



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

FT222 Introduction to Film Studies

Instructor:	Dr. Nathan Atkinson	Email:	nsatkinson@yahoo.com
Home Institution:	Peralta Colleges	Office:	
Office Hours:	TBD		
Term:	2 July – 2 August, 2018	Credits:	4
Classroom:	TBD	Teaching Assistant(s):	TBD
Class Hours:	Monday through Thursday, 3.20-5.20 pm		
Discussion Session:	2 hours each week, led by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours:	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
Required Texts (w/ ISBN):	Course readings will be provided electronically prior to first day of classes.		
Prerequisite:	N/A		



Course Overview

In this course students will be introduced to the historical, formal and theoretical components of film studies. We will pay special attention to film analysis and composition, and develop a vocabulary for talking about how films communicate ideas, engage audiences, and reflect culture. To accomplish these goals, we will watch films every day, in class, and discuss them using terms and concepts from the course readings.

Course Goals

- ✧ Develop familiarity with the technological and historical development of film from early cinema to contemporary blockbusters.
- ✧ Understand and apply the formal vocabulary of film analysis and composition
- ✧ Be conversant in theoretical questions related to film as an art form and as a technology for communication

Grading Policy

Quiz #1	10%
Quiz #2	10%
Midterm	25%
Final	35%
Attendance and Participation	20%

Grading Scale

Your letter grade will be assigned according the following scale:

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0



≤59	F (Failure)	0
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Course Schedule

Date	Content	Readings & Homework
WEEK 1		
2-Jul	Introduction to the course. Early Movies: From novelty to narrative	Read: “Film Studies: A Definition” by Blandford, Grant & Hillier
3-Jul	Evolution of the form: Silent films to talkies.	Read: “A Very Short History of Film”
4-Jul	Hollywood: 1930’s to 1970’s	Study for quiz
5-Jul	Beyond Hollywood: Contemporary Film Quiz# 1	
WEEK 2		
9-Jul	How to analyze a film.	Begin reading: “Form” by Spadoni
10-Jul	Editing and Mis-en-Scene	Continue reading “Form” by Spadoni
11-Jul	Cinematography	Finish reading “Form” by Spadoni
12-Jul	Sound	
WEEK 3		
16-Jul	The elements of film storytelling.	Read: “The Seven Basic Plots” by Booker
17-Jul	Film: Character and Settings	Study for midterm
18-Jul	Film: Symbolism & Allegory	Study for midterm
19-Jul	Midterm	
WEEK 4		
23-Jul	Genre: Form and History	Read excerpts from “Film Genres” by Bordwell and Thompson .
24-Jul	Documentary Film: Representation and Reality	Finish reading excerpts from “Film Genres”
25-Jul	The Blockbuster Film	
26-Jul	The Animated Film Quiz #2	
WEEK 5		



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30-Jul	The relationships between and culture.	Study for final
31-Jul	Film in the digital era.	Study for final
1-Aug	In class review for final...	Study for final
2-Aug	Final Exam	