



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

FT222 Introduction to Film Studies

Instructor Information:	Nick J. Sciullo, J.D., Ph.D. Home Institution: Texas A&M University, Kingsville Email: Nick.Sciullo@tamuk.edu Office Hours: Determined by Instructor		
Term:	June 29, 2020 - July 24, 2020	Credits:	4 units
Class Hours:	Monday through Friday, 120 minutes 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

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

Grading Policy

Quiz 1	10 points
Quiz 2	10 points
Quiz 3	10 points
Your Movie/Group Movie Presentation	50 points
Who Would Play You and Why Paper	25 points
Your Movie Poster	25 points
Your Movie Poster	25 points
Final	100 points
Midterm	100 points
Participation	50 points
Total	380 points

Grading 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



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings & HW
Day 1	Introduction to Class The Syllabus & Introductions	Film Wikipedia (pp. 1-12) Dixon & Foster (pp. 1-21)
Day 2	Early Movies: From novelty to narrative Evolution of the form: Silent films to talkies. Watch “Dr. Strangelove”	Dixon & Foster (pp. 22-52)
Day 3	Finish and discuss “Dr. Strangelove”	No Homework
Day 4	Watch “Psycho”	Grant (pp. 1-17)
Day 5	Finish and Discuss “Psycho” Horror Movies	Dixon & Foster (pp. 120-134) Bordwell (pp. 1-18)
Day 6	Hollywood Contemporary Film: Quiz	Introduction to Film Studies (pp. 1-23) James Moody, “What is Film Studies?”
Day 7	Mise-En-Scene	Booker (pp. 1-13, 699-702) Complete “Who Would Play You?”
Day 8	Watch “Gladiator”	No Homework
Day 9	Finish and Discuss “Gladiator”	Study for Exam
Day 10	Review Session with TA	
Day 11	Midterm	Booker “Seven Basic” Plots Outline “Film Genres” excerpt from Bordwell and Thompson
Day 12	Movie Advertising/Marketing	
Day 13	Watch “Toy Story” and Discuss Quiz: Movie Advertising/Marketing	Complete Movie Posters and be Prepared to Present yours in class
Day 14	Present Your Movie Poster in Class	TBD Reading on Animation
Day 15	Animation Watch and Discuss “Old Man and the Sea” Watch and Discuss “Bao” Animation: Quiz 2	Prepare Movie/Movie Presentation
Day 16	Group 1 Movie Presentation	Prepare Movie/Movie Presentation
Day 17	Group 2 Movie Presentation	Prepare Movie/Movie Presentation
Day 18	Group 3 Movie Presentation	Study for Final
Day 19	Study Session lead by TA	Study for Final
Day 20	Final Exam	