

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Critical Reading and Writing in Film Studies
Film 2230F (001)
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Barbara S. Bruce
bbruce2@uwo.ca
International and Graduate Affairs Building
1N20B
519.661.2111 x.84381

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 and
Wednesdays 2:00-3:00

Course Date/Time/Location: Tuesdays
12:30-3:30 UC 1401 | Wednesdays 10:30-
12:30 UC 1405

Prerequisites: At least 60% in Film Studies 1020E or Film Studies 1022 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

You are responsible for all the following information. Please read it completely and carefully.

Course Description

This course will build on skills and knowledge acquired in Film 1022 to engage students in the critical practices involved in reading various genres of writing in Film Studies. In addition to writing film reviews, students will learn research skills that prepare them for writing critical essays on cinema.

Objectives:

This course has been designed to facilitate the development of writing and communication skills for Film Studies students. In addition to teaching students the fundamentals of grammar and style, it is intended to expand on Film 1022's introduction to the different genres and critical methodologies of film writing, to considerations of audience and tone, and to the development of analytical and research skills.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, successful students will have developed their ability to analyze texts critically and to formulate and produce essays which have effective theses with clear, well-articulated intents and logical arguments supported by adequate evidence from the texts under discussion. Students will have gained skills in researching, in engaging critically with scholarly literature, and in incorporating the results of this research into their essays and other assignments in which they can articulate their own positions within ongoing academic conversations. Students will also have developed further their written communication skills in the clear and organized presentation of an argument/hypothesis within the prescribed word limits of the research essays and other assignments.

Study copies of the films will be available in University College (UC) Room 1126 (opening hours tba), but a screening on a small monitor, on a tablet or phone, or even a TV does not substitute for the experience of watching a film as it was intended, with full-screen projection and an audience. Assignments are based on films screened in class. Taking notes during lectures and screenings is highly recommended, unless of course you are that very rare student who has been gifted with perfect recall. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. Your professor will never share her own notes with students.

Chatting, noise of any kind, surfing the web on your laptop, Facebooking, etc. will NOT be tolerated in lectures, screenings, or tutorials. Please turn off your cell phones when in class, and laptops must be turned off during screenings and may be banned if they are being used improperly. Rude and/or disruptive students will be asked to leave or, in extreme cases, barred from the course.

While I understand that not all students are comfortable talking in class, I encourage all students to engage in classroom and tutorial discussions and to ask questions. Participating actively enhances your experience in any class and facilitates greater learning.

If students are not participating—for example, not engaging in discussions, not completing the assigned readings—I reserve the right to give surprise quizzes, which are short (10 min.) quizzes designed to test students on their knowledge of the reading(s) assigned for that week. These tests may take different forms: short or paragraph answer, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank questions, etc. No make-ups for the quizzes will be granted.

Laptop/Tablet Policy:

You are welcome to use laptops/tablets to record notes during lecture. However, unless you

Students who do not attend peer review sessions without accommodation from an academic counsellor will have 10% of the given grade deducted from the assignments. Students who participate in the peer review sessions without bringing a draft of the assignment will have 5% of the given grade deducted from the assignments.

Assignment Length:

Ensure you are within the assigned word limit. The length in pages is an approximation and given just to give you a ballpark idea of the assignment length. If your paper runs short or long, expand or edit your work carefully until you are within 10% of the word limit. If an essay is short of or exceeds the word limit by more than 10%, I will deduct marks at my own discretion to a maximum of one full grade. If an essay exceeds the word limit by 50% or more, it will be returned unmarked to the student and late penalties will apply until an edited essay is returned; if an essay is short by 50% or more, it will not be marked and will automatically receive a failing grade.

Due Dates:

Assignments are due at the beginning of the Tuesday class on the due date. Papers granted an extension beyond the due date will receive comments on the paper itself, but no extended comments; papers handed in late without prior permission will be returned with a grade only, no comments, and 3% per day late, including weekends (i.e., 6% for Saturday and Sunday), deducted from the grade assigned to your paper. Papers submitted after the assignment has been returned to the rest of the class and papers submitted after the last class will not normally be accepted.

Submitting Your Assignments:

To submit an assignment, in Owl click on "Assignments" in the menu on the Home Page and then on the appropriate assignment folder. Assignments are submitted to and marked in Turnitin. Follow the instructions to upload your assignment, and make sure you receive confirmation that your submission has been uploaded. I recommend you print or screen capture your confirmation.

Paper copies or assignments emailed without permission will not be accepted, and late penalties will apply. In case of a lost assignment, the student is always responsible; in other words, if a student claims an assignment has been lost, a replacement must be submitted that same day, and late penalties will apply.

I recommend strongly that you *map out all your assignment due dates and test and exam dates* at the beginning of the year or term and plan your research, writing, and study times accordingly.

Extensions:

All requests for extensions must be made through Academic Counselling in your home faculty. The student must ask for it well in advance of the due date (preferably at least a week in advance) and have a good reason for the extension. Extensions do not apply to tests and exams.

If you miss an exam or an assignment due date, or if you require an extension at the last minute on medical or compassionate grounds, you must notify your professor *and* your academic counsellor *immediately*. Proper documentation (a doctor's note, tensQq/F4 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 468.912 0

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There may be times—because of illness, snowmageddon, zombie apocalypse, Idris Elba sighting, etc.—when I must cancel my regular office hours. I will try to let you know in advance, but if I can't, then a note will be posted on my office door. You are also welcome to drop by outside scheduled office hours, but you take your chances: I

Further Information for Students

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, medical issues, or religious obligations. Contact the appropriate person (myself, an academic counsellor, a staff member in Student Services, etc.) as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Medical Illness: Please go to the website for information on the university [Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness](#). *Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.*

If you require accommodation for **religious observance**, see the [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) page posted on the University Secretariat's "[Rights and Responsibilities](#)" webpage and in the Academic Calendar.

Students with **disabilities** should contact the [Student Development Centre](#) to obtain assistance and/or letters of accommodation.

Learning Skills: go to [SDC's Learning Skills Services](#), Rm 4100 WSS. From the SDC: "LS counsellors are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre and year-round through individual counselling."

Complaints: If students have a com

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| Writing Topic | The Comma |
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Readings

Reviews:

McCarthy, Todd. Review of *Adaptation*, directed by Spike Jonze, *Variety*, 10 Nov. 2002, variety.com/2002/film/awards/adaptation-2-1200544890/. Accessed 5 Sept. 2016.

Reed, Rex. "A for Audacity, Z for Zzzzz." Review of *Adaptation*, directed by Spike Jonze, *Observer*, 2 Dec. 2002, observer.com/2002/12/mooning-clooney-cant-save-solaris/. Accessed 5 Sept. 2016. (scroll down past the review of *Solaris* for Reed's review of *Adaptation*)

Taylor, Ella. "Inside 'Charlie Kaufman.'" Review of *Adaptation*, directed by Spike Jonze,

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| | <p>Schrader, Paul. "Notes on <i>Film Noir</i>." <i>Film Noir Reader</i>, edited by Alain Silver and James Ursini, Limelight Eds., 2003, pp. 53-63.</p> <p>Corrigan: pages 91-94, 164-66</p> <p><i>CWH</i>: Chs. 20, 29, and 36</p> |
| Assignments | draft of the Critical Essay due at the beginning of Wednesday's class |
| Week 9 | November 13 / 14 |
| Lecture | The Comparative Essay |
| Screening | <i>Capote</i> (Miller, USA/Canada, 2005, 114m, c) |
| Writing Topic | Writing Effective Sentences, Paragraphs, and Titles |
| Readings | <p>Frus, Phyllis. "The Figure in the Landscape: <i>Capote</i> and <i>Infamous</i>." <i>Journal of Popular Film and Television</i>, vol. 36, no.2, Summer 2008, pp. 52-60. ProQuest, search.proquest.com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/docview/199392493/fulltextPDF/E78E07668A4C4733PQ/2?accountid=15115.</p> <p>Corrigan: pages 112-23</p> |

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| | Corrigan: pages 124-127, 151-60, 166-71, and 175-77; review 164-66 <i>CWH</i> : Chs. 27, 28, 30, 31, 32a-j, 34, and 35; review 29b and 36 |
| Assignments | draft of the Research Essay due at the beginning of Wednesday's class |
| Week 12 | December 4 / 5 |
| Lecture | Editing, Revising, and Finalizing Your Paper Peer-Review Workshop |
| Screening | no screening |
| Writing Topic | Formatting and Documentation Systems |
| Readings | Corrigan: pages 127-30, 161-63, 171-75, 179 <i>CWH</i> : Ch. 1h, 1i, 26, 37, and page 272 |
| Assignments | draft of the Research Essay due at the beginning of Tuesday's and, if needed, Wednesday's classes Research Essay due by the end of the day on Wednesday |

Note! No December exam is scheduled for this course. Good luck on your other exams, and have a great break!