

DISNEY DREAM FACTORY FILM 2159A – Fall 2024

Times/Venues for Lecture and Office Hours are posted on Brightspace under

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Teaching Assistants: Alexandra Lukawski, Elric Pauuw, and Slade Stoodley

*“We keep moving forward, opening new
doors, and doing new things because
we’re curious, and curiosity keeps
leading 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” —

COURSE MATERIALS

1. Wasko, Janet. Understanding Disney: The Manufacture of Fantasy (2nd Edition). Polity, 2020. (available at the UWO Bookstore)
2. Additional required readings will be posted on OWL. – Please refer to the latest version of the Course Calendar

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

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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. University policy on absences and accommodations for legitimate reasons will be observed.

Participation refers to meaningful immersion with the course material, demonstrated through thoughtful, consistent, and collegial engagement in class discussions, group activities, office hour consultations, and other instances where critical thought can be observably performed. This is a Film Studies course and it is therefore a reasonable expectation that you verbalize your insights around the films in discussion-based formats. Unless you have a documented condition recognized by your academic or accessibility counselor, I expect your engaged participation in each class.

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/TAs on each week's materials. 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 explaining terms, synthesizing concepts, contextualizing an image, discussing 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 and will be ongoing throughout the term.

C. Semiotic Analysis

In pairs, students will be asked to analyze clips and/or images related to the assigned films, specifically with regards to visual signifiers and technical film aspects such as mise-en-scene, editing, sound, cinematography, etc.

D. Paired Critical Writing Project

In pairs, students will work together to write a critical essay that makes a case for a Disney film or films that engages with the themes of representation to be discussed this term (e.g., make a case as to why Film X provides positive or equitable representation of women, contrary to class discussions). The critical essay must build semiotic analyses as support for its arguments. More details t(equi)-3.996(t)511.00(ney)-3.002(f)16. Tw 20Pn6(c)11.003.996(i)uga Tw 64.584 401g812(gu)10.99

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For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation. The following assessments ALWAYS require supporting documentation:

Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (e.g., Final Exam, as defined by policy)
Practical laboratory and performance tests (Defined by policy)* = **not applicable for this course**

FLEXIBILITY STATEMENT

Formative assessments (Oral Exam, Semiotic Analysis, Critical Writing Project) in this course have built-in flexibility.

For the Oral Exam, if you are unable to attend your scheduled date due to extenuating circumstances, you are allowed to reschedule ONCE with NO penalty. In this case, you do not need to request Academic Consideration; you can email me directly to reschedule.

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is “ a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with at the earliest opportunity. Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

F. Support Services

OWL Brightspace and Technology Support: Western Technology Services (WTS) 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800

USC Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Advising: Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

G. Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

H. Recognition of First Nations Territory