



Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

DISNEY DREAM FACTORY
FILM 2159B (002) Winter 2023

Tuesdays | 1030AM-1230PM | WL-258 | Asynchronous Screenings

Instructor: Christian Ylagan | cylagan2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1PM-3PM or by appointment, UC-2416

Teaching Assistants:

Sarah Tiller | stiller6@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Thursdays 1130AM-1230PM or by appointment, UC-3401

Ali Ghasemi | aghase3@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1030AM-12PM via ZOOM (Drop-In)

*"We keep moving forward, opening
new doors, and doing new things
because we're curious, and
curiosity keeps leading us down
new paths..."*

~ Walt Disney

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For decades, the name 'Disney' has been associated with popular aspects of Americana, especially those that pertain to spectacular, escapist approaches to culture that idealize traditional values as they apply to human life and relationships. Given the tremendous Disney mass market output that goes well beyond film production, Benjamin Barber's argument— that " whether Disney knows it or not, it is buying much more than our leisure time. It has a purchase on our values, on how we feel and think, and what we think about" — speaks to the Disney empire's profound and premeditated influence on our most important cultural narratives.

Through an examination of diverse media sources (animated shorts, lobby cards, press books, advertisements, full-length animated and live action feature films, etc.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. synthesize concepts from a number of theoretical perspectives in order to read and think critically about the potential biases, prejudices, and motivations that inform Disney productions;
2. analyze literary, artistic, social, and cultural artifacts that are informed by—or that demonstrate—the tensions, anxieties, and aspirations embedded in Disney narratives;
3. reflect on their experiences as informed audiences whose personal dealings with reception, fandom, and marketing may offer points of potential intervention;
4. enhance their ability to express themselves both orally (through in-class participation) and in writing (through quizzes, essays, and examinations).

COURSE MATERIALS

1. Wasko, Janet. *Understanding Disney: The Manufacture of Fantasy*. Polity, 2001. (UD)
2. Additional required readings will be posted on OWL.

A NOTE ON "SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS": You will find some readings listed as "Supplementary Readings" in the course calendar. These are just that: supplementary, meaning they may be helpful to read if you have interest or time. These may also be used as material for deepening your own knowledge in preparation for the Oral Exam or Critical Essay. They will NOT be included in any tests, quizzes, or examinations.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A stable internet connection for weekly asynchronous viewing
- 2.

Regular attendance is critical in getting the most out of the course. As such, attendance will be checked every class, both during screening and lecture days. University policy on absences and accommodations for legitimate reasons will be observed.

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

B. Oral Exam

The Oral Exam will be a brief dialogue (30 minutes, give or take) between a small group of students and the instructor on predetermined topics. While the format is a roundtable conversation, each student will be marked individually. The topics will vary from week to week, and may come in the form of defining terms, synthesizing concepts, contextualizing an image, explaining a quote or statement, elaborating on a discussion point, etc. The Oral Exam will take place on time slots that students will sign up for at their convenience and will be ongoing throughout the term.

C. Reading

grounds, etc.), please get in touch with your academic counsellor.

B. Plagiarism and Academic Offenses

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage of a text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate, and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). The University of Western Ontario uses plagiarism checking software. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism61f998(nd{AI}7.002(I)5WñBT0 g/TT.004(i)5(o005(

Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

In general, students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. The same is true for accommodation requests pertaining to known disabilities or medical conditions. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Please find UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness here: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

Disney Dream Factory - Film 2159B (002)

The department would like to recognize that we are located on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples, and acknowledge the longstanding relationships of the three local First Nations groups of this land and place in Southwestern Ontario.