

# CIN 1150 – Introduction to Film

CRN: 43556  
Oakland University

Fall 2018  
College of Arts & Sciences, Department of English



*They Live* (dir. John Carpenter, 1988)

## Course Information

**Meeting Times:** Tuesday 10:00am–12:27pm (screening); Thursday 10:00–11:47am (lecture)

**Location:** Dodge 203

**Instructor:** Brendan Kredell

**Email:** kredell@oakland.edu

**Office:** 534 O'Dowd Hall

**Office Hours:** Monday/Thursday 3–5pm (or by appointment)

**Teaching Assistant:** Alyssa Jones

**Email:** agjones3@oakland.edu

## CIN 1150 Catalog 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.

## **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

For more information, visit the OU General Education Assessment website at:

<https://www.oakland.edu/oira/assessment-of-student-learning/general-education-assessment/>

## **Additional Information**

Attendance and informed participation at lectures and screenings are essential components of this course and will help determine your final grade. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the required reading. Some of the materials and topics presented in class include explicit/graphic content (sex, violence or language). If these make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. You will not be exempt from any class assignments but we will work together to accommodate your concerns.

## **Readings and Screenings**

### **Required Reading**

David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction*. 11th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2016

Additional readings available on Moodle in PDF format

### **Recommended Reading**

Karen Gocsik, Richard Barsam, and Dave Monahan, *Writing About Movies*. 3rd ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2012

Electronic resources for *Film Art*

## Screenings

*The Act of Killing* (dir. Joshua Oppenheimer, 2014, 122 min.)  
*Bamboozled* (dir. Spike Lee, 2000, 135 min.)  
*Children of Men* (dir. Alfonso Cuarón, 2007, 110 min.)  
*Citizen Kane* (dir. Orson Welles, 1941, 119 min.)  
*A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night* (dir. Ana Lily Amirpour, 2014, 101 min.)  
*Let the Right One in* (dir. Tomas Alfredson, 2008, 115 min.)  
*Lost in Translation* (dir. Sofia Coppola, 2003, 101 min.)  
*Loving Vincent* (dir. Dorota Kobiela & Hugh Welchman, 2017, 95 min.)  
*Modern Times* (dir. Charlie Chaplin, 1936, 87 min.)  
*Mulholland Drive* (dir. David Lynch, 2001, 146 min.)  
*Only Lovers Left Alive* (dir. Jim Jarmusch, 2013, 123 min.)  
*They Live* (dir. John Carpenter, 1988, 94 min.)

## Grading

**Midterm Exam** 30%

The mid-term examination will comprise multiple-choice questions and an essay. More details will be discussed in class.

**Final Exam** 35%

Students will write a final exam that includes both a take-home essay in addition to multiple-choice and short answer questions. More information will be distributed after the midterm.

**Discussion/Response Assignments** 25%

Students will complete a series of short assignments – essay prompts, creative projects, annotation assignments – responding to the films screened in class and posted to the course Moodle site.

**Attendance and Participation** 10%

Students will be evaluated on their active and informed participation in class discussions. Note that as attendance is a prerequisite of such participation, attendance will be taken in lecture and in screening. You are allowed three absences (excused or unexcused) during the course of the term; additional absences beyond this will reduce your course grade by one-third of a grade point (i.e. from B+ to B; see conversion chart below).

## Grade Conversion

Grade – GPA

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

## **Additional Class Policies**

### **Academic Misconduct**

Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations of academic integrity with serious consequences: failure of the assignment, possible failure of the course, and possible disciplinary action through the Office of Student Affairs. We will be discussing writing strategies in this course, but 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 your writing reflects your ideas and what you have learned.

### **Important Dates**

A list of important dates can be found on the website of the Office of the Registrar:

[http://www.oakland.edu/important\\_dates](http://www.oakland.edu/important_dates)

Students should consult this list, especially as it regards information about add/drop, withdrawals from the course, and school holidays. Also, note that as this course is taught at the 100-level, mid-term evaluations of students' progress in the course will be reported to the Office of the Registrar in mid-February.

### **Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of one-third of a letter grade (e.g.: A to A-) for each day late. Examinations will not be rescheduled except in the case of medical emergencies. Students without proper medical documentation will not be permitted to make up missed examinations.

### **Paper Formatting**

The Cinema Studies has adopted consistent style and formatting guidelines based on the Chicago Manual of Style. All papers submitted for this course should be formatted according to the guidelines found at [http://methods.brendankredell.com/index.php?title=Cinema\\_Studies\\_style\\_guide](http://methods.brendankredell.com/index.php?title=Cinema_Studies_style_guide).

### **Course Schedule**

All course readings and screenings are subject to change at my discretion; in the event of any change to the following schedule, I will communicate to the class well in advance.

## Introduction to the Course

9/6 Reading: Syllabus  
Screening: *Modern Times* (out-of-class)

## Encoding/Decoding

9/11 Screening: *They Live*  
9/13 Reading: Wilson (PDF)

## Mise-en-scène

9/18 Screening: *Lost in Translation*  
9/20 Reading: Bordwell and Thompson ch. 4

## Cinematography

9/25 Screening: *Children of Men*  
9/27 Reading: Bordwell and Thompson ch. 5

## Editing

10/2 Screening: *Let the Right One In*  
10/4 Reading: Bordwell and Thompson ch. 6

## Sound

10/9 Screening: *Only Lovers Left Alive*  
10/11 Reading: Bordwell and Thompson ch. 7

## Narrative

10/16 Screening: *Citizen Kane*  
10/18 Reading: Bordwell and Thompson ch. 2

## Genre

10/23 Screening: *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*  
10/25 Reading: Klein (PDF)

## Midterm

10/30 Screening: None  
11/1 Reading: None  
Assignment: **Midterm Exam** (11/1)

## Documentary

11/6 Screening: *The Act of Killing*  
11/8 Reading: Nichols (PDF)

## Culture and Power

11/13 Screening: *Bamboozled*  
11/15 Reading: Clark (PDF)

### **Analyzing a Film**

11/20            Reading: TBA  
11/22            NO CLASS: Thanksgiving

### **Animation**

11/27            Screening: *Loving Vincent*  
11/29            Reading: TBA

### **Conclusion**

12/4            Screening: *Mulholland Drive*  
12/6            Reading: none  
                  Assignment: **Final Exam** (TBA)