Florida International University • [SEMESTER] [YEAR] Syllabus
College of Architecture + The Arts • Communication Arts Department

Communication in Film COM 3417– [SECTION] (Ref. # XXXXX)

[SALES] [TIME] [ROOM]

Professor: XXX XXX  Email: XXX.fiu.edu  Web: www.fiu.edu/~xxx
Phone: 305-348-XXXX  Office: VH 212  Office Hours: XXXXX XXXXXXX

University Drop Date: [DROP DATE] (Last day to drop a course with a DR grade)

TEXT
Title: A History of Film
Author: Virginia Wright Wexman
ISBN: 978-0205625284
Edition: 7th
Publisher: Allyn & Bacon


There will be additional handouts and notes provided in class by the instructor throughout the semester. They will outline particular concepts in rhetorical analysis and cultural studies (especially post-colonial theory). We use these ideas to help analyze films and inform class discussions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Films are a uniquely rich vehicle for studying communication. They feature idealized examples of conversations, interactions and images that stir our emotions and imaginations, yet must also seem rooted in the communication of everyday experience. And they convey a society’s sense of who it is, who it wants to be, and how it sees “others.” In the words of Kenneth Burke, they are “equipment for living,” providing us models of interaction and instructing us about the world and its possibilities. In this light, world cinema offers a rich tapestry of cultural expression that can teach us about the similarities, differences and interactions we have with other cultures.

This course will bring together the insights of communication and film study. Using a historical perspective, students will explore both the way films communicate, and the way they depict communication, paying special attention to the way films express and influence cultural forms, values and patterns.

Course outcomes: By the conclusion of this class, students will be able to

- Gain a better understanding of the way films influence societies
- Identify the ways film conventions shape communication styles
• Understand critical studies (history, theory, industry and criticism), production (film, video, digital) and writing
• Express information and analysis in the language of the field

Global Learning Outcomes:
• Show an awareness of the way film techniques, images, communication styles and cultural depictions mutually interact locally, globally, and internationally as part of an interconnected field of global cinema (Global Awareness)
• Students will develop and present a contrast/comparison analysis of the diverse perspectives of two films that address a common global theme or issue, with emphasis on the ways these perspectives help shape local, international and intercultural understandings (Global Perspective).
• Incorporating global, international, or intercultural perspectives, students will be able to collaboratively develop a strategy for communicating a local problem and its solution through film. (Global Engagement).

Active Learning: The purpose of this course is not simply to convey the content of the textbook and readings that are assigned. Instead, these materials form a background necessary to analyze and discuss how communication functions in films to express a broad range (and often a fascinating mix) of cultural patterns, attitudes, values and perspectives. Class time will include a small amount of lecture to highlight theory from the fields of rhetoric and cultural studies, but will focus on applying that theory to better understand how films work as communication. Class sessions will engage films, involve group work and projects, and feature class discussion. In other words, reading in preparation for class is essential, as is class attendance.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES
Attendance: You will be expected to attend every class session. Missing more than two classes may result in your failing the course. There will be no exceptions. Missing an exam will result in the loss of all points for that exam. An excused absence is defined as one that can be documented in writing and is due to a medical problem with the student or immediate family, death in the student’s immediate family, or formal involvement in an officially recognized university sponsored event.

Tardiness: You will be expected to arrive at class on time. Tardiness in not acceptable and will result in a reduction of your grade. Two “lates” are equivalent of 1 absence and you are permitted 1 unexcused absence. Leaving class early is counted the same as a tardy. If you are tardy, notify the professor at the break or after class so the absence can be changed to a tardy.

Assignments: Writing assignments are due by the time deadline on Turnitin.com. All assignments must be your original work.
Readings: Read the assigned chapters before coming to class and be prepared to join in the class discussion and activities.

Writing Assignments for a Grade: All writing assignments must be on 8 ½ x 11” paper, double-spaced, using a 12 point font (Times Roman, Helvetica, or similar).

Plagiarizing: Plagiarizing is a serious academic offense. If you are caught plagiarizing an assignment, you will receive a 0 for the assignment and an official FIU written notice. Refer to the section on plagiarism in the FIU Student Handbook.

COURSE CONTENT
Film Analysis Paper and Presentation (25%) (Co-Curricular Activity): Each student will complete a 7 – 10 page paper comparing and contrasting two films that address a theme or issue of global concern. The films chosen must come from two different parts of the world and reflect different cultural perspectives. At least one of the films must from those exhibited at the Miami International Film Festival. The student’s analysis must consider the way filmmaking techniques, use of images, and communication styles affect the films’ treatment of the theme or issue.

Film Treatment / Co-Curricular Group Project (25%): Each student will participate in a group project to develop a detailed film “treatment” proposing and imagining a short film that will constructively address a specific problem of global concern. The treatment must incorporate an awareness of the global significance and international/ intercultural perspectives of the problem, and creatively propose ways to address the problem. As part of this project, each student will submit a separate, individual reflection

Two Examinations (40%): Two examinations (a Midterm and a Final, each worth 20%) will be administered. The exams will be short answer/essay.

In-Class Analyses and Activities (10%): points will be given for various film analyses and activities done in class over the course of the semester.

COURSE GRADES
- Analysis Paper 20%
- Analysis Presentation 5%
- Group Treatment Project 15%
- Treatment Project Reflection 10%
- Mid-term Exam 20%
- Final Exam 20%
- In-Class Analyses/Activities 10%
**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 – 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 – 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 – 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86 – 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83 – 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76 – 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73 – 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69 – 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66 - 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63 - 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 – 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

This syllabus is a contract of understanding between professor and student. If the assignments and grading system are not acceptable, then the student must negotiate a change by midnight Sunday of the second week of class or accept the rules as written.

**Code of Academic Integrity:** This Code of Academic Integrity was adopted by the Student Government Association on November 28, 2001 and reflects the values articulated in the Student Code of Standards. Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning.

Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of Florida International University. As a student of this university:

- I will be honest in my academic endeavors.
- I will not represent someone else's work as my own.
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating.

All students are deemed by the university to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Code of Academic Integrity’s procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the FIU Student Handbook. Students have the right to due process in all disciplinary situations. For additional information concerning student rights and responsibilities, please contact FIU’s [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#).

Note: Intensive auditing of the course will be conducted to prevent academic misconduct.
TURNITIN.COM
All written assignments must be submitted online to Turnitin.com by the posted deadline. Assignments submitted by any other means or after the deadline will not be evaluated. Written assignments are submitted to Turnitin.com through Blackboard.

Once your assignment has been uploaded successfully to Turnitin.com, you will receive a confirmation receipt. Please keep this confirmation number for future reference. Within a few hours, your assignment will also be assigned an originality/similarity percentage. For further information as to how the similarity/originality percentage is calculated and why it is important, please review the following page: https://www.turnitin.com/static/training/student_about_originalitycheck.php

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
The University's policy on religious holy days as stated in the University Catalog and Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Any student may request, in advance, to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his or her faith.

DISABILITY NOTICE
I understand that there is Office of Disability Services available to me should I need it. It is my responsibility to contact them to process my request to have my needs met. I need to follow their procedures as to proper notification to the instructor.

STUDENT CODE OF STANDARDS
A University is a learning community following a tradition more than 1,000 years old. Florida International University is such a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. As a member of this community:

- I will respect the tradition of academic inquiry, the University’s rules of conduct, and its mission.
- I will respect the opinions and differences of all members of the FIU community.
- I will practice civility and demonstrate conduct that reflects the values of the institution.
- I will be diligent and honest in my personal and academic endeavors.

The FIU Student Handbook outlines the Student Code of Conduct regarding students with disruptive behavior: www.fiu.edu/~sccr/docs/disruptive_brochure.doc
POLICY FOR ASSIGNING AN INCOMPLETE "I" GRADE

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible but no later than two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an "F" or the grade that the student earned in the course. There is no extension of the two semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. Students who have incomplete grades on their records must remove the incomplete by the end of the fourth week of the term in which they plan to graduate. Failure to do so will result in a cancellation of graduation.

Incompletes are awarded only if the student has completed most of the course work. If a student misses a significant portion of the course work, he/she should drop the course. If the drop period has ended, the student may petition for a withdrawal—this requires the student to un-enroll in all of their courses for that semester.

Incompletes are not to be used because a student took on too many credits and they cannot complete everything that is now required of them.

In such cases where the course instructor determines that it appropriate to award a student a grade of "I" (incomplete) the following steps must be followed.

Using an Official University Form the course instructor will report the following:

1. The grade earned by the student to date
2. The missing work and the percentage of the final grade it represents (this requires the details of the specific missing assignment)
3. The date the instructor expects the missing work to be submitted or in the case of an examination made up
4. The justification for awarding the grade of "I"
5. Have the student sign the form
6. Submit this form to the Department Chair and Dean and maintain a copy for instructor records and provide a copy for the student
7. Upon satisfying the requirements for a grade the instructor will sign off on the form and attach it to the change of grade form she or he will submit.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1
- Chapter 1: Birth and Childhood of a New Art (1895-1914)
- Chapter 2: Rise of the American Film
- Key tools of Rhetorical Analysis
- Essential Questions Pre-Assessment: A Global Perspective on Film

Week 2
- Chapter 3: Great German Silents (1919-1928)
- Chapter 4: Art and Dialectic in the Soviet Film
“Contaminated” Film – Appiah Reading & Discussion

Week 3  Chapter 5: Hollywood in the Twenties
        Chapter 6: France in the Twenties and Thirties
        The Cultural Studies “Toolbox”

Week 4  Chapter 7: Hollywood in the Thirties and Forties
        Chapter 8: Italian Neorealism (1945-1952)
        The hegemonies of class and race

Week 5  Chapter 9: The Documentary Impulse: British Film after the War
        Brian Winston’s critique of “victims” in British Social Documentary

Week 6  Introduce Course Projects
        Mid-term Exam (Chapters 1-10)

Week 7  Chapter 11: Japanese Film: A Pictorial Tradition and a Modernist Edge
        Chapter 12: Films of the Auteurs: The French New Wave (1954-1968)

Week 8  Chapter 13: Other Western European Cinemas (1945 – Present)
        Chapter 14: Eastern European Films (1945 – Present)

Week 9  Chapter 15: India (1956 – Present)
        Chapter 16: Modernism and Metaphor: Italy 1960 – Present)

Week 10 Chapter 17: American Reemergence (1963 – 1974)
                 Chapter 18: Art Cinema Lite: British Films (1963 – Present)

Week 11 Film Analysis Presentations


                 Chapter 22: Latin America (1984 – Present)

Week 14 Chapter 23: Recent National Movements (1959 – Present)

Week 15 Treatment Project Presentations

Week 16 Final Exam – TBA
        Essential Questions: A Global Perspective on Film