

CIN2150: METHODS OF CINEMA STUDIES (crn: 41483)

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY – COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- Class Meeting time/location:
 - Lectures, Mondays, 1:20-4:07; Film Screenings, Wednesdays, 1:20-4:07
 - 202 Dodge
- Instructor: Kyle Edwards
- Email: edwards2@oakland.edu
- Phone: 248-370-4118
- Office Hours: Mondays, 11:30-12:30; Wednesdays, 12-1; or by appointment.

TEXTBOOKS:

****All required reading will be posted in the “course files and resources” section of the CIN2150 Moodle website**

ONLINE RESOURCES:

The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL). Purdue University Writing Lab, 2010.

<<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/1/>> 5 September 2010.

CIN252: Methods of Cinema Studies Library Resources, Oakland University Library, 2012.

<<http://research.library.oakland.edu/sp/subjects/guide.php?subject=CIN252>> August 2014.

FILMS:

Scarface (1932)

Blonde Venus (1932)

She Done Him Wrong (1933)

Bullets or Ballots (1935)

Rebecca (1940)

Strangers on a Train (1951)

The Wild One (1954)

The Blackboard Jungle (1955)

Psycho (1960)

The Birds (1963)

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966)

Psycho (1998)

COURSE POLICIES:

Active Film Viewing/Active Reading: The best film critics are engaged spectators who continuously reflect upon the films they view. Take notes as you watch in order to (a) record pertinent information about the film—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 and class discussion; and (d) formulate any questions you have while watching the film. In addition, you should take notes as you read each assigned article or book chapter and re-read important passages to be sure that you fully comprehend these materials. Write down any questions that arise so that you may bring these issues into our class discussion.

Attendance Policy: Consistent attendance is required for the success of our discussions, your understanding of readings and concepts raised in class, and your completion of daily assignments and quizzes. Thus, regular attendance is required. You will be allowed three absences (excused and unexcused; this includes documented illnesses) during the term. Each absence in excess of three will lower your participation grade by 25 percent. You will fail the course if you miss more than six class meetings. If you know you will be absent, please 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 require that you arrive on time to every class period you attend. Arriving to class on time indicates your interest in and respect for the course, your classmates, and me. Failure to make it to class on time will be hazardous to your participation grade and may, in habitual cases, result in your failure of the course.

Film Screening Labs: You will view the majority of the films we will discuss over the course of the semester at film screening labs. Attendance at these labs is mandatory, even if you are already familiar with the film to be screened that week. Please note that on those weeks when you are absent from a lab, you are still expected to view the film prior to our next class meeting.

Class Participation: The majority of this class will be discussion based, and your attentiveness to, engagement with, and participation in discussions is vital to our success this semester. I expect you to be a vocal contributor to the class—rather than a silent observer or a disruption. Often, your ideas, comments, and questions will lead our class discussions and indicate that you are keeping up with the class. Demonstration of these levels of engagement will help your participation grade.

Writing Assignments (Guidelines and Formatting): All out-of-class writing assignments must be typewritten in an appropriate font that, when double-spaced, allows for roughly 300-350 words per page (usually Times New Roman or a similar font). Chicago Style should be used for all formal writing assignments. 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 text. Staple your pages together. Assignments that fail to fulfill these requirements may be penalized.

Group Presentation: Each member of the class will participate in one group project. This assignment will ask each group to investigate the original correspondence between a film studio and the Hollywood Production Code Administration (PCA) regarding the content of a select film prior to its release. (This correspondence is available on microfilm in the Kresge Library.) Group presentations will provide a summary of the correspondence between the PCA and the relevant studio, along with an analysis of the manner in which the PCA influenced the film under consideration. Additional information about this assignment will be provided in a future class meeting.

Quizzes: Short quizzes may be administered to ensure you have completed all reading and viewing in preparation for the day's class. Assume that every class meeting will begin with a quiz.

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. If you are having trouble with or are unclear about a writing project, feel free to contact me via email or visit my posted office hours.

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:

- Journal Entries: 10%
 - Weekly one- to two-paragraph commentary on the reading and viewing assignment(s) under discussion. Submit via moodle. (10 of 12 entries required to receive full credit)
- Shot Analysis: 10%
 - Close formal analysis of a scene from *Psycho* or *The Birds*.
- Video Essay: 10%
 - Critical argument about a selected film scene, presented in video form.
- Hitchcock Annotated Bibliography: 10%
 - Properly cite and summarize the content of a handful of credible secondary sources on the topic of "Hitchcock & ?".
- Research Essay: 25%
 - Analysis of the Production Code Administration Review process of a film of your choice
- Research Essay Outline and Rough Draft: 5%
- Group Presentation: 10%
- In-class assignments: 5%
- Class Participation: 15%

GRADE CONVERSION (numerical to OU letter grade):

NumberLetter

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