

**Oakland University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Dept. of English**  
**Cinema Studies Program**

CIN 1150 (formerly cin150) – Introduction to Film  
CRN: 42548

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. David Shaerf  
346 O'Dowd Hall  
Class Room: DHE 202  
Class Time: T. 10am –11:47pm (lecture)  
R. 10am – 12:27 (screening)  
Class Credits: 4.0

email: [Shaerf@oakland.edu](mailto:Shaerf@oakland.edu)  
Office Ph: (248) 370-2988  
Office Hours: **Prof. Shaerf**  
Thursday 4pm-6pm  
**Haley (TA)**  
Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:30  
(O'dowd 544)

**Course Description:** Introduction to the art of film by examination of the filmmaking process, study of narrative and non-narrative 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.*



**Learning Objectives:**

*Arts*

- 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*

- 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 Text:**

Bordwell, D., Thompson, K., Smith, J. *Film Art: An Introduction* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.) McGraw Hill, 2013: ISBN 0073535109

**Course Format:**

This general education course is a core requirement for the Cinema Studies major. Generally, lectures will be on Tuesdays and screenings will be on Thursdays.

You are **required** to be at every class (even if you have seen the film prior to the course).

## Assessments:

Grades will be determined according to the following percentages:

Attendance	15%
Class Participation	10%
Film screening notes	15%
Weekly quizzes	20%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total:	100%

### ***Weekly Quizzes (20%)***

Following **every** lecture class, once a week, there will be a short quiz online at the Moodle site. This will be covering material from the lecture as well as questions about the reading. You will have seven days following class to complete the quiz. These will total to make up 20% of the final grade.

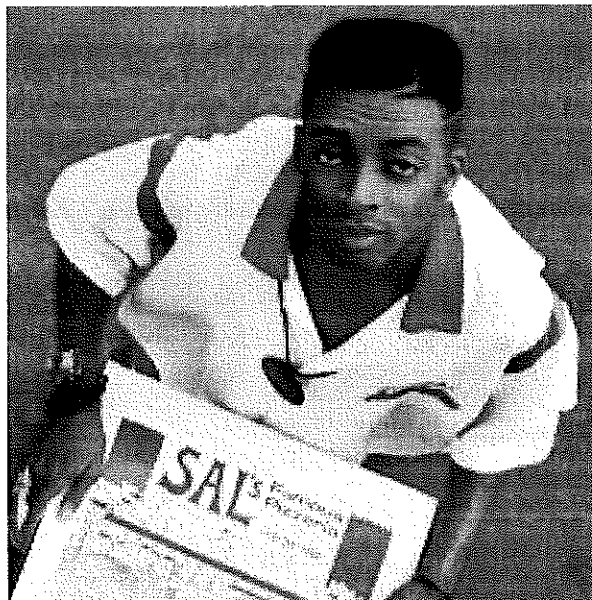
### ***Film screening notes (15%)***

You are required to take notes during each of the screenings during this course. Each week we will be looking at a different element of concept related to Cinema Studies and your notes on each film should reflect the topic that is in question for that week.

Your notes will be collected for grading **twice** throughout the term: before the mid-term exam and before the final exam. Your response in note form is worth 15% of your final grade.

### ***Mid-term exam (15%), Final Exam (25%)***

The Mid-term will be focusing specifically on elements of film narrative and form in relation to what we have looked at in the first weeks of the course. The second will be cumulative, asking you to draw on knowledge from both halves of the semester.



## ***Participation: Classroom Presence, and Absences***

Participation 10%

You'll note that there is a sizable amount of your grade attributed to your participation in class. Be an active learner: ask questions. We're in a class where you get to watch films, this is definitely a fun thing, but also requires you to be engaged and thoughtful about the films that we're watching.

Classroom Presence 15%

**Your attendance at, full preparation for, and participation in all class meetings and activities is required.**

If you have an excused absence, please notify me in person or by email prior to class. Excused absences include illness as verified by a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, jury duty, military service, religious holiday, and participation in school sports events. Unexcused absences include vacations, transportation problems, employment, sleeping in as well any variety of other excuses.

**Pet peeve: people coming late.** Please note that arriving in a timely manner to all classes is mandatory as well. You are responsible for coming to class on time: **for every two (2) late arrivals in class you will be credited with an absence.**

Your final grade will be lowered by a grade if you have more than two unexcused absences. If you miss the class four (4) or more times, you will **fail the course**. In some cases, if you have an excessive number of absences, even if they are excused, it is possible that your grade will be lowered. If you are absent for any reason, you are responsible for all material covered in class. It is up to you to take the initiative to find out what this material is.

**Immediate extra credit (2%):**

**If you have not already done so, upload a profile picture to your moodle profile. For the extra credit, this picture clearly *must* be of your face. I am admittedly terrible with names, so the visual reference of your profile pic will be tremendously helpful... And worth points to you!!**

Do not have your cell phone or MP3 player on during class.

**Sorry, no laptops for note taking. If you would like to use a laptop for note taking purposes, you need to ask my permission first.**

**Always save your work as you create it. You are exclusively responsible for having a back-up of everything you turn in.**

If you do not already have a dropbox to save your files to, follow this link to sign up (free) and have your work be safe: <https://db.tt/bzrIEcD>

### *Plagiarism*

This course will follow OU's Academic Honesty Policy. Plagiarism is claiming as your own work done by another person. Turning in work written partially or wholly by someone else—whether a friend, roommate, web-site “expert” or the author of a book—constitutes plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism include submitting a text:

- (1) written by someone else as your own;
- (2) written by means of inappropriate collaboration
- (3) written by you for another course, submitted without the permission of both instructors;
- (4) purchased, downloaded, or cut and pasted from the Internet;
- (5) or the fails to properly acknowledge its sources through standard citations

In the event that you are found to be in breach of the university's Academic Conduct Code, you may fail the class.

### **Tolerance and civility in the classroom**

**It is especially important for all of us to engage respectfully with each other during class discussion and workshops. There will be students in the class whose backgrounds or opinions are different from yours, which is one of the things that make classes interesting and enjoyable. It is essential to remain respectful of differences: racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, bullying of any sort have no place in this classroom.**

**I reserve the right to lower the grade of anyone I believe is engaging in an untoward or intolerant manner to another member of class.**

**If you do not identify with the name that is listed with the registrar, please notify me so that I may appropriately amend my records. In addition, if you prefer to go by a different pronoun, please inform me.**



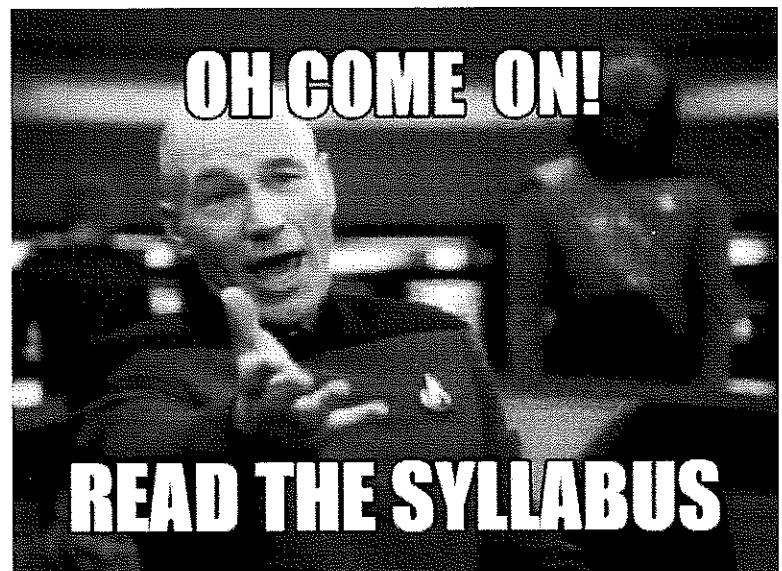
**Grading policy:**

As of the 2018-19 academic year, Oakland University has adopted a letter grading system. GPAs will be calculated according to the following rubric:

A	4.0	C+	2.3
A-	3.7	C	2.0
B+	3.3	C-	1.7
B	3.0	D+	1.3
B-	2.7	D	1.0
		F	0.0

Below is how the letter grades are distributed in this class:

95-100%	A	80-83%	B-	67-69%	D+
90-93%	A-	77-79%	C+	60-66%	D
87-89%	B+	74-76%	C	59%	F
84-86%	B	70-73%	C-		



*Syllabus and Course Schedule may change with ample warning and at the discretion of the professor*

	Screening/Topic	req. reading
Week 1		
6-Sep	Introduction to course Syllabus overview. Screening: <b>Rushmore</b> (Anderson, 1998): <i>93 minutes</i>	
Week 2		
11-Sep	Is film art? Is it entertainment? Finding meaning in the image	<i>Film Art (BTS)</i> pp 50 - 71 (Chapter 2 - The Significance of Film Form)
13-Sep	screening: <b>The Bicycle Thieves</b> (De Sica, 1948): <i>93 minutes</i>	
Week 3		
18-Sep	Narrative storytelling I: Intro to narrative form	<i>BTS</i> - pp 72-93 (Chapter 3 - Narrative Form)
20-Sep	screening: <b>Casablanca</b> (Curtiz, 1942): <i>102 minutes</i>	
Week 4		
25-Sep	Narrative storytelling II: Classical Hollywood Narrative	Vogler (available on Moodle) Bordwell - Classical Hollywood Narrative (available on Moodle)
27-Sep	screening: <b>Rear Window</b> (Hitchcock, 1954): <i>112 Minutes</i>	
Week 5		
2-Oct	Film style: Mise-en-scene	<i>BTS</i> - 112-158 (Chapter 4 - The Shot: Mise-en-Scene)
4-Oct	screening: <b>Do the Right Thing</b> (Lee, 1989): <i>120 minutes</i>	
Week 6		
9-Oct	Film style: cinematography	<i>BTS</i> - 159-215 (Chapter 5 - The Shot: Cinematography)

11-Oct	screening: <i>The Karate Kid</i> (Alvidsen, 1984): 127 minutes	
Week 7		
16-Oct	Film style: Editing I	BTS - 216-245 (Chapter 6 - The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing)
18-Oct	<b>Mid term exam</b>	<b>Screening notes weeks 1-6 due</b>
Week 8		
23-Oct	Mid term exam review, Film style: Editing II.	BTS - 251-262 (Chapter 6 - The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing), Moodle TBC
25-Oct	screening: <i>The Conversation</i> (Coppola, 1974): 113 minutes	
Week 9		
30-Oct	Film sound	BTS - 263-302 (Chapter 7 - Sound in Cinema)
1-Nov	screening: <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (Kelley, Donen, 1952): 103 minutes	
Week 10		
6-Nov	Film Genre	BTS - 326 - 349 (Chapter 9 - Film Genres)
8-Nov	screening: <i>Searching for Sugarman</i> (Bendjelloul, 2012): 86 minutes	
Week 11		
13-Nov	Documentary film	BTS 350-367 (Chapter 10 - Documentary), TBC on moodle
15-Nov	screening: <i>Grizzly Man</i> (Herzog, 2010): 104 minutes	
Week 12		
20-Nov	Documentary film II	TBC on Moodle
22-Nov	Thanksgiving!	
Week 13		

27-Nov	screening: <i>Point Break</i> (Bigelow, 1991): 122 minutes	
29-Nov		BTS pp 400 - 450 Chapter 11 - Film criticism & analysis
Week 14		
4-Dec	screening: Audience choice. We will vote on something TBD	
6-Dec	<b>exam review</b>	BTS - 303-309
Week 15		
	<b>Exam Week</b>	<b>Screening notes due</b>