

CIN1150 – INTRODUCTION TO FILM (crn 42547)

(fall 2018)

Oakland University, College of Arts & Sciences, Dept of English

Class Meeting Time: Mondays, 9:20-11:07; Wednesdays, 9:20-11:47*Location:* 203 Dodge*Professor:* Kyle Edwards

email: edwards2@oakland.edu

office: 524 O'Dowd Hall

office hours: Mondays, 11:30-12:30; Wednesdays, 12-1

Film Screening Proctor: Haley Heizer (hrheizer@oakland.edu)**CIN1150 CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to the art of film by examination of the filmmaking process, study of narrative and nonnarrative film, and exploration of film's relation to society. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the arts knowledge exploration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

OU General Education Information:

- Arts Knowledge Exploration learning objectives:
 - knowledge of cultural or historic artistic traditions in visual, auditory, movement, theatrical, or cinematic art
 - knowledge of the role of art as critical commentary on society and as an aesthetic expression of experience
- US Diversity learning objectives
 - demonstrate knowledge of how diverse value systems and societal structures are influenced by at least two of the following: race, gender, ethnicity
 - identify major challenges and issues these raise in society

REQUIRED READING:

**Moodle – all required reading will be posted (as downloadable pdf files) in the “Course Files and Resources” section of the CIN1150 Moodle web site.

REQUIRED VIEWING:*Singin in the Rain* (1952)*Rear Window* (1954)*Shadows* (1959)*Psycho* (1960)*Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (1974)*The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001)*Bowling For Columbine* (2002)*Far From Heaven* (2003)*Paranormal Activity 2* (2010)*Exit Through the Gift Shop* (2010)*Restrepo* (2010)*Her* (2013)

*Note: select films may contain objectionable language, themes, and images. If you feel you may have difficulty viewing, discussing, and writing about such content, you should consider dropping this class.

CIN1150 COURSE POLICIES:

Workload: Before you commit to taking this course, understand that it requires a significant commitment of time and energy, both inside and outside of class. If you anticipate that you will not be able or willing to keep up with the considerable reading, viewing or writing schedule, please drop the class now instead of jeopardizing your grade or the continuity of the class.

Active Reading and Film Viewing: The best film critics utilize a number of methods to continuously reflect upon the texts they encounter. Take notes as you read or watch in order to (a) record pertinent information about the text—such as character names and descriptions, plot summaries, and themes; (b) document your impressions of specific scenes and the film in general; (c) connect the film to concepts raised in our assigned readings; (d) write down any ideas that may be useful in a later essay assignment or class discussion; and (e) formulate any questions you may have.

Class Participation: A considerable portion of this class will be discussion based, and your attentiveness to, engagement with, and participation in discussions and the course in general (along with your consistent attendance and timely submission of assignments) is vital to our success this semester. I expect you to be a vocal contributor to the class—rather than a silent observer or, even worse, a disruption. Often, your ideas, comments, and questions will lead our discussions and indicate that you are keeping up with and interested in the class in general. Demonstration of these levels of engagement will help your participation grade.

Attendance Policy: Consistent attendance is required for the success of our discussions, your understanding of important cinematic concepts, and your satisfactory completion of all assignments. For these reasons, regular attendance is required. **You will be allowed 4 absences during the term (this includes all absences except those listed in the paragraph below). Each absence in excess of 4 will lower your participation grade by 25 percent. You will fail the course if you miss 8 or more class meetings.** If you know you will be absent, it is always a good idea to contact me before that day in order to keep up with assignments and class discussion.

University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the excused absence policy, see <http://www.oakland.edu/?id=6850&sid=175>.

Late Attendance: The assignments and design of this course also require that you arrive on time to every class period you attend; failure to make it to class on time will damage your participation grade and may result, in the most extreme cases, in failure of the course. **Arriving more than 20 minutes late to class or leaving class early, without prior authorization, will count as an absence.**

Grades: Your final semester grade will be calculated from your performance on a midterm and a final exam, online Moodle quizzes, brief screening reports, in-class assignments, in-class participation, and attendance and punctuality. Students who consistently neglect *any* of these areas are likely to fail the course. Do not discard any drafts, notes, papers or research materials you produce during the semester until you receive a final grade.

Exams: Midterm and final examinations will consist of short identification questions, brief response prompts, formal analysis of cinematic frames, and essay questions, which will ask you to discuss and offer your thoughts on broader concepts raised in class and reading. All required reading and films, as well as the short film clips we view in class and the topics raised in class discussion, may be tested.

Moodle Quizzes: Several open-book quiz assignments will be required throughout the term. All quizzes will be accessible through the CIN 1150 moodle front page and should be completed *prior* to the class meeting in which the assigned reading is to be discussed. (Note: your lowest moodle quiz grade will be dropped.)

Screening Reports: These brief one- to two-page writing assignments ask you to provide thoughtful commentary on film and/or reading assignments. Please be prepared to discuss the ideas presented in these reports during the class meeting in which they are due. (Screening reports should be typewritten in an appropriate font that allows for roughly 300-350 words per page. Include your name, my name, course number, date, and paper title. Double space the lines--no triple spacing or double returns between paragraphs--and use 1-inch margins all the way around the page.)

Submitting Assignments Late: If you anticipate missing class on the date an assignment is due, contact me to schedule a time to complete the assignment *before* the regular deadline, or you may email the assignment to me prior to our class meeting.

Scholastic Honesty: The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog. I strongly encourage you to speak with (or email) me if you are having trouble with an assignment. I also recommend the services offered by the Oakland Writing Center (212 Kresge Library, 370-3120). The consultants there are trained to help you resolve your own problems so that *all* of your writing reflects your ideas and what you have learned.

Cell Phones, notebook computers, et cetera: Cell phones, laptop and tablet computers, iPods and mp3 players, and other electronic devices are disruptive and must be turned off prior to the start of each class period. Any unexpected rings, beeps, et cetera coming from you or your bag will be hazardous to your class participation grade. **Absolutely no text messaging or checking your phone for other reasons in class; doing so will damage your grade in this course.**

Special Considerations: A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the Office of Disability and Support Services, 121 North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Screening Reports (2):	20% (Report 1=7.5%, Report 2=12.5%)
Moodle Quizzes:	15%
In-class assignments:	5%
Participation:	10%

GRADE CONVERSION (numerical to OU letter grade):

<u>Number</u>	<u>Letter</u>
100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-66	D+
65-60	D
59-0	F