Film as Message

Professor Dr. Herman Howard
Email herman.howard@angelo.edu
Office Phone 325-486-6081
Office LIB/COMM OFF 3RD FLOOR

Class MeetingTimes THURSDAYS 6PM LIB 301
Class Location LIB 301
Office Hours M-F 9AM-5PM

And by appointment

ABOUT THE COURSE
Students will examine selected contemporary films, interpersonal communication theories, nonverbal communication theories, and rhetorical theories will be used to see how the film creates its message through camera angles, color, gender and cultural assumptions, language choices, and proxemics. For this semester, undergraduate scholars will study the films involving the life and career of iconic film actor and director Clint Eastwood.

OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, students should be able to:
• Demonstrate an understanding of film criticism through a review of its theories and concepts
• To demonstrate an understanding of academic film writing by understanding the tenets depicted in the films
• Understand the cultural, social, and political influence of the Clint Eastwood films in the post-modern era

COURSE TEXT:

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
Be in class, be on time, and be prepared. As a film course, I expect that you will be present for every class meeting. It’s critical that you are prepared for each class period. If you are not prepared for class, you are absent. If you are absent, you will lose 10% of your final grade for each day.

Be connected. You should be checking your Angelo State University email on a daily basis. You are responsible for any material sent via email. This means that if you know you are experiencing e-mail problems, you should ask someone in class if she or he might let you in on any e-mail correspondence pertaining to class.

Be respectful. In order to provide class members the opportunity to do their best work, and to provide a relatively comfortable environment for giving presentations and learning, students need to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.
ASSIGNMENTS

Film Journals WORTH 300 POINTS

Throughout the semester, you will keep a film journal and write a film journal for each film that a film is presented in class. You will turn in your film journal at the end of the summer semester.

For each film journal, your report should be brief 1-2 pages typewritten essay, summarizing your reaction to each film viewed in class. You can submit your entries in a bound journal such as in a large white packet. You will be critiquing each sports film from an academic perspective. Please apply relevant examples and other supporting evidence in your review. **It is best to take notes while you watch the film.** Your journal should describe these elements.

**ORGANIZATION:**

**Introduction:** Briefly identify the film you reacting to, including title and other information. Discuss elements of the program that illustrate typical or unusual characteristics.

**Reaction:** Describe appropriate features of the film. What is your reaction to such factors as:

1) The plot
2) How well does the film tell the story? Is it Interesting? What are the high points?
3) Setting
4) Acting
5) Conflict
6) Symbolism-what are the symbols from the program
7) Ideology-politics or message
8) Realism-what is put into the scene
10) Your overall analysis of the film.

Follow the checklist for writing an effective essay on pages 128-130

**NOTE:** The professor will not be able to distribute films to students if one misses a class. So it is paramount to be in class at 6pm to view the assigned film.

**FINAL PAPER PROJECT 700 POINTS**

At the end of the summer session semester, you will write a 5-7 paper on one of the Eastwood films in greater depth. Please read Chapter 6 on Film Research. In your final paper, you should use academic sources to support your claims and also watch your film several times so you will know what to write about. In your film paper address these issues:

1) Introduction of film
2) Give a historical background of the film (actors, director and locations)
3) Give a detailed narrative of the film (use academic sources here as well)
4) Discuss the directing style, writing of the film, camera movement, actors performance, critique the writing of the film, mood, audio, lighting, and production
5) Discuss the overall meaning of this film in society and in the genre of film
6) Give your own critique here, what needs to be improved in this film, compare this film to other Eastwood films and to other films of this era. Do you recommend this film to others? Why or why not?

FINAL COURSE GRADES
All of the course assignments add up to 1,000 points. Final grades will be calculated using the following pointscale.

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<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>800-899</td>
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<td>700-799</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>599 and below</td>
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OTHER INFORMATION

Academic Integrity
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Plagiarism in this course will result in automatic failure (F) for the entire course.

Americans with Disabilities Act
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Campus Closures
If the University is officially closed when we are scheduled to meet, then we obviously will not be meeting. If that happens, plan on picking up where we left off before the closure the next class meeting.

Religious Observances
A student wishing to observe a religious holy day must notify me via email at least 14 days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.