



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

FT222 Introduction to Film Studies

Instructor:	Nathan Atkinson	Email:	nsatkinson@yahoo.com
Instructor's Home Institution:	UC Berkeley	Office:	TBD
Office Hours:	TBD		
Term:	July 15-August 9, 2019	Credits:	4 units
Classroom:	TBD	Teaching Assistant(s):	TBD
Class Hours:	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions:	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours:	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
Required Texts (with 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 is as follows:

Your letter grade will be assigned according the following scale:

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1
≤59	F (Failure)	0



Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Day	Content	Readings&HW
Day 1	Introduction to the course. Early Movies: From novelty to narrative	Read: "Film Studies: A Definition" by Blandford, Grant & Hillier
Day 2	Evolution of the form: Silent films to talkies.	Read: "A Very Short History of Film"
Day 3	Hollywood: 1930's to 1970's	Study for quiz
Day 4	Beyond Hollywood: Contemporary Film Quiz# 1	
Day 5	How to analyze a film.	Begin reading: "Form" by Spadoni
Day 6	Editing and Mis-en-Scene	Continue reading "Form" by Spadoni
Day 7	Cinematography	Finish reading "Form" by Spadoni
Day 8	Sound	
Day 9	The elements of film storytelling.	Read: "The Seven Basic Plots" by Booker
Day 10	Film: Character and Settings	Study for midterm
Day 11	Film: Symbolism & Allegory	Study for midterm
Day 12	Midterm	
Day 13	Genre: Form and History	Read excerpts from "Film Genres" by Bordwell and Thompson .
Day 14	Documentary Film: Representation and Reality	Finish reading excerpts from "Film Genres"
Day 15	The Blockbuster Film	
Day 16	The Animated Film Quiz #2	
Day 17	The relationships between and culture.	Study for final
Day 18	Film in the digital era.	Study for final
Day 19	In class review for final...	Study for final
Day 20	Final Exam	