

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

MCOM 35103 The Cinematic Tradition

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: MCOM 25103 Media Production

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Theory and practice of cinematic storytelling with an emphasis on the various ways in which different film movements and styles utilize distinct narrative and stylistic devices to tell stories.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Compare and contrast diverse narrative devices employed by different film movements and styles across the globe.
2. Analyze critically acclaimed films from a writer's perspective.
3. Evaluate and analyze the influence of various film movements and styles on television series.
4. Demonstrate visual storytelling skills.
5. Complete preproduction documents that are properly formatted and professionally prepared.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use analytical/critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and/or solve problems through multimedia research project and/or oral presentation.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting through media projects.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

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

III. Major Course Topics

- A. German Expressionism
- B. Film Noir
- C. The Soviet Montage
- D. Italian Neorealism
- E. The French New Wave
- F. Chinese Fifth Generation films
- G. Visual storytelling
- H. Treatment writing
- I. Script analysis
- J. Narrative structure in films and television