Spring 2-1-2018

FILM 103L.01: Introduction to Film

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*University of Montana, Missoula*

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INTRODUCTION TO FILM
FILM 103L

Instructor: Tobin Addington
E-mail: tobin.addington@mso.umt.edu
Office Hours: Tues 10:30-12; Thurs 3:30-5:00 in McGill 230
Day & Time: T/R 8:00-10:20
Room: Forestry 206

Readings:
Understanding Movies
Other readings will be posted on our Moodle page

Assignments:
Weekly essay quizzes, take-home essays, a midterm exam, and an in-class comprehensive final exam. (See grading breakdown below.)

Course Goals/Objectives:
This class requires students to assess film from three different perspectives:

1) Aesthetics & Conventions – Students will learn the conventions involved in putting together a narrative fiction film, as well as the aesthetic commitments and possibilities involved in using these conventions.

2) Ethics – Many, if not most, films have at their center some ethical issue or dilemma. Students will learn to identify, characterize, and write clearly about the filmic expressions of these dilemmas, separating the characters’ judgments and point of view from that of the films.

3) Politics – Students will learn to be critical viewers of film and to look for the social significance in the apparently neutral image and within the medium itself.

Grade Determination:
*** Your grade will be determined out of a possible 250 points. ***
90 points . . . . . . . . . Quizzes (9)
40 points . . . . . . . . . Midterm
30 points . . . . . . . . . Representation Essay
30 points . . . . . . . . . Genre Essay
60 points . . . . . . . . . Final Exam

Quizzes
Students will take a brief, essay-question quiz the class period following most film screenings. Students may use their notes for these quizzes. NOTE: If students miss a quiz, they have one week to make it up (for 50% credit); any quiz not made up within a week of its original date will be graded as a zero.

Midterm
Students will complete a midterm exam partway through the semester, consisting of fill-in-the-blank and essay questions. Students will NOT be allowed to use notes during this exam.

Representation & Genre Essays
Students will complete written essays on two units during the course of the semester.

Final Exam
Students will complete a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course.
Class Schedule:

I. Film Conventions and Aesthetics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>Terminology and Realism/Formalism</td>
<td><em>Understanding Movies</em> pg. 1-16</td>
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<td>1/30</td>
<td><em>Winter’s Bone</em></td>
<td><em>UM</em> ch. 7 – “Dramatization”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>Winter’s Bone</em></td>
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<td>2/6</td>
<td><em>Alien</em></td>
<td><em>UM</em> ch. 2 – “Mise-en-Scène”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>Alien</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td><em>The Limey</em></td>
<td><em>UM</em> ch. 4 – “Editing”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>The Limey</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/20</td>
<td><em>Pulp Fiction</em></td>
<td><em>UM</em> pg. 17-45; and ch. 9 – “Writing”</td>
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<td>2/22</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>Pulp Fiction</em></td>
<td>Discussion – Putting it all together – Narrative, Cinematography, Editing, Mise-en-Scene</td>
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II. Ethics in Film

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td><em>Gone Baby Gone</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>Gone Baby Gone</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td><em>Michael Clayton</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>Midterm: focused on <em>Michael Clayton</em></td>
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</table>

III. The Politics of Representation - Contemporary Representations of American Slavery

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td><em>Twelve Years a Slave</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>Twelve Years a Slave</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td><em>Django Unchained</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>Quiz on <em>Django Unchained</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Spring Break</td>
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IV. Genre

4/3   Introduction to Genre
      Introduction to “The Western”
      Readings: UM ch. 8 – “Story”
      Due: Essay on Politics of Representation

4/5   Stagecoach

4/10  The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford

4/12  Quiz on The Assassination of Jesse James…
      Discussion
      Assigned: Essay on Film Genre

      The Bourne Ultimatum

4/19  Quiz on The Bourne Ultimatum
      Reading: Spy Thriller reading on Moodle
      Discussion

4/24  Spy

4/26  Quiz on Spy
      Wrap-up Genre Discussion

V. Film and Affirmation

5/1    tbd
      Due: Genre Essay

5/3    Summary and Review

5/7    8:00-10:00 – Comprehensive Final Exam