ENGL 260: Film and Literature - Spring 2022

Wednesday 9:00 - 11:45   Professor Robert Vettese
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Course Description

Throughout time humans have had a need to tell a story. These stories have had some common goals: to reflect current culture, to inform the future, to examine the past, and to make sense of existence. Film and Literature are two modern forms of media that try to achieve these same goals. This course covers the techniques, vocabulary, and art of film and literature. It also explores the connections between both media. In this course students will learn how to "read" a film. Students will examine the options and choices a filmmaker has to tell their story. Students will identify those choices and link them to the thematic ideas the story holds. Finally, students will critically read the literature from which the films are based. Prerequisite(s): ENG-111. Co requisite(s): ENG-115.

Attendance and Participation

You need to come to class (be here physically) and participate (be here mentally). I understand that life happens and things come up that we must attend to (sickness, child responsibilities, etc). You are allowed to miss one class without any effect to your grade. After that each absence will result in a deduction of points from your attendance grade. ***There are no excused absences***. If you miss more than 3 classes you will be automatically dropped from the course. The best way to avoid attendance issues is to be in class. We will start at 9:00 each class. Tardiness will affect the overall attendance grade.

Course Objectives

Students will demonstrate an appreciation of film and literature from personal, cultural, historical and aesthetic perspectives.
Students will analyze and interpret literature.
Students will critique the artistic and aesthetic value of a variety of films.
Students will complete 2 different film response essays that conform to MLA standards.
Students will understand and illustrate the different aspects of film language.

Writing Objectives

Show ability to communicate ideas clearly, with a specific purpose and to a specific audience
Utilize appropriate strategies for varying contexts and logical organization methods.
Apply revision methods to achieve polished final draft/presentation, using standard academic format and conventions of grammar.
When necessary, utilize proper MLA and/or APA documentation.
Use critical thinking and listening skills in written and oral communication as a tool for learning.

ADA Statement / Disability Services

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 207-741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

Books
1. Talking Pictures by Ann Hornaday ISBN 978-1541672970

Resources
1. Access to a computer - There is a Blackboard website where Reading Response assignments can be found.
2. Film Annotations – One of the basic goals of this class is to become a more literate and critical observer of film. No longer will you watch films passively, stuffing popcorn into our faces (although popcorn is great) as the film pours over and past us. **During each film students will be required to take notes and "annotate" the film.**

Schedule (subject to change)
Week One – Film Language and Vocabulary
Course Introduction, Student Introduction, Mise En Scene, Film Elements, Various film scenes

Week Two – Film Language and Vocabulary
Film Scenes – Juno (2007), American Sniper (2014), The Good, The Bad and The Ugly (1966)
Reading – Selections from *Looking At Movies* (handout), *Talking Pictures* Introduction and Chapter 4 - Cinematography
Assignments Due – Reading Response 1 – *Talking Pictures, Looking At Movies*

Week Three – Film Language and Vocabulary
Film Scenes – Goodfellas (1990), 12 Angry Men (1957), Dog Day Afternoon (1975)
Reading – *Talking Pictures* Chapter 5 - Editing, *Looking at Movies* – Camera Movement
Assignments Due- Reading Response 2 - *Talking Pictures, Looking at Movies*

Week Four- Film Language and Vocabulary
Film Scenes – Dead Poet's Society (1989), The Verdict (1982), The Graduate (1967)
Reading – *Talking Pictures* Chapter 2 - Acting and Chapter 6 - Sound and Music
Assignments Due- Reading Response 3 - *Talking Pictures*

Week Five – Film Language and Vocabulary – Group Scene Work
Film Scenes – There Will Be Blood, Boogie Nights, Punch Drunk Love, Hard Eight
Reading – *Talking Pictures* Chapter 7 - Directing
Assignments Due – Reading Response 4 - *Talking Pictures, Group Scene Work*

Week Six - Citizen Kane
Film – Citizen Kane (1941)
Reading – *Talking Pictures* Epilogue, "Citizen Kane at 50" by Roger Ebert (handout), *Citizen Kane* Textbook Reading
Assignments Due - Reading Response 5 - *Talking Pictures* and Textbook

Week Seven – Citizen Kane
Film – Citizen Kane (1941) scene analysis in class work, Essay 1 - Citizen Kane Scene Analysis response discussed
Reading – *Talking Picture* Chapter 3 - Production Design
Assignments Due – Reading Response 6 - *Citizen Kane* questions

Week Eight – Adaptation
Film - Smoke (1995)
Reading - "Auggie Wren's Christmas Story" by Paul Auster Assignments Due -
Assignments Due – Essay 1 - Citizen Kane Scene Analysis Essay Due

Week Nine – Adaptation
Film – Doubt (2008)
Reading – "Doubt" by John Patrick Stanley
Assignments Due – Reading Response 7 *Doubt*

Week Ten - Adaptation
Film – Certain Women (2017)
Reading – "Travis B" by Maile Meloy
Assignments Due: Reading Response 8 - "Travis B"

Week Eleven – Adaptation
Film - Stand By Me (1986)
Reading - The Body by Stephen King
Assignments Due - Reading Response 9

Week Twelve – Adaptation
Reading - Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell
Assignments Due - Reading Response 10 - Winter's Bone

Week Thirteen– Adaptation
Reading - Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell
Assignments Due - Reading Response 11 - Winter's Bone

Week Fourteen – Adaptation
Reading - Winter's Bone Group Scene Analysis Presentations
Assignments Due - Reading Response 12

Week Fifteen
Assignments Due: Adaptation Project Assigned and Discussed

Week Sixteen – Adaptation Project / Last Class
Assignments Due – Adaptation Project / Reflection Due

Assignments

Assignment	# assigned	Total Points
Reading Responses	10	200
Citizen Kane Essay	1	100
Adaptation Project	1	100
Attendance and Participation		50
Total		450 points

Assignment Description
Reading Responses
Read, read, and then read some more. The reading responses are challenging and lively take home reading quizzes that celebrate the knowledge you have gained by completing the reading. These responses will need to be brought to class on the assigned due date. LATE RESPONSES WILL BE PENALIZED 20%. There are 10 of these assignments worth 20 points each.

Essay – One 4 – 5 page original essay concerning the film Citizen Kane. This essay should be typed, double spaced, and designed to answer the questions involved with each assignment. More information will be provided throughout the course. These General rules apply to all essays:
- Papers should reflect your own work. Plagiarism is not acceptable
- NO EMAILED PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Bring a printed copy to the class.

- 20% will be deducted from any late paper

Adaptation Project
This project asks you to compare and contrast a scene from the film to its original source material. Both literary critique and film analysis will be used as points of comparison. Film Stills and direct citations from the text are a requirement. This essay / analysis is worth 100 points.

Course Considerations

Watching Films in Class
We have all become accustomed to watching films at home and in the theaters. In fact, I bet we all know what the rules are when we go to see a film in a movie theater. In class, our goal is to become active, critical readers of film. With that goal in mind, when we are watching full length films in class (6 of them in all) please keep in mind these considerations:

*Have your pen out and take notes. Look for patterns in images, lighting, editing, etc.
*No feet up. We are not at home with a tub of popcorn in front of us. We are FILM STUDENTS!
*Cell Phones should be off. If you absolutely need to text or call someone, step out of the room.
*Class is scheduled to begin at 9:00

Cell phone Etiquette
If you need to use the restroom please quietly excuse yourself. **Turn your cell phones and IM devices to vibrate.** These devices are a distraction to discussions and show a bit of disrespect for the other students. If you need to make a phone call, do it before or after class. If you need to take an emergency call, please step outside. If I see you using your phone to text or call someone I will ask you to leave the class.

Professionalism
Part of college is memorizing different terms or interesting ideas, part of it is professionalism. This professionalism deals with a number of things in class: attendance, the way your assignments are presented, and finally how we deal with each other as fellow students and colleagues. Tardiness and chronic absence would be problematic at a job and they are also problematic in college. Assignments should be turned in on time and in a presentable manner. When we are engaged in class discussions I expect that we will respect the ideas and views of each other. Just because someone disagrees with you does not mean it needs to be disagreeable. Finally, when a student speaks, he/she is speaking to all of us, not just the instructor. Part of class participation is being an active listener.

Student printing policy:
This policy identifies the cost per page for black and white as well as color printing in varying page sizes. Specifics of the policy are outlined below:

Per Page Costs
Each semester students receive a $20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The cost varies depending upon page size and whether printing is done in black and white or color.
a. There is a $0.10 per page fee for standard 8.5" by 11" black and white documents.
b. The reverse sides of duplex (double-sided) documents are free.
c. There is a $.50 per page fee for standard 8.5" by 11" color documents.
d. There is a $.20 per page fee for 8.5" by 14" (legal) or 11" by 17" (tabloid) black and white documents.
e. There is a $1.00 per page fee for 8.5" by 14" (legal) or 11" by 17" (tabloid) color documents.

Duplex charges (printing on both sides of a page) work in the following fashion: One page is $0.10, two pages are $0.10, three pages are $0.20, and four pages are $0.20, *etc*. The flipsides are free, but another sheet of paper is $0.10. Please be aware that a document with any color at all (when printed to a color printer) will by default be printed in color. You are

responsible for setting the print job to print black and white if you do not need color. For directions, please go to the IT Help tab in My SMCC.

How does it work?
The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, the Academic Achievement Center, Noisy Lounge and technology labs). Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up.

Refunds
Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

Why is SMCC charging for printing?
The pay-for-print system is an effort to control escalating printing costs. Charging for printing helps offset the increasing cost of supplies and encourages students to conserve resources. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 or send an email to helpdesk@smccme.edu.