

AESTHETICS OF SCREEN MEDIA- CDM 2600

SYLLABUS - SPRING 2017

Professor: Dr. Vertna Bradley

Office: Hedberg Library, 163

Contact Info: 262.551.6314 (office), vbradley@carthage.edu (Email is best)

Office Hours: **Monday - 1:00pm - 2:30pm**
Wednesday - 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Friday - 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Please do not hesitate to contact me for an appointment.

Class Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:50pm - 3:55pm
Hedberg Library, Room 172 (Check email DAILY for updates)

Final Exam Time: Tuesday, May 16th - 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Course Description

In this course students will learn and apply a variety of critical methods for understanding and evaluating aesthetic criteria in screen media. The course will cover television, film, Internet, and other contemporary or emerging screen media. It will consider the basic elements of screen media aesthetics, mainly light, space, motion, and sound as well as story, writing, acting style, dramatization, and editing. The course is designed to provide students with a knowledge base for future work in either screen media production, screen media criticism, or other communication-related fields. Prerequisite: None

Course Goals/Student Learning Outcomes

During the semester, you will work to:

- Utilize your preexisting knowledge of mainstream Hollywood films to compare and contrast the cinematic practices, styles, and aesthetics of several narrative, documentary, experimental and independent films.
- "Read" a film and to critically think/discuss, analyze various aspects of the 15 elements of the mise en scene, various shot types, and angles.
- Deconstruct the mimesis/diegesis of films and compare/contrast the artistic styles of filmmakers.
- Understand the aesthetics of filmmaking with a global/multicultural focus.
- Examine the effects of film aesthetics on its audience.
- Differentiate between the freedom of expression in cinema and the responsibilities that accompany it in the representation of others on the screen.

Criteria For Evaluation

Students must demonstrate competency in all of the areas outlined in the course goals/student outcomes. Final course grades will be determined by the culmination of written homework assignments, quiz grades, overall effort and performance (evidenced through qualitative progress in general, completion of readings & exercises), participation (class discussions, critiques), attendance, and the final exam. If your performance

is consistently unsatisfactory, your instructor may recommend that you drop the course. **You will fail this course at your THIRD unexcused absence. Every THIRD tardy counts as ONE unexcused absence.**

Required Texts

Understanding Movies, 13th Edition- by Louis Giannetti

Required Materials

- An open mind to new concepts and theories
- Lecture/Screening notebook
- Folder for handouts

Email Communication & Netiquette

You are required to use your assigned Carthage email account at all times as college related information will only go to that address. ***Emails coming from non Carthage email addresses may not get a response.*** Please be respectful, courteous, and professional in your email communication. Never write an email in anger or when upset. Take a deep breath, or even better, sleep over it first. *Emotionally written emails that show disrespect will be ignored.*

Grades

Your grade will be determined according to the following percentages:

Attendance, Participation, & Preparation	20%
Graded Homework (projects & exercises etc.)	40%
Oral Assessment (group analysis & presentations)	15%
Written Exams (tests & quizzes)	10%
Final Exam (Written/Comprehensive)	15%

Deadline Policy

Meeting deadlines is central to the film studies and film production industry. Therefore, all students are expected to meet all deadlines. All homework is due at the beginning of class or as specified in the assignment or in eLearning.

Penalty for late projects/homework submissions: This includes days we DO NOT have class. (No exceptions)

One day late: **-5 points**

Two days late: **- 10 points**

Three days late: **-15 points**

Four days late **-20 points**

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT AFTER THE 4TH LATE DAY.

Instructional Activities

This course will include the following instructional activities: lectures, readings, discussions, screenings, group activities, and short quizzes (on the lectures and readings). Students will also have some short written responses about various aesthetics in the films screened. Students will work to analyze specific elements and aspects of the films screened to examine how the images and sound are juxtaposed against each other to create meaning. We will discuss and reflect on the freedoms of being a filmmaker, but also reinforce the importance of being an ethical filmmaker in the representation of others. Lastly, we will also examine how being a filmmaker influences society. This will take the form of group discussions, quizzes, and role playing activities.

Homework and Readings

Since one of the main goals of this course is to improve your film and screen media comprehension, you will be required to complete work outside of class on writing projects, screenings, and reading assignments.

Tardy during a quiz

Quizzes are given at the **beginning** of class. If you are tardy and there is a quiz, you **cannot** make up that quiz. (Unless it was an emergency, with documentation of that emergency.)

Class Participation & Discussions

For each writing that you complete, you will be asked to discuss your ideas as part of an in class group discussion. You will be graded on your participation. You must be open and able to take constructive criticism and feedback. This will be a safe space where you and your ideas are not attacked, but rather we are using this time to dig deeper into the meanings of the films/readings, to enhance your confidence in presentation/critique skills, and to improve your future analyses.

Tardy Policy

Class starts on time. You will be expected to be on time for this class. Please be in class and ready to go at the scheduled class time. You will be counted as **tardy** if you arrive past 2:50pm.

Three tardies count as one unexcused absence. On your 3rd unexcused absence, you will fail the course.

Attendance & Participation

If you miss a class it is your responsibility to arrange to get the notes from a classmate, and or watch the films you missed online or elsewhere. Film materials will not be loaned out. They have walked away in the past.

Since a significant percentage of your grade is based on your attendance and participation in class, attendance is mandatory. Attendance as defined here includes more than just physical presence in the room; it involves arriving on time, being prepared, having the homework/reading completed, and actively participating in class activities in an engaged manner and on a consistent basis.

When you miss a class, you miss the opportunity to improve your knowledge, you are unable to practice what you have already learned, and you are unable to ask for clarification of material that might present difficulty.

Your participation and attendance is also important to the other members of the class, with whom you will be learning and working with in group productions. Please adhere strictly to the following attendance policy:

- Illness and pre-arranged absences are the only types of **excused absences**.
- An **unexcused** absences will significantly affect your grade (see below).
- Make up exams, assignments, and homework are possible **only** in the case of an **excused** absence. I will be happy to look at any work you do to learn the material you missed during an unexcused absence, but you will not be able to receive any points for it.

If you have an **excused** absence **and** makeup all the missed work by the specified date, you can receive the attendance points for the day you missed.

If you have an **unexcused** absence, you will receive **zero points** for that day and may not make up any attendance/participation, in class quizzes or assignment points.

You are allowed two unexcused absences, at the 3rd unexcused absence, you will fail the course. Every 3rd tardy counts as one unexcused absence.

Examples of excused absences

An excused absence will have a paper or email trail as proof. If you know you must miss class due to outside college activities, please contact me before with your written documentation before missing that class period.

Emergencies

In the case of an emergency with you or your family, provide doctor/lawyer/judge/priest documentation, just as you would at a job. Contacting your advisor to send an email out to all of your professors is the BEST way to handle this.

Interviews

If you have an internship or job interview, provide an email or proof you are going. If you have an interview for graduate school, provide an email or proof for that as well.

College-related sports

An email must be received from you, group emails from coaches/ teachers are not accepted. If you do not consult with me about an absence in advance, it will not be excused.

Conferences travel/ scholarship presentation

You may travel for a conference related to your major, this is a great thing! Just show me documentation you are doing this, if you are presenting work that is even better!

Tardy during a quiz

Quizzes are given at the beginning of class. If you are tardy and there is a quiz, you **cannot** make up that quiz. (Unless it was an emergency, with documentation of that emergency.)

Cell Phones/Media Devices

Cell phones and other similar media devices may only be used for **class-related activity** during class. It is usually best to have your phone put away before class begins, but there may be times when your phone will serve as a useful tool during class activities (for example, for use in review or guided searches we do together). Such use is permitted. However, any other (non-emergency) use of cell phones or similar devices in class will result in an **automatic deduction of class participation points for that day.**

Final Exam (required)

Missing the Final Exam on **Tuesday, May 16th from 1:00 - 3:00pm** will result in a failing grade for the Final Exam. Excuses to make up the Final Exam will not be accepted unless previous arrangements are made for absolute emergencies. The emergency must have written documentation. You must be present to take the exam to get the credit for the Final Exam. **Absolutely no arrangements will be made for make up on the day of the Final Exam.**

Tips For Improving Your Class Participation, Enjoyment, & Learning

1. **Be prepared for class.** This means having a working knowledge of the readings and materials for that scheduled class day. Read ahead.
2. **Be on time.** We have very limited time in which to accomplish a lot of work. Being here at the start of class will help class go smoothly, you won't interrupt anything, and you won't miss anything.
3. **Be prepared to ask questions.** You may be struggling to understand some reading materials or your lecture notes. Please realize that if you have a question, others probably have it too. If you ask, you might be helping other classmates learn and me teach you.
4. **Put your device away.** You can't listen to the lecture and participate with your classmates when your eyes are down in your lap and you're texting or chatting. Be present and in the moment with us so you don't miss any materials.
5. **Respect the opinions of others.** When discussing, dissecting, and viewing films, we will encounter some issues in gender, ethnicity, class, religion, gender identification, and sexual orientation. I understand these can be sensitive topics. Even though we may strongly disagree, a calm and rational exchange of ideas and views is expected. Shouting, name calling, and other disrespectful behavior, in class or online via eLearning or email will not be tolerated.

Preferred Name/Pronoun

Please let me know if you have a preferred name or preferred gender pronoun that you wish to be addressed by if it is different than what is listed on the official roster.

Copyright Violations

If you turn in any project using materials, information, or images that you did not create without the release form from the copyright holder, you will FAIL the assignment. Period. Everything you use in your assignments must be original work created by you, or you must have the proper permission release turned in with your assignment and properly attributed in order to receive credit for the assignment.

Academic Honesty

All items you turn in as an "original project" must be your own. You will fail if you plagiarize, and not just the assignment, for the WHOLE class. Each piece you work on for this course must be entirely your own work. Carthage has strict regulations regarding plagiarism in written work. You are responsible for reading and understanding Carthage's Student Honor Pledge. (<http://www.carthage.edu/campus-life/code/academic-concerns/>) Please see me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism. If you plagiarize you should also be aware that you will be reported to the Provost office and it will go on your permanent record. If this happens twice at Carthage you are removed from school. You may also be cited for issues in academic honesty for cheating on a quiz, unauthorized cooperative work, false citation, multiple submissions, submission of work prepared by another and using false data. All of these are listed on the Honor Pledge page.

Special Needs

Students with special learning needs are encouraged to see me during the first two weeks of class to discuss appropriate accommodations and support. You should also have documentation on file with Diane Schowalter, the campus learning specialist, in the Center for Student Success (x5802.) This information will be kept confidential.

Health & Counseling Needs

We now have two counselors on campus and a campus nurse. Carthage offers all students free and confidential counseling right here on campus. The Health and Counseling Center is located in Room 2240 of the Tarble Athletic and Recreation Center, next to the Fitness Center. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mary Belknap, Counselor/Outreach Coordinator for Sexual Assault, Alcohol and Drug Education, can be reached at mbelknap@carthage.edu or 262-551-5725. Deborah Betsworth, Director of Counseling Services, can be reached at dbetsworth@carthage.edu. Rachel Blut is the campus nurse and can be reached at 262-551-5710.

Aesthetics of Screen Media - Spring 2017

Professor: Dr. Vertna Bradley

MWF - 2:50pm - 3:55pm, HL 172

Class Schedule - (Subject to Change)

Date	Topic(s)	Assignment
February 1st	Course introduction supplies needed, syllabus, intros, expectations, Pre Course Assessment	Read Color Meanings in Film Read 15 Key Elements of the Mise en Scene <i>Print out Color Meanings in film and bring to the next class for an exercise.</i>
February 3rd	Color Meanings in Film & 15 Elements of Mise en Scene	Read Scene Analysis Framework Read Five Basic Concepts of Media Literacy Mise en Scene Lecture Weekend Watch Assignments Homework - Mise en Scene Analysis - 25 points
February 6th	Mise en Scene - the frame, composition & design, territorial space, proxemic patterns, open and closed forms	Read Chapter 2 - Mise en Scene
February 8th	Mise en Scene - the frame, composition & design, territorial space, proxemic patterns, open and closed forms	Read Chapter 2 - Mise en Scene Study for Quiz #1
February 10th	Quiz #1 - Color Meanings in Film & Mise en Scene	Read Chapter 1 - Photography Photography Lecture Homework - Chapter 1 Photography Short Answer- 25 points

February 13th	Photography - Realism and formalism, the shots, the angles, light & dark, color, lenses, filters, stocks, the digital revolution, the cinematographer	Read Chapter 1 - Photography
February 15th	Photography - Realism and formalism, the shots, the angles, light & dark, color, lenses, filters, stocks, the digital revolution, the cinematographer	Read Chapter 1 - Photography Study for Quiz #2
February 17th	Quiz #2 - Photography	Read Chapter 3 - Movement Movement Lecture Homework - Chapter 3 Movement Short Answer- 25 points
February 20th	Movement - Kinetics, the moving camera, mechanical distortions of movement SPLICE MEETING - 9:15PM HL172 - 2 PTS. EXTRA CREDIT	Read Chapter 3 - Movement
February 22nd	Movement - Kinetics, the moving camera, mechanical distortions of movement	Read Chapter 3 - Movement Study for Quiz #3
February 24th	Quiz #3 - Movement	Read Chapter 4 - Editing Editing Lecture Homework - Chapter 4 Editing Short Answer- 25 points
February 27th	Editing - Continuity, Classical Cutting, Soviet Montage, Andre Bazin & the tradition of realism	Read Chapter 4 - Editing
March 1st	Editing - Continuity, Classical Cutting, Soviet Montage, Andre Bazin & the tradition of realism Weekend Watch Posting - Due 11:55pm - 30 points	Read Chapter 4 - Editing Study for Quiz #4
March 3rd	Quiz #4 - Editing	Read Chapter 6 - Acting Homework - Chapter 6 Acting Short Answer- 25 points

March 6th	<p>Acting - Stage & screen acting, the American Star System, styles of acting, casting</p> <p>SPLICE MEETING - 9:15PM HL172 - 2 PTS. EXTRA CREDIT</p>	<p>Read Chapter 6 - Acting</p> <p>Acting Lecture</p>
March 8th	<p>Acting - Stage & screen acting, the American Star System, styles of acting, casting</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 6 - Acting</p> <p>Study for Quiz #5</p>
March 10th	<p>Quiz #5 - Acting</p>	<p>Read Chapter 5 - Sound</p> <p>Homework - Chapter 5 Sound Short Answer- 25 points - due April 4th</p>
March 13th	<p>Sound - Historical background, sound effects, music, musicals, spoken language</p>	<p>Read Chapter 5 - Sound</p> <p>Sound Lecture</p>
March 15th	<p>Sound - Historical background, sound effects, music, musicals, spoken language</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 5 - Sound</p> <p>Study for Quiz #6</p>
March 17th	<p>Quiz #6 Sound</p>	<p>Read Chapter 7 - Dramatization</p> <p>Homework - Chapter 7 Dramatization Short Answer- 25 points - due April 6th</p> <p>Dramatization Lecture</p>
March 27th	<p>Dramatization - Time space, & language, the director, settings & decor, costumes & makeup</p> <p>SPLICE MEETING - 9:15PM HL172 - 2 PTS. EXTRA CREDIT</p>	<p>Read Chapter 7 - Dramatization</p>

<p>March 29th</p>	<p>Dramatization - Time space, & language, the director, settings & decor, costumes & makeup</p> <p>Chapter 7, take home assignment - 30 points - due April 3rd</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 7 - Dramatization</p>
<p>March 31st</p>	<p>NO In Person Class Meeting. My other BFF is getting married - FINALLY!</p>	<p>Read Chapter 7 - Dramatization Study for Quiz #7</p>
<p>April 3rd</p>	<p>Quiz #7 - Dramatization</p>	<p>Read Chapter 8 - Story Homework - Chapter 8 Story Short Answer- 25 points</p> <p>Story Lecture</p>
<p>April 5th</p>	<p>Story - Narratology, the spectator, the classical paradigm, realistic narratives, nonfictional narratives, genre & myth</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 8 - Story Study for Quiz #8</p>
<p>April 7th</p>	<p>Quiz #8 - Story</p>	<p>Read Chapter 9 - Writing Homework - Chapter 9 Writing Short Answer- 25 points</p> <p>Writing Lecture</p>
<p>April 10th</p>	<p>Writing - The screenwriter, the screenplay, <i>North by Northwest</i>: the screenplay, figurative comparisons, point of view, literary adaptations</p> <p>SPLICE MEETING - 9:15PM HL172 - 2 PTS. EXTRA CREDIT</p>	<p>Read Chapter 9 - Writing</p>
<p>April 12th</p>	<p>Writing - The screenwriter, the screenplay, <i>North by Northwest</i>: the screenplay, figurative</p>	<p>Read Chapter 9 - Writing</p>

	<p>comparisons, point of view, literary adaptations</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	
April 19th	<p>Writing - The screenwriter, the screenplay, <i>North by Northwest</i>: the screenplay, figurative comparisons, point of view, literary adaptations</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 9 - Writing</p> <p>Study for Quiz #9</p>
April 21st	<p>Quiz #9 - Writing</p>	<p>Read Chapter 10 - Ideology</p> <p>Homework - Chapter 10 Ideology Short Answer- 25 points</p> <p>Ideology Lecture</p>
April 24th	<p>Ideology - The left - center-right model, culture, religion, & ethnicity, feminism, queer cinema, tone</p> <p>SPLICE MEETING - 9:15PM HL172 - 2 PTS. EXTRA CREDIT</p>	<p>Read Chapter 10 - Ideology</p>
April 26th	<p>Ideology - The left - center-right model, culture, religion, & ethnicity, feminism, queer cinema, tone</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 10 - Ideology</p> <p>Study for Quiz #10</p>
April 28th	<p>Quiz #10 - Ideology</p>	<p>Read Chapter 11 - Critique</p> <p>Homework - Chapter 11 Critique Short Answer- 25 points</p> <p>Critique Lecture</p>
May 1st	<p><i>Love & Basketball</i> <i>In Class Screening</i></p>	<p>Read Chapter 11 - Critique</p>

	<p>Critique - Theories of realism, formalist film theories, the auteur theory, eclectic & synthesizing approaches, structuralism & semiology, historiography</p>	
<p>May 3rd</p>	<p><i>Love & Basketball</i> <i>In Class Screening</i></p> <p>Critique - Theories of realism, formalist film theories, the auteur theory, eclectic & synthesizing approaches, structuralism & semiology, historiography</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 11 - Critique</p> <p>Study for Quiz #11</p>
<p>May 5th</p>	<p>Quiz #11 - Critique</p>	<p>Read Chapter 12 - Synthesis Homework - Chapter 12 Synthesis Short Answer- 25 points</p> <p>Synthesis Lecture</p>
<p>May 8th</p>	<p>Synthesis - Photography, mise en scene, movement, editing, sound, acting, dramatization, story, writing, ideology, critique</p> <p>In Class Activity - 30 points</p> <p>SPLICE MEETING - 9:15PM HL172 - 2 PTS. EXTRA CREDIT</p>	<p>Read Chapter 12 - Synthesis</p>
<p>May 10th</p>	<p><i>Love & Basketball</i> TYPED Packet due at the beginning of class - 90 Points</p> <p>Post Course Assessment</p> <p>In Class Activity - 30 points</p> <p>Weekend Watch Posting Due 11:55pm - 30 points</p>	<p>Read Chapter 12 - Synthesis</p> <p>Study for Final Exam</p>
<p>May 12th</p>	<p>Quiz #12- Synthesis</p> <p>Final Exam Review -</p>	<p>Study for Final Exam</p>

	<i>Extra Credit Opportunity</i>	
May 16th	1:00 - 3:00pm Comprehensive Final Exam Chapters 1 - 12	Enjoy your summer!!! :)