

Fall 2015

FTA 1620

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University of New Orleans

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**FTA 1620-001 Introduction to Film Arts
FALL 2015 Syllabus**

Days/Time: TUES & THURS 9:30 – 10:45AM
Classroom: PAC 313
Instructor: Alaina Boyett

Email: anboyet1@uno.edu
Fall 2015 Office Hours (PAC 350):
Tues. 11-12pm; Wed. 2-3pm

Course Description: This course provides a critical understanding of the form, content and meaning of films through the study and analysis of cinematic language, fundamental principles of film form and application of filmic techniques.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Understand cinematic language and the major principals of film form.
- Analyze and understand the interrelation of formal cinematic elements of narrative, composition, design, cinematography, directing, acting, editing and sound.
- Develop skills for informed film analysis and critique.

Required Text & Materials:

Barsam, *Looking At Movies: An Introduction to Film, 4th Ed. New York, W.W. Norton.*

The 4th Edition/2013 (ISBN 978-0-393-91302-6) is required for this course. Textbooks may be rented (if available), new or used, in any format: eBook (downloadable or online version), loose-leaf/3-hole punch and standard paperback. Information on all versions of both editions can be found at:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/978-0-393-91302-6/>

Students are required to provide a blank notebook specific to this course for recording notes during class on lectures, discussions and the films and film clips shown. The structure of this class makes note-taking an essential learning tool.

Grades: There will be three exams and a cumulative final exam. Each exam is 20% of the grade, the final exam is 30%, the remaining 10% of the grade is determined by attendance. Make sure to read and understand the attendance policy and grading for this course as defined by the attendance section of this syllabus.

Attendance: 100 points	Grading Scale, % out of 100
Exam #1: 200 points	100 - 90 A
Exam #2: 200 points	89 - 80 B
Exam #3: 200 points	79 - 70 C
<u>Final Exam: 300 points</u>	69 - 60 D
Total: 1000 points	59 – 0 F

Make-up Exam Policy: Make-up exams will only be permitted with an approved excuse (serious illness or similar emergency). The student is responsible for notifying the instructor PRIOR to missing an exam AND for contacting the instructor to schedule the makeup exam. Makeup exams must occur before the in-class exam review (see syllabus calendar), will be formatted at the discretion of the instructor and have an automatic 10% grade reduction. **Students must bring a blue scantron on exam days.**

Make-ups are not permitted for the final exam.

Attendance: The format of this class, lectures and discussions combined with screenings, make attendance at each class especially important. Although any PowerPoint summary presentations will be

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made available to students through Moodle, essential information provided in lectures, discussions and screenings will only be available in class.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of each class using a sign-in sheet. It is the student's responsibility to make sure to sign-in before leaving the classroom. *There will be no retroactive signing in after the class period.* Signing in on behalf of another student is a form of academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in automatic failure of the course for all students involved (signer and absent student). I will not accept doctor's notes as excuses for missing class; however emergency and severe situations will be considered.

Attendance Grade: Each student begins the semester with 100 attendance points. The first three absences are automatically excused. **Every absence exceeding three carries a 25-point penalty which is subtracted from the attendance points. There are no limits to the absence penalties, therefore it is possible to lose more than the 100 attendance points.**

Classroom Conduct: Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and respect for faculty and students are expected.

Be in class on time. Interruptions are distracting and waste time. Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. There will be no eating, text messaging or web browsing allowed in class. Feel free to ask the instructor questions during class, but please refrain from talking to other students, as it may disturb other class members.

Moodle: Students must have Internet access to www.uno.edu and be able to access the Moodle companion site for this class. All Power Point lectures, course handouts and other resource documents will be posted on the Moodle site. Moodle and your UNO email account should be checked regularly so as not to miss important announcements. All email correspondence between the instructor and students will be through UNO email addresses only. Help with Moodle can be accessed <http://www.uno.edu/moodle>

Netiquette: All email communications from students MUST be from their UNO email address and be formatted as professional correspondence. This means: a subject line which references the course name and number, a salutation (Dear Mr. or Ms. or Professor or Dr. LASTNAME. "Hey" is not acceptable) and a signature (student FULL NAME). Emails not formatted in this way will not be responded to and will be deleted.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code on UNO's website for further information: <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services first, and then their instructors, to discuss individual needs for accommodations. More information is available online at <http://ods.uno.edu/>

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Calendar: The calendar is subject to change. Readings assigned each week should be read prior to the lecture date. Exams will cover all lectures and reading assignments up to, but not including, the date of the exam.

Week #	Day/Dates	Topic	Readings
1	TH Aug. 20	Class Cancelled	
2	TU Aug. 25	Syllabus + Intro/Looking at Movies	Ch. 1
2	TH Aug. 27	Principals of Film Form	Ch. 2
3	TU Sep. 1	Types of Movies	Ch. 3
3	TH Sep. 3	Types of Movies	Ch. 3
4	TU Sep. 8	Story & Narrative	Ch. 4
4	TH Sep. 10	Story & Narrative	Ch. 4
5	TU Sep. 15	EXAM #1	Ch. 1 - 4
5	TH Sep. 17	Exam Review/Mise-en-scène	Ch. 5
6	TU Sep. 22	Mise-en-scène	Ch. 5
6	TH Sep. 24	Mise-en-scène	Ch. 5
7	TU Sep. 29	Mise-en-scène /Cinematography	Ch. 5, 6
7	TH Oct. 1	Cinematography	Ch. 6
8	TU Oct. 6	Cinematography	Ch. 6
8	TH Oct. 8	EXAM #2	Ch. 5 - 6
9	TU Oct. 13	Exam Review/ Directing	
9	TH Oct. 15	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
10	TU Oct. 20	Directing	
10	TH Oct. 22	Directing	
11	TU Oct. 27	Directing/Acting	Ch. 7
11	TH Oct. 29	Acting	Ch. 7
12	TU Nov. 3	EXAM #3	Ch. 7 + Directing
12	TH Nov. 5	Exam Review/ Editing	Ch. 8
13	TU Nov. 10	Editing	Ch. 8
13	TH Nov. 12	Editing	Ch. 8
14	TU Nov. 17	Sound	Ch. 8, 9
14	TH Nov. 19	Sound	Ch. 9
15	TU Nov. 24	Film Screening	
15	TH Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS	
16	TU Dec. 1	Film Screening	
16	TH Dec. 3	Film Analysis/Final Review	
17	FINALS WEEK	FINAL EXAM – See UNO website for date/time	

UNO FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE: <http://uno.edu/registrar/bulletin/finals.aspx#fall>

BRING blue scantron for each exam.