

Bainbridge State College

PRSP 1020 - Perspectives in Film

Instructor: **John Bickley**
Email: john.bickley@bainbridge.edu
Phone: 229-248-3992
Office: Arts & Sciences 227

Beginning of Term: May 31 (Tues)
Drop/Add Window: May 31-June 1 (Wed)
Middle of Term: June 27 (Wed) (last day to drop w/o penalty)
Last day for Faculty W: (see "Withdrawal Policies")
Last Day of Classes: July 25 (Mon)
Final Exam Week: July 26-27 (Tues-Wed)
Grades due: Aug 3 (Wed)

Syllabus Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended to provide structure for the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to make changes as course needs arise.

COURSE THEME: Perspectives in Film

This course introduces students to the art and science of film appreciation, emphasizing both evaluative and critical thinking approaches in film analysis, and the major elements of film, including narrative structure, cinematography, editing, sound production, mise-en-scene, set design, and style. Students will explore key aspects of the motion picture industry, develop a greater appreciation of motion pictures, film production techniques, and key figures involved in the making of movies. Instructors will provide or assign screenings of several films or film excerpts to illustrate key concepts in the course.

COURSE CONTENT

This course serves as an introduction to film appreciation, an essential course for any student who wishes to take the study of film to the next level academically or professionally. Rather than focusing on a genre or theme in film, this course focuses on the essential elements of film, like sound, lighting, mise-en-scene, and editing. Using diverse pedagogical approaches, including traditional lectures, online group discussions, film clips, PowerPoints, assigned readings, and student-led presentations, this course intends to

develop students' evaluative and analytical appreciation of film. In online discussions, an oral presentation, and two exams, students will critique, evaluate, and analyze the key film elements, including narrative structure, cinematography, editing, sound production, mise-en-scene, set design, and style. Students will also explore several key historical moments in the development of these elements, helping them attain a higher degree of appreciation for film as both an art form and cultural movement.

PRSP 1020 DESCRIPTION

Course Subject: Area B Humanities. *Transfer.* 2 hours. *Prerequisite:* Exit or Exempt from READ 0099 and ENGL 0099.

Perspectives on Global Issues is an issue-focused course that requires students to consider various viewpoints, analyze historical and/or modern issues, and reflect on what it means to be an informed citizen in an increasingly diverse society. The goal is to help students value different positions, appreciate a global perspective of our world, and think in-depth about social, cultural, historical, scientific, and/or ethical issues. Courses will vary based on the issue, but each course will examine multiple viewpoints in order to develop a broad understanding of the subject.

PRSP 1020 COURSE- SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Recognize and appreciate key elements of film, including narrative structure, cinematography, editing, sound production, mise-en-scene, set design, and style.
2. Interpret films analytically and critically in written responses, oral presentations, and the midterm and final exams.
3. Apply an outline of film movements, genres, and styles to the analysis of films in written responses and oral presentations.
4. Analyze and discuss selected films in the midterm and final exams.
5. Examine specific artistic techniques employed by filmmakers in written responses, oral presentations, and the midterm and final exams.
6. Develop the ability to research, as well as compare and contrast different ideas in their written responses and oral presentations.
7. Implement new film terminology in written responses and oral presentations.
8. Assess and evaluate the significance of certain historical events, personalities, and organizations in the development of film in the midterm and final exams.

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Effective Communication:** The student will demonstrate reading, writing, and speaking skills necessary to communicate effectively. (See USG Overlays 1.1, 1.2, & 1.3.)
- **Critical Thinking:** The student will use principles of critical thinking to analyze problems and make logical decisions. (See USG Overlays 3.1 & 3.2.)
- **Technology:** The student will demonstrate effective use of technology to achieve academic goals. (See USG Overlays 4.1 & 4.2.)

- **Ethical Reasoning:** The student will demonstrate ethical reasoning and decision-making. (See USG Overlays 5.1 & 5.2.)

REQUIRED TEXT

Bordwell, David & Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*, 10th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2012.

- ISBN-13: 978-0073535104 | ISBN-10: 0073535109

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL TEXT (not required)

Belton, John. *American Cinema /American Culture* 4th ed. NY: McGraw-Hill, 2012.

- ISBN-13: 978-0073535098 | ISBN-10: 0073535095

NOTE: While you must acquire *Film Art*, feel free to purchase or rent used and/or **older editions** of the texts. Students often find very affordable books on online sources like eBay's Half.com and Amazon and others.

ATTENDANCE

I will allow a total of two full weeks of classes of absences (4 absences in a MW or TR class, 2 in a once-a-week class), no questions asked. However, any absence beyond that will result in a deduction from your final grade: a 5% reduction for 2-day-a-week courses and a 10% deduction for once-a-week courses.

- Examples:
 - in a TR class, 5 absences will automatically lower your final grade by one letter grade.
 - In a hybrid course, the 3rd absence will result in a 10% reduction.
- If possible notify me BEFORE you are going to miss a class and I will be more likely to be accommodating for missed in-class work.
- If a student misses over 20% of the classes (over 6 days for a twice-a-week class; over 4 for a hybrid), that student will be withdrawn from the class.
- **Withdrawal Policies:** Students who do NOT meet the class attendance policy *prior* to the midterm date may be withdrawn by a faculty-initiated withdrawal with a grade of W. Students who do not meet the attendance policy *after* the midterm date may receive a WF. Those who do not meet the attendance policy *after* faculty withdrawal date will earn a grade of F. (See dates above.)
- **For Hybrid & Web Courses:** You should “attend” this web class by logging in at least once each week and completing online assignments on time. In addition, you may want to meet with me during office hours or come to one of my face-to-face courses for extra help. If you fail to log in for any TWO WEEKS you may be DROPPED from the course.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- **Participate:** Class preparation and thoughtful, active, and responsible (in-class & online) participation are mandatory.
- **Keep Up:** Complete the work listed each week in the GeorgiaVIEW module. Check the assignments on the schedule as you complete them.
- **Submit On Time:** Except for unusual circumstances and **prior notice**, late work will be penalized or may not be accepted.
- **Complete Work:** Assignments that do not meet minimum requirements may receive a failing grade.
- **Save Your Work:** Save drafts and assignments on a USB drive. Students are responsible for retaining copies of writings (for evidence in a grade appeal).
- **Seek Additional Help:** Take advantage of the tutoring center, especially the individual writing instruction offered via tutorials, or come see me during my office hours.
- **Practice Digital Etiquette:** ALL electronic contributions, including email correspondence among students and the instructor, must conform to the schedule and exhibit professional, academic etiquette.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

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|--|-----|
| • Reading Quizzes | 10% |
| ○ 1% each; 10 total | |
| • Reading Notes | 15% |
| ○ 5% each; 3 total | |
| ○ Notes for each assigned chapter | |
| ○ 1000 words min per unit (3000 total) | |
| • Posts | 25% |
| ○ 5% each; 5 total | |
| ○ 300 words min each | |
| ○ 1250 word min total | |
| • Visual Presentation | 5% |
| ○ Based on one of your Posts | |
| • Unit 1 Test | 15% |
| • Unit 2 Test | 15% |
| • Unit 3 Test | 15% |

ASSIGNMENTS

Reading Quizzes

These brief, timed quizzes will help guide the students' attention to key concepts and facts, consequently aiding in the preparation for the unit exams. The quizzes will largely consist of multiple choice questions; all questions will be derived from the readings and online notes & PowerPoints.

Reading Notes

Students will create three "Reading Notes" documents that consist of notes taken on the assigned reading and online material.

- These documents will be submitted for each of the three units for the course and require 1000 words per unit. (Thus, the total notes taken for the semester will total 3000 words.)
- These notes should be the student's own work, written in the student's own phrasing (no passages copied word for word from the readings or any outside sources).
- Students will submit all three unit notes documents to **Turnitin**.

Posts

The purpose of the weekly Posts is to encourage students to explore a few crucial concepts in literature and to develop rhetorical skills, namely *description*, *analysis*, *synthesis*, *comparison* and *contrast*.

- Each Post must be 300 words minimum.
- These Posts should be written by the student in his/her own words.
- Any direct quotes from sources must be indicated by quotation marks and followed by a parenthetical citation. Direct quotes will not count toward the 300 word minimum.
- Posts will be posted online the week they are due.
- Late submissions will incur an automatic half-grade deduction. (Early submissions *are* allowed.)
- For record keeping purposes, students should also create **a single document** which will eventually include all Responses, numbered & presented in order.
- This document will be submitted to **Turnitin** for a final plagiarism check near the end of the term.

Unit Tests

The three Unit Tests will cover concepts addressed in the assigned reading, online notes & PowerPoints.

- The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, identifications, matching, and definitions.
- The exams are non-cumulative, only covering one unit at a time.
- *See course website for Study Guides.*

Visual Presentation

Students will create a Visual Presentation (preferably using PowerPoint or another visual-heavy program) based on one of the student's Posts.

- **Face-to-face and Hybrid courses:** Students will give one presentation (lasting 5-8 minutes each) during the semester.

- **Web-only courses:** Students will produce a visual presentation, preferably using PowerPoint. (If you have the technical know-how, feel free to add an auditory component.)
- Must include at least **10 slides/pages/sections**.

EVALUATION

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60

(Although final grades do not include a + or -, individual assignments may include a letter grade and +/-.)

GRADING APPROACH FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Well-written essays enable a reader to understand the writer's intended meaning. Effective writing is **focused** on the topic; has a clear, logical **organization** ("arrangement of argument") that enables the reader to follow the flow of ideas; contains **supporting** ideas developed through the use of details, examples, source references, and vivid language; includes a **variety of sentence structures**; is written in an **appropriate tone and diction**; and follows the **grammatical conventions** of punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and standard American English.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

All cases of academic dishonesty are handled according to the procedures outlined in your Student Handbook under "Academic Integrity - Policies and Procedures." Bainbridge State College defines academic dishonesty in the following way:

- Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance for an academic course.
- Procuring or providing unauthorized material for an academic course.
- Reusing one's own work produced for another course.
- Plagiarizing.

Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment and, depending upon the importance of the assignment and the egregiousness of the instance, may result in failure of the course and the assignment of an "FX" (failure due to academic dishonesty) to the student's record. The instructor will determine the nature of the infraction; however, the student has the right to appeal any infraction affecting his/her standing in the course through the appeals process. See the Student Handbook for more details on policies and procedures.

TURNITIN

Bainbridge State College has a license agreement with Turnitin.com, a service that helps prevent plagiarism by comparing student papers with Turnitin's database and Internet sources. Students who take this course agree that all required papers may be submitted to Turnitin.com. While student privacy is protected, papers submitted to Turnitin do become source documents in Turnitin's reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on Turnitin's website. Bainbridge State College is committed to preserving academic integrity as defined by the Academic Integrity--Policies and Procedures. See the Student Handbook for honesty policies.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

See the *Bainbridge State College Student Handbook* for current information. A student must produce his/her assignments when disputing a final grade.

ADA STATEMENT

Bainbridge State College is committed to providing accessibility to all students in accordance to ADA/504 guidelines. Students should not hesitate to contact the Disabilities Services and Testing offices; Katie Harrell (BSC Main Campus) at (229)243-3021, or Lori Haddock (BSC Early County Center) at (229)724-2405, regarding accessibility, if any accommodations are necessary.