

ENG281: Introduction to Film

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Course Access

This is an online course. To access the course visit <http://elearning.uky.edu> and login to Blackboard with your LINK BLUE username and password.

Goals

The purpose of this course is to examine a selection of films as a means of understanding and analyzing the thematic and stylistic aspects of films in general and as a way of examining how they are products of their specific cultural moment and circumstances.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Describe stylistic aspects of films;
- 2) Analyze the thematic and stylistic elements of films, in general and as cultural texts;
- 3) Write analytically about films in discussion posts and exams.

Texts

Bordwell, David, and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction, 9th Edition*.

Films

American Movie, A Night at the Opera, Modern Times, The Wizard of Oz, Citizen Kane, Sicko, The Searchers, Singin' in the Rain, Blow-Up, The Graduate, His Girl Friday, North by Northwest. Films can be acquired through Netflix or Amazon on line.

Lectures

There will be 12 lectures available through streaming, ranging from 45 to 80 minutes each.

Quizzes

In order to view the first 11 lectures, you will first need to take an on-line multiple-choice quiz based on the assigned reading and/or assigned films. Each correct answer is worth 5 points. You may refer to your textbook and notes to answer the questions, but each quiz will have a 25-minute time limit. You will be able to see the lecture after you complete the quiz. **Note: Each quiz has 11 questions, but the maximum number of points available for each quiz is 35. This allows you to miss 4 questions and still get a perfect score. If you know that you got your 7 questions correct, you do not have to complete all the questions.** You will not receive extra credit for completing additional questions. **Maximum total from quizzes: 385 points.**

*Note: Quizzes 1-7 will only be available until midterm.

Exams

There will be a **mid-term exam** that will have 6 questions or identifications that can be answered in a substantial paragraph and 2 longer essays. The paragraph-length questions will be based on the lecture material; the essays will require your demonstrating that you can discuss the films in terms of the concepts introduced in the lectures. You can take the mid term exam in four sessions separate on-line sessions (45 minutes each for two sets of 3 short questions [total 120 points]; 90 minutes for each long essay [total 180 points].) The exam segments will be available on line within a 4-day window, and you can take each segment at your convenience within that period. Any portion that you do not complete in that period will receive 0 points. **The mid-term exam is worth 300 points.**

There will be a **final exam** that will have 10 questions or identifications that can be answered in a substantial paragraph and 1 long essay that will ask you to analyze a segment of one of the films we have seen. The paragraph-length questions will be based on the lecture material; the essay will require your demonstrating that you can discuss the films in terms of the concepts introduced in the lectures. You can view the film sequence before taking the final exam, and you can take the final in three sessions separate on-line sessions (50 minutes each for two sets of 5 short questions [total 150 points]; 120 minutes for the long essay [total 150 points].) The film sequence and the exam segments will be available on line within a 4-day window, and you can take each segment at your convenience within that period. Any portion that you do not complete in that period will receive 0 points. **The final exam is worth 300 points.**

These are OPEN BOOK exams. Although you can use your book and notes, however, you MUST prepare ahead of time because you will not have enough time to look up the answer to every question. The best preparation is to review and organize your notes from viewings and lectures.

On-Line Recitations

In each of two 2-week segments, you will be expected to post at least two questions or comments about a film under discussion and to respond to at least two different postings by other members of the class. You will complete your postings and response on the Blackboard **Discussion Board**. You will receive between 15 and 40 points for each 2-week segment, based primarily on the quality of your comments and secondarily on the quantity. You will receive -20 points for each 2-week segment in which you fail to post. **Maximum range of points for postings: + 80 to -40.**

Attendance

All course materials are online and it is YOUR responsibility to access material in a timely manner. To help keep you on track I have provided a Course Schedule that you should follow. The schedule is at the end of this syllabus and also in the UNITS tab on Blackboard.

We also encourage you to try to discuss the films with one another as much as possible. To facilitate this, we have created a Facebook page for this class: University of Kentucky ENG 281. This can serve as an informal space for students to communicate with one another, but please remember that general rules of respect and conduct apply.

6-week summer courses are the equivalent of entire semester courses. You are expected to spend a MINIMUM of 3-4 hours per day (5 days a week) working with the course material (including reading, viewing, writing).

Problems associated with your computer, procrastination, or forgetfulness are not acceptable excuses for late submission of assignments. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you access and submit materials on time. **Note: Once the deadline for submission has passed, these assignments will no longer be available on Blackboard.**

T.A. Support

A Teaching assistant will monitor and evaluate the postings, and also respond when appropriate to clarify or stimulate the online discussion. This course has two TAs: Todd Hendricks and Amanda Konkle. We will divide up grading your online recitations; Amanda will grade the midterm exams and Todd will grade the final exams. However, you can contact either of us with general questions during our online office hours as is most convenient for your schedule. Online office hours include email and the option of an online chat in our Adobe Connect Room: <https://connect.uky.edu/eng281>.

Contact information:

Todd

- email: michael.hendricks@uky.edu
- online office hours M: 11-1 and W: 4-5.

Amanda

- email: amanda.konkle@uky.edu
- online office hours T: 11:00-12:00 and R: 3:00-5:00.

Grading

895 or more points = "A"; 800-894 = "B"; 715 - 799 = "C"; 635 - 714 = "D"; 634 or less = "E".

Students can review their scores by going to MY GRADES in Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Week 1: 5/8—5/14**
Tuesday, 5/8 Introduction to online course, live, 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon; repeated live 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM in Adobe Connect: <https://connect.uky.edu/eng281>. Log in with your LINK BLUE id and password.
Wednesday, 5/9 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 2 -28; See: *American Movie*.
Thursday, 5/10 Take short-answer on-line quiz 1 (on reading and film); watch lecture.
Friday, 5/11 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 28 -47; See: *A Night at the Opera*.
First 2-week, online recitation segment starts, 8:00 AM Friday.
Monday, 5/14 Take short-answer on-line quiz 2 (on reading and film); watch lecture.
- Week 2 5/15—5/21**
Tuesday, 5/15 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 55-74.
Wednesday, 5/16 Take short-answer on-line quiz 3 (on reading); watch lecture.
Thursday, 5/17 See: *The Wizard of Oz* and *Modern Times*.
Friday, 5/18 Take short-answer on-line quiz 4 (on the films); watch lecture.
Monday, 5/21 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 78-114. See: *Citizen Kane*.
- Week 3 5/22—5/28**
Tuesday, 5/22 Take short-answer on-line quiz 5 (on reading and film); watch lecture.
Wednesday, 5/23 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 348-381. See: *Sicko*.
Thursday, 5/24 Take short-answer on-line quiz 6 (on the reading and the film); watch lecture.
Friday, 5/25 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 328-346; See: *The Searchers*.
First 2-week, online recitation segment ends, 8:00 PM.
Monday, 5/28 **Memorial Day Holiday**
- Week 4 5/29—6/4**
Tuesday, 5/29 Take short-answer on-line quiz 7 (on the reading and the film); watch lecture.
Second 2-week, online recitation segment starts, 8:00 AM Tuesday.
Wednesday, 5/30 *Live online review for the midterm in Adobe Connect: <https://connect.uky.edu/eng281>—come with questions and be prepared to discuss. 11:30AM-12:30PM and 4:30PM-5:30 PM.*
Mid-Term Exam window opens Wednesday, 8:00 PM and closes Saturday, 11:59 PM.
Monday, 6/4 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 269-298; See: *Singin' in the Rain*.
- Week 5 6/5—6/11**
Tuesday, 6/5 Take short-answer on-line quiz 8 (on the reading); watch lecture
Wednesday, 6/6 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 118-159; See: *Blow-Up*.
Thursday, 6/7 Take short-answer on-line quiz 9 (on the reading and the film); watch lecture.
Friday, 6/8 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 167-218. See: *The Graduate*.
Monday, 6/11 Take short-answer on-line quiz 10 (on the reading and the film); watch lecture.
- Week 6 6/12—6/19**
Tuesday, 6/12 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 223-265; See: *His Girl Friday*.
Second 2-week, online recitation segment ends, 8:00 PM Tuesday.
Wednesday, 6/13 Take short-answer on-line quiz 11 (on the reading and the film); watch lecture.
Thursday, 6/14 Read: Bordwell & Thompson, pp. 312-325, 396-404; see: *North by Northwest*, watch lecture.
Friday, 6/15 *Live online review for final exam in Adobe Connect: <https://connect.uky.edu/eng281>—come with questions and be prepared to discuss. 11:30AM-12:30PM and 4:30PM-5:30 PM.*
Final Exam window opens Friday, 7:00 PM and closes Tuesday, 11:59 PM.
Tuesday, 6/19 **Last day of class. Final exam window closes at 11:59 PM.**