

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Film 1022 (002)
Introduction to Film Studies
Fall/Winter 2023-24

Antirequisites: Film 1020E

Course Description

This year-long introduction to Film Studies will develop your understanding of film narration and film style, while remaining attentive to the various ways in which cinema always also involves an interaction with specific audiences and larger social structures. We will pay particular attention to the construction of film images, systems of film editing, film sound, and the various modes of organizing these core elements (narrative, non-narrative, etc.). We will also trace how cinema has represented race, ethnicity, gender, and the natural environment. Throughout the course, we will closely examine the construction of a variety of film forms and styles, including classical Hollywood style, New Wave cinema, experimental film, and contemporary independent and global cinema. The second term of the course will incorporate key issues in film studies, including theories of realism, spectatorship, authorship and genre.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Understand and utilize the basic vocabulary of film studies and the elements of film form and style; recognize and discuss key figures, films, movements, and theories of the Classic Hollywood and other cinemas, and begun to develop their ability to read and write critical analyses of film.

Course Materials

1. Bordwell, David, Kristin Thompson, and Jeff Smith. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 12th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2019). This will be referred to in the syllabus as Film Art. You can use either the paper or electronic version of the textbook, both available through the bookstore.
2. In addition to the textbook, articles are assigned as required reading in several weeks, particularly in the winter term.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Attendance and Participation, Quizzes, October and January Tests, Shot Breakdown assignment, Sequence Breakdown assignment, Final Examination (please see timetable at the end for the value of each element).

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Additional Information

Electronic devices:

There will be quizzes given at the beginning and end of most lectures, using the quiz function on Owl. Please make sure you bring a device to class that can access the class website. You will only be given credit for attendance if you are present for the quiz. Electronic devices must not be used for random web surfing, social networking, game playing, or any other activity unrelated to the class.

Due Dates:

Papers handed in late without prior permission will be returned with a grade but without comments. We will deduct 3% from the final grade of the assignment each day it is late, including weekends (Saturday + Sunday = 6% deduction). Papers submitted after the assignment has been returned to the rest of the class will not normally be accepted. Just send it in!

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

Fall Term (30%)	Assignment	Due Date	Length	Value
	Attendance and Participation	every class		5%
	Quizzes	weekly	5-10 questions	5%
	October Test	October 25	100 minutes	10%
	Shot Breakdown	December 2	One shot	10%
Winter Term (35%)				
	Attendance and Participation	every class		5%
	Quizzes	weekly	5-10 questions	5%
	January Test	January 31	100 minutes	10%
	Sequence Breakdown	March 31	One sequence	15%
Final Exam (35%)		TBA	3 hours	35%