

South Plains College Course Syllabus

Department: Communications

Discipline: Media Communications

Course Number: COMM 2366

Course Title: Film Appreciation

Instructor: Jay A. Hoes, jhoes@southplainscollege.edu, 806-716-2443

Preferred Communication Method: Blackboard Messages or email.

Campuses: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown Center, Online **Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 1

Course Description: Survey and analysis of cinema, including history, film techniques, production procedures, selected motion pictures, and Cinema's impact on and reflection of society.

Textbook: Looking at Movies by Barsam and Monahan, 8th Edition (see Textbook under Start Here)

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:

Creative Arts Foundational Component Area (050)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Analyze film through written response.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of film history, form, and genre.
3. Describe the collaborative nature of cinema and the many jobs required to develop a motion picture.
4. Discuss/Describe the relationship of cinema to society as it relates to his/her perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: This course uses a pre- and post-test to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester. Pre-test and post-test grades will appear in My Grades on Blackboard but are not figured into your grade.

Classroom Policy: This class will be taught in a non-synchronous online format with course materials and support through Blackboard. I am available for office hours and face to face meetings on the Levelland campus the Downtown Lubbock Center. Please message or email me to set up a time to meet.

It is your responsibility to adequately prepare for the class. Plan adequate time to watch the lectures and complete all coursework for the class. I know from experience that it is easy to fall

behind in online classes and to get discouraged. Avoid that by scheduling time to work on online classes just as if you were meeting face to face. In short, don't procrastinate. Assignments, exams and quizzes along with the due dates and access times will be posted in the Announcements section of Blackboard. Please check the announcements often and make note of due dates for assignments and access times for exams and quizzes.

The lectures, quizzes, exams and movies for this class will all be available online, either through Blackboard or Swank Digital Campus. To be able to watch movies on Swank Digital Campus, you will need to create a free account. Go to the SPC Library website at <https://southplainscollege.libguides.com/catalog/videos>. Under the Swank Digital Campus heading, click the link. That will take you to the free streaming site we use at SPC. Click student, then Login at the top. Use your SPC email address to create your account.

Because the course is primarily delivered online, you will be required to spend time each and every week to successfully complete the course. The class will require the same amount of time to study and prepare as the face to face classes. There will be deadlines for access to quizzes and exams; please make note of the deadlines and complete your work on time. After the deadline has passed, the quizzes and exams will be available for makeup, but points will be deducted for late work. I will make announcements regarding when quizzes and exams will be available as well as the deadlines to complete them. Also, all quizzes and exams will have a time limit because I want to know what you know, not how quickly you can look up the answers.

Course Evaluation: Course evaluation for this class will be as follows:

Written Assignments: 1	200 points
Chapter Exams: 6 – 100 points each	600 points
Movie Quizzes: 6 – 50 points each	300 points
Discussion Participation:	150 points
Final Project:	200 points
Pre-test/Post-test (50 points each)	100 points

Total	1,550 points
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Grade Assignment:	90% and up	A
	80-89%	B
	70-79%	C
	60-69%	D
	59% and below	F

Makeup Policy: Missing grades may be made up. If you miss an exam or quiz, there will be a 5 point deduction on quizzes, a 10 point deduction on exams, and a 20 point deduction on papers. Be sure to complete your assignments by the due date to avoid late penalties.

Withdrawal Policy: Check the SPC Academic Calendar to determine the last day to drop classes. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be updated twice each week, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

Attendance Policy: Since this class will be conducted primarily online, **it will be the students' responsibility to adhere to class schedules and due dates and to check in to Blackboard for updates, announcements and assignments.** I recommend you check the assignments and

announcements at least twice per week. It is easy to neglect an online-based class, so make sure you keep up. If you get behind, I will email you to check your status.

Communication during this time is key. I will make class announcements and assignments on Blackboard. If you have any questions, please email me.

Students are expected to actively participate in online classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when participation and performance suffer as defined in the course syllabus. If your participation and class performance result in your grade dropping below passing, it will be recommended that you drop the class. Such drops are not automatic; correspondence with the instructor regarding intentions and making up missed assignments will result in the student not being administratively dropped.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Class Schedule: This is an outline for the semester. Exact dates and deadlines will be posted in the module assignments and in announcements.

Week 1 – Cover Syllabus, Watch Top Secret! (1984)

Week 2 – Chapter 1: What are movies; meaning and expectations; formal analysis

Week 3 – Chapter 2: Form and content; patterns and parallel editing; fundamentals of film form (movies depend on light, movies provide the illusion of movement, movies manipulate time and space); realism, antirealism and formalism; cinematic language
Watch Stagecoach (1939)

Week 4 – Exam 1 over chapters 1 and 2; quiz over Stagecoach

Chapter 3: The idea of narrative; narrative films; documentary films; experimental films

Week 5 – Chapter 3: Animation; new technology in animation

Chapter 4: Movie genres; genre conventions; six major American film genres

Week 6 – Chapter 4: Evolution and transformation of genres; movies that cross genre lines; hybrid films

Watch Singin' in the Rain (1951)

Week 7 - Exam 2 over chapters 3 and 4; quiz over Singin' in the Rain

Chapter 5: Elements of Narrative; characters (protagonists, antagonists, antiheroes);

Week 8 – Chapter 5: 3 part narrative structure; elements of narrative (story and plot, order, events, duration, suspense and surprise, repetition, setting, scope)

Watch Blazing Saddles (1974)

Week 9 – Exam 3 over Chapter 5; quiz over Blazing Saddles

Chapter 6: Mise-en-scene; design (production designer, setting and décor, costume, makeup and hairstyle)

- Week 10 – Chapter 6: Lighting (ratios, quality, direction and color); composition (rule of thirds, framing and composition, kinesics, deep space composition); German expressionism
Watch Citizen Kane (1941)
- Week 11 – Exam 4 over Chapter 6; quiz over Citizen Kane
Chapter 7: Cinematography; Director of Photography; cinematographic properties (film vs digital, film sizes and aspect ratios, black and white film, color film, color grading)
- Week 12 – Chapter 7: Lenses (prime, zoom); framing the shot (implied proximity and shot types, depth, camera angles, camera movement); open and closed framing; point of view; speed and length of shot; special effects (mechanical, optical, digital, cgi, practical effects)
- Week 13 – Watch Sherlock Jr. (1924)
Exam 5 over Chapter 7; quiz over Sherlock Jr.
Chapter 11: History of Motion Pictures; history of photography; series photography; Invention of movies; early film pioneers; move to Hollywood; silent era
- Week 14 – Chapter 11: Hollywood's golden age; 1950s; New American Cinema Movement
Thanksgiving break
- Week 15 – Watch Casablanca (1942); Final Paper Assignment
Exam 6 over Chapter 11; quiz over Casablanca
- Week 16 – Final Papers Due

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

COVID-19: For information and resources about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Nondiscrimination Policy: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement: If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy: If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily price match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by Amazon*, BN.com Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.