Critical Perspectives of Contemporary Film

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Class Meeting Times Tuesdays 6pm
Class Location Third Floor, Library, Room 316
Office Hours M-F 9AM-5PM

And by appointment

ABOUT THE COURSE
This course is a study in how Film Theory taught from a rhetorical perspective concerning: 1) the mode of production, or industry; 2) the apparatus, or the technology of cinematic experience; and 3) the “text” or the network of filmic elements (narrative, image, sound) for the study of film as a rhetorical artifact: modes of production, the star, the spectator, narration, the gaze, sexual and racial difference within the visual field, the soundtrack, and the disembodied voice

OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, students should be able to:
To demonstrate an understanding of Film Theory media through a review of its theories and concepts
To demonstrate an understanding of academic writing and research in film

COURSE TEXTS:
and various academic articles submitted via email to the class from the professor

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
Be connected. You should be checking your Angelo State University blackboard 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

Semester Film Journals (DUE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021) WORTH 400 POINTS

Throughout the summer semester, you will keep a media journal and write a media journal for each film or broadcast that is announced on Entertainment-Education. You will turn in your media journal at the end of the Summer 2021 semester.

For each film journal, your written report should be brief 1-2 pages typewritten as a journal, summarizing your reaction to the 14 films that we will watch this semester. You can submit your entries in a binded journal such as in a large white packet or in an emailed attachment. You will be critiquing each 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 films in class. 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. You don’t have to use every single one of these elements in every program or film but you should address the main themes

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

1) What is the element of social change in the program and why?
2) How well does the program 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 viewing.
Final Paper – FILM PROPOSAL

DUE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 WORTH 600 POINTS

At the end of the semester, the purpose of this final assignment is to give you the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained through your readings, along with your personal experiences, to designing a real-life FILM proposal for any aspect of the film genres in 2021 and beyond. In your film proposal, address the following issues:

1) Identify a social related issue that you feel can be addressed. (For example, a need for more youth to participate in math and science or to stop drinking or smoking)
2) Discuss how this can be implemented into a film (ex. An initiative of incorporating your idea developing a cartoon emphasizing on math and science fundamentals through a kid’s experiences in a local neighborhood).
3) Write a proposal (10 pages) which includes references; and any figures or tables that describes your issue, the process by which the need will be addressed, a review of literature, the message appeal, the goals for your media program, finances, and a plan to study the effectiveness of your new media program. Your paper should include the following:
4) Introduction, description of social issue and problem or status
5) Your film program, its overall goals and process
6) Literature review
7) Discussion of your intended media message and appeal to reach the public
8) Research plan,
9) Description of funding to support your program
10) Conclusions
11) References page using the APA format
12) On the due date, submit your proposal in an email and submit a hard copy and on the due date, in addition, take 10 minutes explaining in a Power Point presentation, about your film proposal to the class, we will have a “lottery drawing,” of scheduled speeches later in the semester.

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

Total Points
900-1000 A | 800-899 B | 700-799 C | 600-699 D | 599 and below F
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.

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.

Late Work
If you miss a project due to an excused absence (i.e., hospitalization, funeral of close family member), you must make the test up within a reasonable length (no more than one week, desirably less) All arrangements for making up work should be made prior to the absence, if possible, and is the student's responsibility. A typed, signed and dated explanation must be given to the instructor upon returning to class.

Academic Misconduct
Plagiarism in your speech will result in a zero for the assignment, and the instructor may pursue additional measures. Speeches are to be the original composition of each student. Outside sources are required for each assignment with proper citing in a bibliography as required.

Honor Code Policy
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 class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the 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. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Disability Statement
The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

Mrs. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Development

Film/COMM 6330
Religious Holiday Observance
A. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code 11.20.
B. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.
C. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence, however; the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:
Sample Film viewings: (films may change, depending upon the needs of the class):

Week 1: 8/24/21-Introduction, DIRTY HARRY (1971)
Week 2: 8/31/21- FINDING FORRESTER (2000)
Week 3: 9/7/21-HANNA (2010)
Week 4: 9/14/21-CASABLANCA (1942)
Week 5: 9/21/21-THE DEFIANT ONES (1958)
Week 7: 10/5/21-BOBBY (2006)
Week 8: 10/12/21-CHARIOTS OF FIRE (1981)
Week 9: 10/19/21-A PATCH OF BLUE (1965)
Week 11: 11/2/21-SKYFALL (2012)
Week 14: 11/23/21-RESEARCH DAY
Week 15: 11/30/21-RED SPARROW (2018)
FINALS WEEK: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021: 6PM-Film proposal presentations