



5055 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA 95023

Course Outline

COURSE: HUM 4 **DIVISION:** 10 **ALSO LISTED AS:**

TERM EFFECTIVE: Summer 2024 **CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE:** 06/11/2024

SHORT TITLE: INTRO TO AMERICAN CINEMA

LONG TITLE: Introduction to American Cinema

<u>Units</u>	<u>Number of Weeks</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Contact Hours/Week</u>	<u>Total Contact Hours</u>
3	18	Lecture:	3	54
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

Out of Class Hrs: 108.00

Total Learning Hrs: 162.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course in film studies is a survey of the American film industry as an art form, as an industry, and as a system of representation and communication. The course explores how Hollywood films work technically, aesthetically, and culturally to reinforce and challenge America's national self-image.

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion

05 - Hybrid

71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous

72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of American film history from the silent cinema to the present day.
2. Recognize and use the basic technical and critical vocabulary of motion pictures.
3. Identify and understand the economic structure of the film industry.
4. Examine the role of genre in American film history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Recall historical elements of the American film industry and how they relate to our modern society.
2. Analyze filmmaking elements like foreshadowing, framing, mis-en-scene, character & story arcs, exposition, three acts, etc.
3. Identify and Interpret the unique skills and styles of numerous filmmakers.
4. Identify film genres such as Western, Musical, Film Noir, War, Romance, Comedy, Drama, and others.
5. Identify and apply language unique to film analysis and film production in class discussions and written work.
6. Demonstrate basic skills in filmmaking and storytelling.

COURSE CONTENT:

Curriculum Approval Date: 06/11/2024

6 HOURS

Overview of the course and course objectives.

CONTENT: The Studio System: The Golden Age of Hollywood

Describe the studio system in economic terms.

Identify the corporate structure and interrelated nature of the major studios.

Recognize the significance of the Justice Department's actions against the studios in the 1930's and 1940's.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: An introduction to film language.

Recognize basic film terminology. Recognize the broad changes in American society and world culture that enables Hollywood to emerge as an entertainment institution.

7 HOURS

CONTENT: The Hollywood Style.

Recognize shot types and the reasoning behind their uses.

Distinguish between various types of editing techniques and transitions.

Recognize and define different camera movements in film.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Combat Film.

Identify the different thematic trends in films associated with war.

Explain the aesthetic and expressive nature of the war genre.

Understand the impact of propaganda and the government on films during wartime.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Western Film.

Identify the common themes of western films and the traits of the American Cowboy.

Identify the great directors and stars of the genre.

Explain the historical and artistic development of the Western film and how it was influenced by and influenced changes in society.

COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Film Noir.

Recognize the historical antecedents of the film noir.

Describe how film noir films reflected the social and cultural changes that took place during and after World War II.

Identify the specific characteristics of the film noir aesthetics.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Cinematography & Mis-en-scene.

Define the duties of the director of photography.

Identify the 3-point lighting technique.

Identify the different lighting schemes for different genres.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Suspense / Horror Film.

Define the suspense genre and its defining film traits.

Name and describe the great suspense filmmakers and their films.

Define and the unique characteristics and techniques used in Hitchcock's films.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Adventure Film.

Understand and define the traits of an Adventure film.

Name the prominent Adventure film directors and their films.

Understand the evolution of the Adventure film genre.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Science Fiction Film.

Analyze the genre and all of its intricacies.

Name and describe the great Fantasy / Horror filmmakers.

Identify the evolution of the genre from its early begins to the present day.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Film in the Television Age

Recognize television's historical and cultural impact on the American film industry.

Explain how television impacted Hollywood both artistically and economically.

Describe the breakdown of the studio system and the cultural changes that came with it.

Explain the 180 degree rule.

Identify transitions such as cuts, dissolves, wipes, etc.

Identify the different cuts such as match cuts, jump cuts, etc.

Identify all the jobs of post production.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Musical Film.

Identify the evolution of the musical.

Identify the major composers, singers, directors, of this genre.

Discuss and analyze how the genre has evolved over time.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: Sound & Music in film.

Identify the terms, tools, and techniques used for sound recording and manipulation.

Describe how sound and music accompanies film.

Understand all the layers of sound in film such as sound design, music, dialogue, and foley.

COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The American Comedy.

Identify and describe the great silent screen comedians: Chaplin, Keaton, Lloyd, etc.

Recognize the term "screwball comedy," and identify the classic screwball films.

Describe the influence of both the Great Depression and the Production Code of Ethics on screwball comedy.

Identify the theme of social integration in American Comedy.

3 HOURS

CONTENT: The Documentary.

Understand the difference between narrative and documentary filmmaking.

Recognize the different types of documentaries.

Identify the successful documentary films and filmmakers of the time.

2 HOURS

FINAL EXAM

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Film & video screenings. Lectures and class discussions. Out-of-class writing assignments

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Outside Hours 50

Assignment Description

Create an original short film. Students must write, plan, shoot, edit, and upload an original short film of their own.

Required Outside Hours 58

Assignment Description

Students must participate in the weekly discussion boards about the films and genre we watch in class. They must write responses to the films and then react to their classmates' responses.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 40

Evaluation Description

Written homework;

Term paper

Skill demonstrations

Evaluation Percent 10

Evaluation Description

Filmmaking basics

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 50

Evaluation Description

Multiple choice;

Matching items;

Essay questions

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

American Film: A History, Jon Lewis, W. W. Norton & Company, 2020 or a comparable textbook/material.

ISBN: 978-0393664898

13 Grade Verified by: Grant Richards

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Associate Degree:

GAV C2, effective 200530

CSU GE:

CSU C2, effective 200530

IGETC:

IGETC 3B, effective 200530

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU, effective 200530

Not Transferable

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC, effective 200530

Not Transferable

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

CAN:

CAN Sequence:

CSU Crosswalk Course Department:

CSU Crosswalk Course Number:

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Maximum Hours:

Minimum Hours:

Course Control Number: CCC000090078

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 061200