

THTR 1356 Spring 2025

The Cinema: Films and Performers

University of Texas at Tyler

Instructor Michael K. Ward, Master of Fine Arts

Email: mward@uttyler.edu or contact directly through Canvas

Office: Skype, Zoom, Text, Call or Facetime by appointment

Office Phone: cell phone (text preferred) 903-504-3881 You may text me if there is a problem between the hours of 8am and 9pm. Please do not abuse this. I had a couple of students text after 11 pm this past semester. If you text after or before these hours I reserve the right to block future texts from the student that does this.

Catalogue Information

Course Description:

The cinema arts, history and cinema production process with emphasis on those elements retained in contemporary film practice. Screening of films and all work is done in an online classroom setting.

Knowledge Bases

Students will study the history of film from origins up to common practices and techniques in modern filmmaking. They will watch films from around the world and find the commonality as well as differences from country to country and region to region. Film making as collaboration will be explored as well.

Student Outcomes

Students will have an understanding of the origins of filmmaking

Students will have an understanding of the history of film making from conception to contemporary methods.

Students will be able to discuss different genres of film and their impact on society and entertainment.

Students will be able to discuss film as a tool for change in society and society norms.

Students will watch a variety of films from around the world and be able to discuss and analyze the styles, plot, subject matter and film making process.

Student will understand the roles of each person in the collaborative nature of film making by exploration of the duties of all of those needed in order to create a film from actor to grip.

Students will acquire a worldview on the films and the process.

How the Class will work

Each week the student will be required to read and study a provided informational reading over the history of film. Many times there will be a short video of me introducing the film or giving information. Please watch. You never know when I am going to throw out some bonus points. The student will also be required to watch at least one film during the week. Links *will NOT be provided* for films. Some films can be found on YouTube or online for free. Other films may be purchased through Amazon Instant Play. There is no text book for this course (recommended textbook cost \$150) however, the films are \$1.99-\$3.99. I do not mind students watching the films together (be mindful of social distancing and wear a mask). There will be required quizzes over the reading and the film that must be taken no later than 10pm on the Sunday of each week. *These quizzes will not be reopened for any reason.

Readings

Each week a reading will be available to download from the current module. These readings are a collection taken from the internet. I did not write them. There will be a quiz over the readings posted in Assignments. You must take the quiz for that week's reading by Sunday 10:00pm. You will have only 10 minutes to take the quiz so make sure you read the material, make notes, and highlight important parts so that you will be able to complete the quiz.

Films

Each film has been chosen either for genre, worldview, greatness, or public response. Quizzes over the film are mandatory and will contain questions over character, plot, as well as happenings in the film.

Quizzes

All quizzes must be completed by Sunday 10:00 pm. If a quiz jams or logs you off or you have any problems text me to reset (I will not reset past the due date). If you get a Green Exclamation point it means you went over the allotted time. I will look at your quiz and grade. A few seconds over is fine but for every minute over the time will cost a point. . Beings the quizzes are open for a full week, **there will be no reopening of quizzes or tests for any reason after the due date and time.** If you are going to be out of town, please plan

accordingly. Only sicknesses lasting more than a week with doctor's notes will be considered. There will be a few occasions that a quiz will be substituted with a Discussion Board assignment.

Major Grades

There will be a midterm and final exam that each count 100 points. They will be cumulative and cover mainly, but not exclusively, the readings.

Project

This is a new assignment that I am trying out. I am going to let you select one of the following to complete. You should create a thoroughly researched presentation showing your findings. (powerpoint, prezzi, or any other way you can present and share with me) which covers one of the following. It should have at least 10 slides. It can include pictures, video clips, information, or anything that shows your study of the project. You should also have an additional slide (not counting toward the 10) of the sources that you used. I recommend creating a works cited through mybib.com. On the title page please place the title of the project you have chosen.

1. Film Evolution Timeline

- **Objective:** Students create a visual timeline tracing the evolution of cinema.
 - **Details:** The timeline could highlight significant technological advancements (e.g., silent films, introduction of sound, color, CGI), influential directors, and groundbreaking films from different eras. Students can include images, short analyses, and QR codes linking to key scenes.
-

2. Genre Analysis Presentation

- **Objective:** Students analyze the evolution of a specific film genre (e.g., horror, science fiction, film noir).
 - **Details:** They research the genre's origins, its defining characteristics, key films, and its development over time. The presentation could include clips, comparisons, and cultural impacts.
-

3. Director's Study

- **Objective:** Students dive deep into the works of an influential filmmaker.

- **Details:** Students research a director's style, recurring themes, and contributions to cinema history. They analyze two or three films to showcase how the director's vision evolved and influenced others.
-

4. Cinematic Technique

- **Objective:** Students learn and demonstrate historical filmmaking techniques.
 - **Details:** This can include silent film acting, practical special effects from early cinema, or editing styles from specific eras.
-

5. Decade Deep Dive

- **Objective:** Students research and present on the cinema of a specific decade.
 - **Details:** Groups focus on the cultural, political, and technological influences of the era, showcasing key films, directors, and styles. They could compare how cinema reflected or influenced the decade's society.
-

6. Adaptation Across Time

- **Objective:** Analyze how one story or theme has been adapted across cinematic history.
 - **Details:** Students pick a classic story (e.g., "Cinderella," "Frankenstein") and explore how it has been adapted into films from different decades, comparing styles, cultural influences, and audiences.
-

7. Cinematic Movements Comparison

- **Objective:** Compare two or more cinematic movements (e.g., German Expressionism vs. Italian Neorealism).
 - **Details:** Students research the movements' historical contexts, stylistic elements, and key films, presenting their findings with visuals and film clips.
-

8. Film Censorship Through History

- **Objective:** Explore the history and impact of censorship on cinema.
- **Details:** Students research significant cases of censorship (e.g., the Hays Code, banned films), the societal reasons behind it, and how filmmakers pushed boundaries in response.

The project may be turned in at any point in the semester until April 6 10:00pm no exceptions. So, you can turn it in early but not late. No late work will be accepted for any reason. Please upload your project under the module titled Project Upload. A rubric is provided in this module.

Discussion Board

Due to the size of the class participation is difficult. Therefore, at times I will post a discussion question either about the film. Each student should comment. (This does not have to be a paper but merely the student's thoughts on the question in a thoughtful manner. Even though it does not need to be long it needs to be written on a college level, not text talk or emoji's)



Grading policy - *****

This class works on a points system.

There will be 25 quizzes/discussion boards worth 500 points.

Midterm exam is worth 100 points

Final exam is worth 100 points

The Group project will be 100 points.

When looking at your grade remember the scale. In order to calculate your grade you must use the 800 points as a basis. Canvas only shows you points attempted. IF you miss doing an assignment it will not affect the average. DO NOT LOOK AT THE AVERAGE. ONLY LOOK AT THE POINTS

(Every semester someone contacts me because they have 550 points out of 600 and why isn't that an A? Because they didn't attempt all 800 points. Do not be this person. Keep up with your assignments and you will do fine in this class.)

*Note for athletes. I will not send you your current grade through email. You may show your coach your grades on your own Canvas account with my point scale.

Absences / Missed Assignments

Because this class is online absences will not be an issue. However, if any quiz, test or project is missed there will be no opportunity to make up the work. Please understand if you miss an assignment you get 0 points for it. Again, (2nd time) Canvas will only show your grade percentage of things you have attempted. Do not be confused. You can't have an A in the class if you missed 10 assignments (which has been suggested to me by a student). Reading check. This is Michael. Message me a picture through canvas of your favorite actor/actress (make sure it is appropriate- must be fully clothed) for 10 bonus points.



Grades *****

Make sure you understand the schedule below is how grading will be done.

Total points available will be 800

A – 716-800

B –636- 715

C - 556-635

D- 476- 555

F- Below 476

Schedule

Week 1 –

- Watch Introduction and Instructions Video
- Read Syllabus
- Horse in Motion
- Watch your favorite movie and do the discussion board

- Reading 1 & Quiz

Week 2

- Watch Lecture
- Film- The Story of the Kelly Gang –Its only 30 minutes(youtube Free)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A6niZmzvoc>
- Film- Nosferatu (1922) (Youtube Free)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC6jFoYm3xs>
- Take Quiz over films
- Reading 2 & Take Quiz

Week 3

- Watch Lecture
- Mutiny on the Bounty(1935) Free here
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=964665027406654>
- Take Quiz
- Reading 3 & Quiz

Week 4

- Watch Lecture which will include instructions for group project
- Contact your group and decide who will take on what role. You can find your group under “People” and “Group Project”. There will be a message board. This is where the discussion will start and where you will give your contact info to the group. I encourage you to set up other means of communication as well.
- Watch Clip of Women in the 40’s
- Film – Citizen Kane (1941) (Free on HBO Max or rent on Youtube or Amazon) & Quiz
- Reading 4 and Quiz
- Producers for Projects should contact Professor with names of students that did not make contact with group so they may be removed.

Week 5

- Watch Lecture
- Seven Samurai (Amazon or youtube rent) & Quiz
- Reading 5 & Quiz

Week 6

- Watch Lecture

- The Birds (Vimeo and Amazon) & Quiz
- Reading 6 & quiz

Week 7

- Watch Lecture
- Alien (1979) (Amazon) & quiz
- Reading 7 & Quiz

Week 8

- Midterm Exam

Week 9 - *****SPRING BREAK*****

Week 10

- Watch Lecture
- Field of Dreams and Quiz
- Reading 8 & Quiz

Week 11 Watch Lecture

- The Last Supper 1995 Starring Cameron Diaz, Courtney Vance, Ron Eldard, Annabeth Gish (Amazon)
- Reading 9 & Quiz

Week 12

- Watch Lecture

Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga 2019 (Netflix)

- Reading 10 & Quiz

Week 13

- Watch Lecture
- Reading on Independent Films & Quiz
- Whiplash (2014) & Quiz *This film is Rated R for language.

Week 14

- Watch Lecture

- Reading over Documentaries & Quiz
- Black Power Mix Tapes (Amazon) Quiz

Week 15

- Watch Lecture
- TBA

Week 16 ***** Week ends on Friday

- Take Final - *****Final is due by 10 pm on Friday May 2*****

UNIVERSITY POLICIES UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

[Students Rights and Responsibilities](#)

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [Students Rights](#)

[Campus Carry](#)

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at [Campus Carry](#).

[Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies](#)

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

Submitting grade replacement contracts, Transient Forms, request to withhold directory information approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census date)

Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)

Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

[State-Mandated Course Drop Policy](#)

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

[Disability Services](#)

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu or visit [Disability Services Office](#)

[Student Absence due to Religious Observance](#)

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

"Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test; possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test; using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority; discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination; divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be

kept by the student; substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment; paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an administered test, test key, home solution or computer program; falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

[UT Tyler Resources for Students:](#)

Writing Center: The Writing Center provides all undergraduate and graduate students a place to work on their writing projects and skills. There are tutoring options as well as workshops available to support you in your academic writing.

Math Learning Center: The Math Learning Center provides drop-in tutoring for lower-level math courses throughout the week. The MLC also has computer workstations for your use.

PASS Tutoring Center: The PASS Tutoring Center supports a variety of courses. Due to COVID-19, we are asking that you schedule an appointment for your face-to-face tutoring support. Tutoring is also available through Zoom tutoring sessions. Check the website to see the courses supported for the Fall 2020 term.

Supplemental Instruction (SI): SI is a series of weekly peer-assisted study sessions in courses identified by previous students as difficult. Due to COVID-19, SI sessions will be conducted face-to-face and via Zoom this fall. Check the website to see the support courses for the Fall 2020 term.

Upswing (24/7 Online Tutoring): Upswing is a free, confidential, and convenient way to receive help in nearly all of UT Tyler's undergraduate courses.

Robert R. Muntz Library Staff: UT Tyler has an incredible staff of librarians ready to assist you. Discipline/major library liaisons are available to support you and you can also schedule appointments for research consultations. In addition, the Robert R. Muntz library's Head of University Archives and Special Collections can assist you with scholarly communications, primary sources, and archive materials.

Canvas 101: This Canvas course provides you with a wealth of information – including how to navigate in Canvas, use ProctorU (and even take a practice test), tips for being a successful online and hybrid learner, how to use Zoom, and more!

Digital Support Toolkits: Digital Support Toolkits are supplemental materials generated by faculty to help you be successful in targeted courses typically taken by our freshman and sophomore population. Students registered in Digital Support Toolkits supported courses will find these in their Canvas dashboard. You don't have to register – just take advantage of this great resource.

UT Tyler Testing Center: The Testing Center provides securing testing opportunities to meet the needs of students and the community in an environment conducive to student and academic success.

Student Accessibility and Resource (SAR) Office: The SAR Office works to provide students equal access to all educational, social, and co-curriculum programs through the coordination of services and reasonable accommodations, consultation, and advocacy.

Student Counseling Center: The Student Counseling Center supports students in developing balance, resiliency, and overall well-being both academically and personally. They have in person and virtual counseling options. In addition, the Student Counseling Center offers [TAO](#), a self-help, completely private online library of behavioral health resources. Sign in to the TAO website using your UT Tyler credentials.