in film, the symbolic use of sound as well as silence, the role of music, and the variations of language and subtitles. Discussion of paper formats, sources, and style. We will view and discuss *The Truman Show*.

Week Eleven- Ch. 4, Editing; Ch. 3, Movement. Discussion of cutting, continuity, time development, thematic montages, and manipulation of screen realities. The use of different

camera shots to create film dynamism and the use of movement in distinguishing the various genres. After student discussions of their favorite science-fiction films, we will view *The Giver*.

Week Twelve-Ch. 2, Mis en Scene. After discussing various archetypes in film, we will watch and discuss *V for Vendetta*.

Week Thirteen-Ch. 1, Photography. Review of the three styles of film: realism, classicism, and formalism. Discussion of color symbolism, lighting styles, use of light and dark, and the thematic relevance of each. After reviewing Ingmar Bergman's contribution to cinema, we will view and discuss his *Lucy*.

Week Fourteen-We will view and discuss *The Life of Pi*.

Week Fifteen-We will finish Gandhi and start presentations.

Week Sixteen-Review and presentations. **Exam and Paper Due.**

Incomplete Grades: At the discretion of the instructor, an incomplete grade ("I") may be awarded when the student is unable to finish the required work because of unforeseen extenuating circumstances such as illness or TDY assignment. To receive an "I" grade, the student must have successfully completed a significant portion of the required coursework and be able to finish the remaining work without attending class. An "I" grade will automatically convert to a grade of "F" if the student does not complete the remainder of the coursework by the established deadline.

FA Grades: F and FA are failing grades, are calculated as such in the student's GPA, and appear on the student's transcript. A student's GPA and time-to-degree are both factors in qualifying for future aid as outlined in the College's Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress: (http://catalog.nwfsc.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=1489#Return_of_Title_IV_Financial_Aid_Funds).

Make-up Work: Students who have excused absences or extenuating circumstances will be allowed to make up any assignments in concert with the professor.

Class Attendance: Students who stop attending class or are not able to pass the course due to attendance expectations stated in the syllabus may receive a failing grade of "FA." An "FA" grade is a failing grade in GPA calculations and may impact the receipt of federal aid in subsequent courses. Students traveling for college approved activities will not be penalized academically but will be responsible for missed work.

Cell Phone/Electronic Devices (This section is required, but may be edited.)

Cell phones, pagers, and other such electronic devices must not distract from learning. Courtesy to the professor and other students requires that phones be on vibrate or silent mode during class. No student should initiate conversations, including texts, during class activities. Use of electronic communication devices during examinations or other graded activities may constitute grounds for disciplinary action; such devices must be completely out of sight during exams or other assessments. Where emergency or employment situations *require* access to electronic communication services, arrangements may be made *in advance* with the instructor.

Emergency College Closure (This section is required, but may be edited.)

In the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change. If the college closes for inclement weather or other emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college re-opens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized as a

result of the adjustments, but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

Children in the Classroom: As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, students may not bring children with them to class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students in any lab, shop, office, or classroom or other college facility where potential hazards exist. If a child-related emergency means you must miss class, contact the instructor as soon as possible to determine your options. (The full “Children on Campus” policy statement appears in the College Catalog.)

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Academic Integrity:

Students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, computer/network/e-mail use and other items included in the Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the current Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action.

RESOURCES

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is located in the Activities Center (Building 410) on the Niceville Campus. The ASC provides free learning support services such as tutoring, ESOL, and writing assistance for all NWFSC students. Individual and group tutoring is available in a wide range of subjects on a walk-in-basis and by appointment. For more information, call the Academic Success Center at (850) 729-5389 or visit our website at Free Tutoring.

Reading to Learn (R2L) is a project of Northwest Florida State College designed to support students’ learning through direct instruction of reading strategies. Students may access R2L at our website: Reading to Learn.

Smarthinking is an online, real-time tutoring offered free to students, who may access this service via RaiderNet.

Open Computer Labs: There are numerous open computer labs throughout the Northwest Florida State College campuses. Students may access our website for lab locations and hours: Computer lab location and hours.

Testing Center: Testing Centers administer college admissions tests, placement tests, proctored exams, ACT/SAT, GED, CLEP, and DSST (formerly known as DAN TES). Testing Center hours may be accessed on the Testing Center website at Testing Center. Makeup exams may be taken in the Testing Center, depending upon instructor policies on late work.

Library, Online Reference Materials, and Resources: The library is a comprehensive, learning resource center providing information in print, digital, and multimedia formats to support the educational objectives of the College. In addition to in-house materials, online services and resources can be accessed through the LRC website. Library hours are posted each semester at the building entrance and on the LRC website at Learning Resource Center.

Assistance for Military and Veterans: Northwest Florida State College supports our military and veterans students. You may contact NWFSC Eglin AFB Education Services Building at 850-200-4180 or NWFSC Hurlburt Center Educational Services Building at 850-200-4190 or visit our website: Support Our Military

Students with Disabilities: Northwest Florida State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you have disabilities for which accommodations may be

appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services, located in the Activities Center (Building 410) on the Niceville Campus, or call 850-729-6079 (TDD 1-800-955-8771 or Voice 1-800-955-8770). You may also visit our website: Disability Support Services.