

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

- A. Division: Communication and Fine Arts  
Department: Art  
Course ID: ART 111  
Course Title: Studies in Film Appreciation  
Units: 3  
Lecture: 3 hours  
Prerequisite: None.

**B. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A study of script, directing, editing and other aspects of filmmaking, aimed at providing a critical awareness of film technique and construction, and an understanding of what a successful film must possess.

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**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One**

**III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:**

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Distinguish and compare films from various cultures and regions by gaining knowledge about the visual concerns of those cultures.
- B. Evaluate films from the creator's point of view by examining the creator's successful completion of his/her intent.
- C. Explain how the basic elements of films such as script, directing, acting, and editing affect the work; and its emotional message.
- D. Analyze different methods of film production

**IV. CONTENT:**

- A. Narrative Structure
  1. Identify the elements of classical Hollywood narratives
  2. Selecting the elements of films that are story
  3. Selecting the elements of films that plot
  4. Comparing story to plot and relating both to the theme of the film
- B. Analyzing the narrative structure of the film "Citizen Kane"
  1. Constructing the beginning, middle and end of the narrative
  2. Preparing a list of story and plot elements to discuss in class
- C. Mise en scene
  1. Defining the elements of mise en scene; sets, costumes, makeup, lighting
  2. Identifying realism and expressionism
  3. Understanding high key and low key lighting
- D. Editing
  1. Recognizing the two major theories: montage and deep focus, long take
  2. Analyzing the components of each theory
  3. Preparing a list of films that exemplify each theory
  4. Defining the classical, narrative "seamless" editing style
- E. Movement
  1. The moving camera
  2. Acting styles

- F. Sound
  - 1. Analyzing silent and the sound film
  - 2. Selecting the dialog, music, sound effects and ambient sounds and analyze each element's effect in a film
- G. Script
  - 1. Purpose of the script
  - 2. Understanding shooting scripts, synopsis and treatments
  - 3. Relating script to plot, story, theme and film techniques

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lectures
- B. Discussions
- C. Viewing films, in class and outside of class
- D. Individual assistance
- E. Reading assignments

**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

- A. Oral presentation
  - 1. Choose a clip from a film
  - 2. Analyze either the narrative structure, mise en scene, editing, movement, sound or script
  - 3. Identify critical terms, genre'(s), theme and techniques
- B. Written analysis of a scene: Produce a typed paper presenting the analysis of the basic concepts of film form and film techniques and how the director used those elements to convey meaning and emotion
- C. Production journal: Record notes, questions and thoughts from the assigned readings, films assigned in class and the films that illustrate the concepts presented in class

**VII EVALUATION:**

- A. Method of evaluation
  - 1. Objective evaluation: written test
    - a. typical test questions
      - i. what is a mise en scene?
      - ii. what are four aspects of costume design that affect the viewer?
      - iii. what are the two primary categories that sets fall in and what are films that exemplify each category?
  - 2. Subjective written analysis
  - 3. Written analysis of a scene
    - a. identify the genre - define the story and plot
    - b. analyze the technical aspects of the scene: the sets, costumes, makeup, editing, acting, camera movement
- B. Frequency of evaluation
  - 1. Two tests
    - a. midterm
    - b. final exam
  - 2. Written analysis of a scene
  - 3. Oral presentation of a scene
  - 4. Production journal

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**

- A. Understanding Movies, by Louis Gianetti, Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall, 2000
- B. Film Studies, by Warren Buckland, Chicago, Hodder and Stoughton, 1988

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None**