

Eng Lit 0400
Spring 2007
Bishop, E.

Introduction to Film
Eng 0400 20045
Monday 6-9:50 pm
OA221 Langley Hall
Spring 2007
Dr. Ellen Bishop 438 CL
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Course Description

This class is designed for students who will in all likelihood not have the opportunity to take many film courses. It is a fast but interesting (!) survey of American film from the silent days to the present. The course will cover the films listed below in terms of their cinematic technologies, their cultural contexts, their narrative forms, and their star/auteur status. These four categories will serve as the basis for a practical critical strategy for reading films.

Schedule of Screenings and Readings

Early Silent Cinema and the Industry

1/8 *The Lonedale Operator* (Porter 1911) 17 minutes, *A Corner on Wheat* (Griffith 1909) 14 minutes, *Goldrush* (Chaplin 1925) 96 minutes
read: skim chapters 1 & 2, read chapter 6

Classic Hollywood Narrative Cinema Style (CHNC)

1/22 *Shadow of a Doubt* (Hitchcock 1943) 108 minutes
read: chapter 3

1/29 *Casablanca* (Curtiz 1942) 102 minutes

The Musical Tradition

2/5 *Cabaret* (Fosse 1972) 124 minutes
read: chapter 7

Classic Comedy 1: slapstick and anarchy

2/12 *Duck Soup* (McCarey 1933) 68 minutes 1st exam
read: chapter 8

Classic Comedy 2: screwball and the battle of the sexes

2/19 *Bachelor and the Bobbysoxer* (Reis 1947) 95 minutes

War on Film 1: pomo critique

2/26 *Mash* (Altman 1970) 116 minutes
read: chapter 9

War on Film 2: the good wars

3/12 *Sargent York* (Hawks 1941) 134 minutes

Noir, Paranoia, and the Loss of the Truth (or "Clueless in LA")

3/19 *Chinatown* (Polanski 1974) 131 minutes
read: chapter 10

The Western and American Male Identity 1: John Wayne

3/26 *Stagecoach* (Ford 1939) 96 minutes 2nd exam

The Western and American Male Identity 2: Clint Eastwood

4/2 *Unforgiven* (Eastwood 1992) 131 minutes

The 70's: A Culture in Crisis

4/9 *Taxi Driver* (Scorsese 1976) 113 minutes

The New Millenium: "Reality: What a Concept!"

4/16 *Mulholland Drive* (Lynch 2001) 145 minutes

Student Work and Grades

There will be 2 in class exams and a take home final exam. Each will count for 30% of a students' final grade. The other 10% will be for class participation (Please note that this 10% is enough to shift a final grade up or down one level.)

The in class exams will be largely objective with some short answer essay questions. The take home final will be an essay.

Student Responsibilities

1. To arrive on time for class and stay until class is formally dismissed.
2. To complete all assigned work on time.
3. To not skip classes. One absence will be ignored. After one absence, missing class will adversely affect final course grades. More than 3 absences will result in automatic failure.
4. To maintain an open critical attitude that can tolerate different opinions and perspectives and intellectual debate while maintaining respect for others.
5. To follow the university guidelines on academic integrity – particularly with regard to plagiarism (see below)* – in this course. Students are encouraged to read the academic integrity section of the university policy.

Students with Disabilities

If you need some extra assistance to help you participate in the course, please let me know and I will contact the appropriate university people and make every effort to accommodate your needs.

***Plagiarism by a student is:**

when a student presents as his/her own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or works of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. □

when a student submits work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be his/her own. □

when a student knowingly permits his/her work to be submitted by another person without the instructor's authorization. ("Student Obligations and

Adjudication," University Policy 02-03-03).