

Midwestern State University  
Mass Communication

Film Appreciation – MCOM 2213  
SPRING 2023 FA C111, M 2PM – 4:50 pm

**Instructor: Chaz Lilly**

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**Office Hours:**

M 10AM-2PM  
TR 2PM-5PM  
W 10 AM-2PM

**Course Identification:** This class will introduce students to the study of film and its relationship to society, culture, and technology. Understanding film requires reading it from a number of perspectives: as a technology, as a business, as entertainment, as art, and perhaps most importantly, as a socio-cultural artifact which, to some extent, reflects the cultural conditions under which it is produced and received. Towards that end, the class will introduce and explore a wide variety of issues related to the study of film: production, distribution, reception, aspects of film form and style, genre, auteur theory, realism, and formalism. The class will also introduce broader concepts of ideology and representation as theorized within cultural studies, and provide an overview of film history in relation to issues of human diversity.

Students will begin to develop the necessary skills for analyzing film form and meaning in relation to the larger spheres of culture and ideology.

*Students who are unwilling to explore issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality within an educational framework should consider enrolling in another class.*

**Course Requirements & Grading:**

**Required Text:** Sharman, Russell “Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Cinema”

We will be using an open access (free) online textbook. Please use this link to access the text:

<https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/>

Reading Responses: 200 points (10 responses at 20 points each)

Midterm Examination :150 Points

Final Examination: 250 Points

Film Review (1000-1250 words):150 points

Film Analysis (1000-1250 words): 250 points

Total = 1,000 points: 900-1000 = A; 800 – 899 = B; 700 – 799 = C; 650 – 699 = D; Below 650 = F

Late work will not be accepted. Both the midterm and final will be a written film analysis that is done after screening a selected work in class. Notes will be taken during the screening. The films selected for these exams will not be made available prior to the test. Papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the date they're due. Any late work will receive a failing grade. Grading will be based on your comprehension and use of theory, methodology, and terminology discussed in class.

**Course Activities:** This class will consist of lectures, in and out of class screenings, and writing assignments.

**\*Viewing Assignments and/or writing assignments may be used to fulfill senior portfolio requirements.\***

**Attendance:** This course meets only once a week, so attendance is required at every class. Beyond university approved absences the student will lose a significant deduction from their final semester grade for any absences.

- **THE INSTRUCTOR'S RECORDS REGARDING ABCENCES ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT COUNT AND IT IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK IN IF LATE.**

**Course Conduct:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Plagiarism:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. **Any writing that is not the work of you or your group members is plagiarism. Students in this course are expected to adhere to the MSU Student Honor Code.**

**VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT RECEIVING A FAILING GRADE FOR THIS COURSE. LAST SEMESTER, ONE STUDENT RECEIVED SUCH A GRADE.**

**Withheld Grades/Semester Grades Policy:** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Senior Portfolio Requirement:** Please note that all mass communication majors are required to submit a portfolio as part of their Internship course (Internship is a prerequisite to Senior Production). This requirement is a part of MSU's reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is non-negotiable. Through the portfolio, students are required to demonstrate communication competence through the written word and visual communication; two examples of each competency are required.

As you go through this and other classes, you are responsible for saving course work that could be included in your senior portfolio.

Please see me, your adviser, the department chair or any mass communication faculty member for handouts with more information ("Mass Communication Portfolio Competencies" and "Mass Communication Portfolio FAQ"). These handouts are also available on our department web page: <http://finearts.mwsu.edu/masscomm/>.

**Privacy:** Federal Privacy Law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside the university. Thus, in almost all cases I will only discuss your grades and other academic matters with you. Do not have your parents call me! You're college students and will be treated as such. Also, I will only correspond with you via email if your name is in the email address.

**Disability Support:** Please inform me if you are a student with a disability and need accommodation in this class. Students with a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before classroom accommodation can be provided. MSU provides students with documented disabilities academic accommodation (Disability Support Services, Clark Student Center, Room 168).c

**Campus Carry:** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry Rules/Policies](#).

**Final Caveat:** The professor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus for any reason. Sufficient notice will be given to students if changes to the syllabus are deemed necessary.

<b>Week 1</b> 01/16	NO CLASS MLK JR. DAY
<b>Week 2</b> 01/23	Course Introduction: Syllabus Review, Introductions <b>Lecture:</b> What do we mean by film studies? Screen: <i>The Red Balloon</i> by (Albert Lamorisse, 1956) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VexKSRKoWQY">youtube.com/watch?v=VexKSRKoWQY</a>
<b>Week 3</b> 01/30	A Brief History of Cinema Lecture: Chapter 1 Screen: <i>The Little Foxes</i> (William Wyler, 194) <a href="https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00D5ZHMI0/ref=atv_dp_amz_c_UTPsmN_1_3">https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00D5ZHMI0/ref=atv_dp_amz_c_UTPsmN_1_3</a> or Cool Hand Luke, TBD
<b>Week 4</b> 2/6	How to Watch a Movie Lecture: Chapter 2 Screen: <i>Moonlight</i> (Dir. Barry Jenkins, 2016) Reading Response One assigned
<b>Week 5</b> 2/13	Mis-en-scene Lecture: Chapter 3 Screen: <i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i> (Wes Anderson, 2009) Reading Response Two assigned
<b>Week 6</b> 2/20	Narrative Lecture: Chapter 4 Screen: <i>O'Brother Where Art Thou?</i> (Joel and Ethan Coen, 2000) Reading Response Three assigned
<b>Week 7</b> 2/27	Cinematography Lecture: Chapter 5 Screen: <i>La Jeteé</i> (Dir. Chris Marker, 1962), <i>World of Tomorrow</i> (Dir. Don Herzfeldt, 2015) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3NsB7W8SZg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3NsB7W8SZg</a>

	<p><a href="https://vimeo.com/ondemand/worldoftomorrow?autoplay=1">https://vimeo.com/ondemand/worldoftomorrow?autoplay=1</a></p> <p>Week 7 we will begin discussing the Midterm exam Reading Response Four assigned in class</p>
<b>Week 8</b> 3/6	Midterm Exam in Class
<b>Week 9</b> 3/13	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
<b>Week 10</b> 3/20	<p>Editing (Montage) Lecture: Chapter 6 Screen:</p> <p>Nursery Rhymes <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLS_JmpL_70">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLS_JmpL_70</a></p> <p><i>The Stutterer</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2m_VTZR5MU0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2m_VTZR5MU0</a></p> <p>Reading Response Five assigned in class Discuss Final Paper Film Review assignment</p>
<b>Week 11</b> 3/27	<p>Sound and Art House Films Lecture: Chapter 7 Screen: <i>The Beasts of Southern Wild</i> (co-written, and co-scored by Benh Zeitlin, 2012)</p> <p>Reading Response Six assigned in class</p>
<b>Week 12</b> 4/3	<p>Acting Lecture: Chapter 8 Screen: <i>There Will Be Blood</i> (Paul Thomas Anderson, 2007)</p> <p>Reading Response Seven assigned in class</p>
<b>Week 13</b> 4/10	<p>Culture, Cultural Studies, &amp; Hollywood (Women in Cinema) Lecture: Chapter 9 Screen: <i>Lady Bird</i> (Greta Gerwig, 2002)</p> <p>Reading Response Eight assigned in class Assign Final Film Analysis</p>
<b>Week 14</b> 4/17	<p>Representations of Race &amp; Social Contexts Lecture: Chapter 10</p> <p>Reading Response Nine assigned in class</p>
<b>Week 15</b> 4/24	<p>Representations of Race &amp; Social Contexts II Lecture: Chapter 10 continued Screen: <i>Get Out</i> (Jordan Peele, 2017)</p>

	Readings for Week 15 assigned Reading Response Ten assigned in class
<b>Week 16</b> 5/1	Final Exam review Final Paper review
<b>Week 16</b> 12/05–12/09	Final Exam Wednesday May 10 @ 5:45-7:45 p.m. In Class Exam Film Analysis Two Due