

Fall 2000
Chaminade University - Schofield Barracks
DRAMA 20110 - - Introduction to Motion Pictures & Television

Instructor: Justina T. Mattos
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Class Location:
Class Hours: Wednesdays 5:30-9:40 pm
Office Hours & Location: by appointment

Course Objectives:

This course provides a study of the aesthetic and technical aspects of motion pictures and television, with emphasis on the film making elements. Students will view and critique films, and apply what they have learned to write their own short script.

Textbook

Giannetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. 8th edition.

Requirements and Grading:

Attendance is required at every class session. Excessive absences WILL lower your grade.

The final grade consists of these elements:	participation in class	25%
	film script	25%
	movie analysis project	25%
	movie analysis project presentation	25%
	total	=100%

Participation in class:

We will use class time to discuss readings from the text, to view and critique films or television programs, to read student-written scripts, and for students to present their movie analysis projects to the class. Your active participation is expected at each class session.

Film Script:

You will write a 10 minute script (up to 15 pages in length) utilizing what you have learned about screen-writing in class and from the text. These scripts will be read aloud in class, so bring enough copies for each actor to have his/her own copy. You will also turn a copy in to the instructor.

Movie Analysis Project:

You will choose your favorite movie from whatever genre you like (action, romance, comedy, horror, animation etc.) and analyze one scene in complete detail as outlined in your text. A complete story board of the scene will also be required. The style and format you will use will be explained in class. Your work should be neat and turned in on *time*.

Movie Analysis Project Presentation:

You will give a 15 minute presentation on your film analysis to the class. Topics you can cover in your presentation: what you found to be interesting/different from what you previously thought about the piece, the dialogue, the cinematography, the action, the setup, the conflict, the resolution, the editing, the color themes used to emphasize moods, etc. Following the verbal presentation you will show that scene (cued up) on videotape to the class.

Your final grade will be one of the following:

- A.....** Outstanding scholarship and intellectual initiative.
B ~~Superior~~ Work done in a consistent and intelligent manner.
C..... Average grade indicating a competent grasp of the subject matter
D..... Work of below average quality, but still passing.
F..... Failure to grasp the minimum of the subject material; no credit given. This grade is also given for failure to withdraw officially from the course.
W Official withdrawal from the course.
I Incomplete. Student has been unable, for a valid reason, to complete the course work according to the assigned schedule. The issuance of an "I" grade is not automatic. Prior to reporting of grades a contract must be made between the student and the instructor for the completion of the course. Sufficient time must be allowed to permit completion of the work, evaluation, and reporting of the final grade within 90 days after the end of the term. This limit may not be extended. If a new grade is not submitted by the instructor prior to the deadline, the alternate grade (indicated in the contract) will be recorded.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be given to students who have the initiative to apply what they have learned about the technical and aesthetic aspects of film-making to a script written for class. In other words, if you make a movie out of one of the short scripts from class, you can raise your final grade by up to a full letter. Any extra credit projects will be shown on the final day of class.

Course Outline/Schedule:

Oct. 4	Course Introduction <u>Photography and Mise en Scène</u>
Oct. 11	Movement and Sound (<u>chapters 3 & 5</u>)
Oct. 18	<u>Editing (chapter 4)</u>
Oct. 25	<u>Drama (chapter 7)</u>
Nov. 1	<u>Story (chapter 8)</u>
Nov. 8	<u>Writing (chapter 9)</u>
Nov. 15	Acting (chapter 6) Scripts:
Nov. 22	Ideology and Theory (chapters 10 & 11) Synthesis: Citizen Kane (chapter 12) Scripts: <i>Project Presentations:</i>
Nov. 29	Scripts: <i>Project Presentations:</i>
Dec. 6	<i>Project Presentations:</i> <i>Extra Credit Premieres:</i>