College of Southern Maryland
Languages and Literature
Master Syllabus for ENG Courses
Advanced Film
English 2150
2/26/13

This Master Syllabus is not to be confused with individual course syllabi, which may vary in specifics such as required texts or topic schedules, depending on individual instructor or specific semester. It is recommended that individual syllabus also include sections on policies pertaining to Attendance, Accommodation of Documented Disabilities, Course Audit, and Academic Integrity.

Class Hours: 3.0
Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description: Students in this course study various film genres and analyze the distinctive techniques, such as mise en scene, cinematography, editing, sound, and narrative components, and characteristics of one or more filmmakers. Students view films in and outside of class, write analytical papers, give presentations, work on original films, or observe professional film makers.

Instructional Delivery Methods: Classroom lecture format, web-enhanced, hybrid and online format.

Entry Level Skills Expected of Incoming Students:

- Read college-level texts with analytical and critical competency.
- Write unified, coherent essays nearly free of mechanical or structural errors.
- Complete academic research and correctly document essays using MLA format.
- Access, navigate, respond, and submit work through the Blackboard Learning Platform.

Prerequisites: ENG 2140 or ENG-2145

Special Skills and Materials Needed to Complete the Course:

- Textbook
- Access to films
- Film editing software (free online)

Assigned literature and supplemental materials (e.g., articles, criticism, essays): A textbook and other materials as selected by the instructor.
Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students successfully completing this course should be familiar with the historical development and current status of the film industry, be able to analyze films and discuss their components, identify and distinguish the textual elements (story, characterization, symbolism), technical elements (mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound), and cultural elements (gender, race, class, which determine whose view is sanctioned), and discuss the interaction between filmmaker and viewer.

Extra Credit: No more than 5% of the final grade may be given in extra credit. Students may earn extra credit though diverse opportunities in which they show their mastery of course material or concepts.

Outline of Topics: Topics for this course may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Film History
   a. Silent film
   b. Benefits and disruptions of sound
   c. Black and white vs. color
   d. Film vs. digital
2. Technical Elements (mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound)
3. Textual elements (story, characterization, symbolism)
4. Cultural elements, such as gender, race, class, to determine whose view is sanctioned
5. Film theory and criticism
6. Defining genre
7. Documentary filmmaking
8. Filmmaking decisions (making a short film)

Learning Activities and Instructional Delivery:

1. Reading course material and texts assigned.
2. Watching feature length films or film clips as assigned both in and outside of the classroom setting.
3. Listening and participating actively in lectures and/or computer-based instruction as well as instructor- and peer-initiated discussion in the classroom or online.
4. Writing analytical essays and research papers, as assigned.
5. Completing tests or quizzes, as assigned:
   a. Type: objective and subjective (essay) or combination.
   b. Content: textbook readings, additional assigned readings, lecture material, and videos and other media.
6. Participating in group or individual projects, as assigned:
   a. Project ideas: computer-assisted or other media-enhanced demonstrations, panel discussions, oral reports, and debates.
   b. Possible topics: drawn from the topics above.

Additional and supplemental activities may include:

- Writing informally in-class or out-of-class assignments, student reflections, and/or journals.
- Making individual and/or group presentations.
- Viewing multimedia materials.
- Receiving, assessing, and applying peer input.
- Attending related events such as dramatic productions or films.
- Visiting museums or other facilities where artifacts and materials relevant to film studied are displayed and interpreted.
- Participating in student presentations, games and simulations, and collaborative projects.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students should:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to complete the following:

1. Identify the genre of a film and discuss its cultural context.
2. Identify cultural elements, such as gender, race, class, etc., to determine whose view is sanctioned in a film.
3. Identify and discuss the textual elements of films.
4. Write, revise, edit and proof-read an analysis of a film identifying the key elements used to convey meaning.
5. Plan, shoot, edit, and interpret the techniques and textual and cultural elements of an original film or film sequence.

Student Evaluation Requirements: Student evaluation requirements vary by course instructor. Although the course is not a composition course, students are expected to complete writing assignments that demonstrate proficiency in the core learning areas. Such evaluations may include oral presentations; explication, reflection, argumentative essays; research papers, group projects; and quizzes, tests, and examinations using various methods.

Core Learning Areas

The Core Learning Areas represent a common body of skills and knowledge to which all graduates with associate’s degrees should be exposed and for which the college may determine certain levels of competency which will be assessed through the general education curriculum.

9. Develop complex topics with a rhetorical purpose.
30. Defend a reasonable position.
36. Articulate how historical change shapes the arts, ideas, and social and political structures.

38. Demonstrate an understanding of the essential role of humanities, literature, and fine arts in the human experience.

41. Retrieve information legally, responsibly, and ethically.