



MIDWESTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas Tech University System

Course Syllabus: Appreciation of Film

Fain College of Fine Arts

MCOM 2213 Section 101

Fall 2026 — Mondays 2:00-4:50 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor:

Thomas Martin

Office:

Fain Fine Arts, B107

Office hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 10:00-11:00 a.m.

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Course Description

The history, theory, and aesthetics of film as artistic expression. Cinematography, editing, script, and genres will be emphasized.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No textbook required. Bring paper and pen to each class meeting and be prepared to take lecture notes.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade - Grade will be determined by the results of three tests, one out-of-class essay, and two of three in-class group analyses. (The lowest of the three group analyses grades will be dropped.)

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Test 1	200
Test 2	200
Test 3	200
Essay	200
Group Analyses	200
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900 and above
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Students will need to study their class notes for the three tests. Additionally, students will write one out-of-class essay which will be submitted through D2L.

Tests

Each of the three tests will be given at the beginning of the scheduled class period. Students should be able to finish in 20 minutes; a maximum of 30 minutes will be given for completion. The remainder of the class period will be used for lecture and/or film screenings.

Extra Credit

No extra credit work will be assigned or accepted.

Late Work

Students will have three weeks from the date of assignment to complete the out-of-class essay. **Do not wait until the last minute to submit. Any work submitted after the due date and time will be given a zero. Your computer being down is not an acceptable excuse for missing the deadline.** Please prepare and submit work early enough so that if you have technical difficulties, you can find an alternative computer for submitting the assignment before the deadline.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students involved in university activities that fall on the date of a test or a group activity should provide written notice from the MSU organization prior to the absence. Students who miss for illness or other reason should notify

the instructor at the earliest opportunity. Make-up tests or activities will be scheduled at the instructor's discretion.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 27
- Deadline to file for December graduation: September 21
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": November 23 by 4:00 p.m.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Attendance will not be regularly recorded for this course. However, keep in mind that there is no textbook for this course and that the information required to complete the tests, the essay, and the group analyses will be delivered through in-class lectures only. **It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide you with lecture notes if you miss class.** Please exchange your MSU email or other contact information with at least one other student in class so that if you miss a class, you can get the notes from another student.

Recording Classes

Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Laptop computers, tablets, and phones will not be allowed for note-taking in class. Please keep all electronic items off of the desk surfaces. Turn off all devices before the start of class so that there are no interruptions. (Do not set phones to vibrate; turn them off.) If you wear a smartwatch, use it for nothing more than checking the time; if you are paying too much attention to your smartwatch, I will ask you to remove it and put it away. Headphones and air pods are also prohibited.

Please be aware of how your behavior and attitude affect other students. Any student who is disruptive or rude will be dismissed from the class.

No food is allowed in the classroom. Beverage containers should be well sealed. Any spills must be cleaned up by the person responsible.

Please pick up after yourself and insure that the classroom is clean and ready for the next group of students.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such

assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, [\(940\) 397-4140](tel:9403974140). Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, [\(940\) 397-7500](tel:9403977500), student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on

public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics and Activities	Notes
Week 1 Aug 24	Course intro; in-class screening	
Week 2 Aug 31	Lecture: Narrative structure	
Week 3 Sep 7	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS
Week 4 Sep 14	TEST 1: Narrative structure Lecture and screenings: Film history	
Week 5 Sep 21	Lecture and screenings: Film history (continued)	
Week 6 Sep 28	TEST 2: Film history In-class screening (documentary)	Ethics Essay assigned
Week 7 Oct 5	Lecture and screenings: Film aesthetics	
Week 8 Oct 12	Lecture and screenings: Film aesthetics	
Week 9 Oct 19	Lecture and screenings: Film aesthetics	ETHICS ESSAY DUE by 2:00 p.m in D2L
Week 10 Oct 26	Lecture and screenings: Film aesthetics	
Week 11 Nov 2	Lecture and screenings: Film aesthetics	
Week 12 Nov 9	TEST 3: Film aesthetics Lecture: Film genres	
Week 13 Nov 16	In-class screening and group analysis: Film genre	
Week 14 Nov 23	In-class screening and group analysis: Film genre	
Week 15 Nov 30	In-class screening and group analysis: Film genre	
FINALIS WEEK Dec 7-10		NO CLASS