

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

HUMN 26603 Introduction to Film

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition I or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the art of film and the expression of societal values through the medium of film. Film techniques, major directors of film, historical genres, and significant works will be studied and analyzed. Major American films will be the primary focus, although some films from abroad may be included.

B. Additional Information

Because of limited class viewing time, students will be required to subscribe to Netflix or another commercial rental company in order to obtain copies of the films for viewing. A schedule of required films will be provided at the beginning of the semester. This course will satisfy the 3 credit hour fine arts elective of the General Education requirements.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major film techniques, stressing the artistic and stylistic effects achieved.
2. Analyze how the values of a society are reflected in film and also influenced by film.
3. Identify selected major directors and analyze a major work by each director.
4. Identify the major genres and analyze a selected example of each genre.
5. Identify the stages in the historical development of film, the major films of each stage or era, and the interrelationship of the films with society
6. Analyze a film produced abroad and compare it to films produced in America.

B. University Learning Outcomes

Introduction to Film enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of musical performance.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently using proper musical terminology.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes whether in musical research, presentation, or performance.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Thematic elements of film
- B. Fictional and dramatic elements of film
- C. Visual design
- D. Cinematography
- E. Editing
- F. Color
- G. Sound Effects and Dialogue
- H. The Musical Score
- I. Acting
- J. The Director's Style
- K. Analysis for the whole film
- L. Genre Films, Remakes and Sequels
- M. Film and Society
- N. The History of Film