

ENG2300: FILM ANALYSIS SPRING 2023 SYLLABUS

Section S205

Class# 26333

Days/Period T5-6/R6/R9-11



INSTRUCTOR	Anwasha Chattopadhyay (she/they)
EMAIL	a.chattopadhyay@ufl.edu
CLASS TIMINGS	Tuesdays Period 5-6 (11:45 a.m. ET to 1:40 p.m. ET), Thursdays Period 6 (12:50 p.m. ET to 1:40 p.m. ET) at TUR 2334
SCREENING PERIOD	Thursdays Period 9-11
OFFICE HOURS	Tuesdays at 2.15 p.m. ET to 4.15 p.m. ET at TUR 4363
COURSE WEBSITE	Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts of film-making: for instance, how cinematography, editing, mise en scene and sound are used to create meaning in a film. It is NOT meant to be an exhaustive class on the craft of filmmaking, but it will allow the student to gain some familiarity with the basics of direction, scriptwriting, editing, acting, and critique. After the first long film, *The Florida Project* (2017), has been watched and reviewed on Letterboxd on the first Thursday, every subsequent week will involve engaging with the film screened the week before as well as shorter works of theory and criticism (which shall be provided by the instructor on Canvas).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of ENG2300, students will be able to:

1. Closely read texts (films and otherwise) and make logical and nuanced interpretations.

2. Critically engage with academic writings and social theories.
3. Write college-level analysis papers containing clear thesis statements, strong textual evidence, and well-integrated secondary materials.

COVID STATEMENT:

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.uf for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

- This course confers General Education credit for either Composition (C) or Humanities (H). This course also fulfills 6,000 of the university's 24,000-word writing requirement (WR).
- Composition courses provide instruction in the methods and conventions of standard written English (grammar, punctuation, usage), as well as the techniques that produce effective texts. Composition courses are writing intensive. They require multiple drafts submitted to your instructor for feedback before final submission.
- Course content should include multiple forms of effective writing, different writing styles, approaches and formats, and methods to adapt writing to different audiences, purposes and contexts. Students should learn to organize complex arguments in writing using thesis statements, claims and evidence, and to analyze writing for errors in logic.
- The University Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To receive Writing Requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. This means that written assignments must meet minimum word requirements totaling 6000 words.

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication, and critical thinking:

- **Content:** Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the academic discipline.

- **Communication:** Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Students will participate in class discussions throughout the semester to reflect on assigned readings.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Shorter readings will be available online or on Canvas. Our main “texts” for the semester will be our films, but they will be undergirded by the recommended text, to allow for a comprehensive introduction to the basic concepts of film analysis. Films will be screened unless freely available online. **Even though we will not always meet during the screening time, you cannot register for another course that meets during that period.**

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 12th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-260-05608-2

FILMS	Where to Access
<i>The Great Train Robbery (1903)</i>	Youtube (https://youtu.be/zuto7qWrplc)
<i>The Florida Project (2017)</i>	Screening
<i>The Toll of the Sea (1922)</i>	filmpreservation.org (https://www.filmpreservation.org/preserved-films/screening-room/the-toll-of-the-sea-1922#)
<i>Steamboat Willie (1928)</i>	Youtube (https://youtu.be/BBgghnQF6E4)
<i>Metropolis (1927)</i>	Plex (Free), Redbox (Free)
<i>Bicycle Thieves (1948)</i>	Screening
<i>Call Me By Your Name (2017)</i>	Screening
<i>Pulp Fiction (1994)</i>	Screening
<i>Spirited Away (2001)</i>	Screening
<i>Lagaan (2001)</i>	Screening
<i>Life In A Day (2010)</i>	Youtube (https://youtu.be/JaFVr_cJJIY)
<i>Get Out (2017)</i>	Screening
<i>Parasite (2019)</i>	Screening
<i>District 9 (2009)</i>	Screening
<i>Tar (2022)</i>	Screening

<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)</i>	Screening
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GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Summary of grading

- Attendance & Participation/in-class discussion (10%)
- Participation in Letterboxd (20%)
- 1 Close Reading of a long film of your choice (15%)
- 1 Critical Analysis of a long film from the syllabus (25%)
- 1 15 minute film shot using camera or phone with classmates as cast (15%)
- 1 video essay (15%)
- Extra-credit assignments may also be offered according to class needs.

1. Attendance & Participation (10%)

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll or sign-up sheet. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for every unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class.

Participation: Students are expected to review the assigned readings before class. Each week will begin with a series of basic questions on the contents of the assigned readings. If students are unable to answer these questions, it will be assumed that they have not prepared the homework and will lose 1%. Consistent participation in class discussions, demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings will also contribute to this portion of the final grade.

2. Participation in Letterboxd (20%)

After each film screening session, students are required to contribute a 100-200 word review on Letterboxd. The review should be nuanced and original and cannot merely be a summary of the film's plot.

3. Close Reading of a Film: 750 words (15%)

This assignment will test student skills in close reading, especially as that skill pertains to works of film. Students will be expected to analyze a film of their choice carefully and develop an argument regarding the whole of the film through a close viewing.

4. Group film-making: 15 minutes, (15%)

In groups of 2-3 people, students in the class will write, cast, shoot, and edit a 15 minute film on a topic of their choice, after discussion with the instructor. They will then screen it for the class in the final week. Other groups will then provide constructive, respectful written feedback on the film.

5. Critical Analysis of Film (25%)

Students will write a critical analysis of a long film from the syllabus, placing it in context with the help of film theory, biographical and historical material. Analysis should be at least 2500 words in length, MLA format, and include at least five scholarly sources. Students will be allowed to revise this ONE time.

6. Video Essay (15%)

Students will create a video essay critiquing any recently released film (2022 onwards), placing it in context with the help of clips, film theory, biographical and historical material. Essay should be at least 1500 words in length, MLA format, and include at least three scholarly sources.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Makeup Policy:** Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>) there will be no make-up option for missed exams or late assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, student should contact instructor on his or her return to classes.
- **Late Policy:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If a student is late, he or she will have to meet me after class to change their record from “absent” to “late”. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student’s final participation grade. Students will lose 0.5% from their final grade each time they arrive late.
- **Cell phone policy:** Students must turn cell phones to silent before coming to class. Each time a student’s cell phone rings or each time that a student texts during class, 1% will be deducted from that student’s final grade.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C– is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>
<https://student.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Grading Rubric

Each assignment has its own requirements, but for each paper I will evaluate:

1. Content, including argument, development, and support
2. Organization, including paragraph structure, overall flow of ideas, transitions
3. Mechanics, including grammar, spelling, and style.

A PAPER

An A-paper has a strong thesis and makes a coherent and original argument. It follows the assignment, is well organized, communicates ideas clearly, and there are (almost) no mechanical mistakes. It meets and/or exceeds the assignment requirements.

B PAPER

A B-paper does the same things as an A-paper but is somewhat lacking in one area: perhaps organization is lacking (either on the paragraph level or in the essay as a whole), the writer provided insufficient evidence or analysis of the evidence, or there are myriad mechanical mistakes.

C PAPER

The C-paper follows the assignment but is lacking in two of the areas mentioned above (content, organization and mechanics). Usually, a C-paper also needs to try and move beyond a superficial engagement with the text.

D PAPER

The D-paper either does not follow the assignment, is lacking in all three areas, or both.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of the assignment in question and/or the course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352 392-1575; <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>)

Online Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>) Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>

CLASS SCHEDULE

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline and may change; students are responsible for all changes made to the syllabus and all changes announced in class, even if they are absent on the day of the announcement. It is each student's responsibility to keep up with the readings and all assignments.

Note: you will be expected to have read the texts listed on each day prior to that day's discussion.

Week	Films	Topic + Supplementary Reading	Assignment
1 1/10	<i>The Great Train Robbery</i> (1903)	Topic: Film Art and Film Making (Introduction)	
1 1/12	<i>The Florida Project</i> (2017)	Topic: Art, Business, Entertainment, How To Use Letterboxd Supplementary Reading: Chapter 1 of <i>Film Art</i>	Letterboxd
2 1/17	<i>Steamboat Willie</i> (1928)	Topic: Narrative Form, Discussion of <i>The Florida Project</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 2 of <i>Film Art</i>	
2 1/19	<i>The Toll of the Sea</i> (1922)	Topic: Mise-en-Scene Supplementary Reading: Chapter 3 of <i>Film Art</i>	Letterboxd
3 1/24, 1/27	<i>Lagaan</i> (2001)	Topic: Cinematography, Discussion of <i>The Toll of the Sea</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 4, 5 of <i>Film Art</i>	Letterboxd
4 1/31, 2/2	<i>Tar</i> (2022)	Topic: Editing, Discussion of <i>Lagaan</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 6 of <i>Film Art</i> , "Epilogue" of <i>Bombay Hustle</i> by Debashree Mukherjee	Letterboxd
5 2/7, 2/9	<i>Pulp Fiction</i> (1994)	Topic: Sound, Discussion of <i>Tar</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 7, 8 of <i>Film Art</i>	Letterboxd, Close Reading
6 2/21, 2/23	<i>Spirited Away</i> (2001)	Topic: Genre, Discussion of <i>Pulp Fiction</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 9 of <i>Film Art</i> START OF PRACTICE FOR GROUP FILM	Letterboxd
7 2/28, 3/2	<i>Life In A Day</i> (2010)	Topic: Animation, Discussion of <i>Spirited Away</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 10 of <i>Film Art</i>	Letterboxd,
8 3/7, 3/9	<i>Metropolis</i> (1927)	Topic: Documentary, Discussion of <i>Life in A Day</i> Supplementary viewing: Siskel & Ebert Advise Young Movie Critics (https://youtu.be/_L9DzZlkwl) SHOOTING FOR GROUP FILM	Letterboxd
9 3/21, 3/24	<i>Call Me by Your Name</i> (2017)	Topic: How to Critique, Discussion of <i>Metropolis</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 11 of <i>Film Art</i> "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" by Laura Mulvey	Letterboxd

		EDITING FOR GROUP FILM	
10 3/28, 3/30	<i>Get Out</i> (2017)	Topic: Film History, Discussion of <i>Call Me By Your Name</i> Supplementary Reading: Chapter 12 of <i>Film Art</i>	Letterboxd, Critical Analysis
11 4/4, 4/6	<i>Parasite</i> (2019)	Topic: How to Create a Video Essay, Discussion of <i>Get Out</i> Supplementary Text: "1964: Hitchcock on the pleasure of fear" (https://youtu.be/QPGgQjERWUs) "Jordan Peele on a truly terrifying monster" (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/movies/jordan-peepe-interview-get-out.html)	Letterboxd
12 4/11, 4/13	<i>District 9</i> (2009)	Topic: Reflection, Discussion of <i>Parasite</i> Supplementary Text: Bong Joon-Ho Interview (https://www.gq.com/story/parasite-director-bong-joon-ho-interview), "Introduction: Conceptualizing the Korean Wave" by Mark Ravina	Letterboxd, Group Film
13 4/18, 4/20	<i>Bicycle Thieves</i> (1948)	Topic: Reflection, Discussion of <i>District 9</i> GROUP FILM SCREENINGS	Letterboxd,
14 4/25	<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i> (2001)	Topic: Reflection, Discussion of <i>Bicycle Thieves</i> NO READINGS. FINAL REVISIONS AND VIDEO ESSAYS DUE.	Letterboxd, Video Essay