



Film 2230F Critical Reading and Writing for Film

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

Course Description

This writing- *and* reading-intensive course prepares students to be better writers and readers while also asking students to reflect on the function of criticism itself. We will look at film criticism over time, including its emergence out of print journalism; its professionalization within the university post-World War II; and, more recently, its emergence in the digital age.

Course Materials:

The Canadian Writers' Handbook by William E. Messenger et al.

The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth

Readings uploaded to OWL and links posted on syllabus

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates:

Film Review: 15% (Due Oct. 11th)

Film Scene Reading Writing Assignment: 15% (Due Nov 1st)

Video Essay: 20% (Due Nov. 22nd)

Final Research Paper: 35% (Due: Dec. 6th)

Attendance/Participation: 15%

on OWL. Unless you have been granted an extension, late assignments will be penalized 3% per day. You must email me regarding an extension ahead of the due date.

Week One:

- Welcomes, syllabus breakdown, course objectives, what makes a good reader/writer/critic

Week Two:

- Film: *Eighth Grade* (2018)
- Reading: Selection (pp. 1-13) (uploaded to OWL); and
Walter J. Ong in *Orality and Literacy* (uploaded to OWL)
Chiang (<https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/chatgpt-is-a-blurry-jpeg-of-the-web>)
- *Eight Grade* Reviewed: A Teen Coming-of-Age Story
<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-front-row/bo-burnhams-eighth-grade-reviewed-a-teen-coming-of-age-story-plagued-by-niceness>).

Writing Topic: Words Classes Review

- *CWH*: Chapters 6-8, 12, and 13; Corrigan Chapter 1 pp. 1-16

Week Three:

- Film: *Dead Poets Society* (1989)
- (<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/dead-poets-society-1989>)

- Writing Topic: Engaging with Others & Developing Your Position
 - *Craft of Research* Chapter 4 pp. 74-82
 - *Writing About Movies* Chapter 7 pp. 137-145 (Uploaded to OWL)

Week Seven: How to research

Writing Assignment Due.

- Library visit. No screening.
- Writing Topic: Choosing a Topic; Finding and Evaluating Sources
 - Selections from *The Craft of Research*: Chapter 3 pp. 53-71

Week 8: Meta-

- Film: *Get Out* (2017)
- *Get Out* 254- Your
- (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/movies/2024/08/02/horror-films-not-fan/>)
- Optional Video *Lessons from the Screenplay* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJLHsXw-LFI>)
- Optional Review: (<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/richard-brody/get-out-jordan-peeles-radical-cinematic-vision-of-the-world-through-black-eyes>)
- Writing Topic: Genre Criticism
 - *Writing About Movies* pp. 77-100 (Uploaded to OWL)

Week 9:

- Film: *Jennifer's Body* (2009)
- Video Essay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7Twg8rG2HI>
- -528 (Uploaded to OWL);
- (<https://www.vox.com/culture/2018/10/31/18037996/jennifers-body-flop-cult-classic-feminist-horror>).
- Writing Topic: Making Good Arguments
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Brightspace:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Assignments must In this
course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering (i.e. as a search engine). Students are not permitted to use AI-generated writing in their work under any circumstances. If unethical AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students must uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism.

Accommodation Policies:

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: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Accommodation for Students on Medical Grounds:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the request for relief
specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The full policy is set out here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course

between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Mental Health Support:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Research/scholarship: Evidence of effective, extensive and independent research, with proper documentation of sources. Quotations used appropriately and purposively.

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Argument: The writer has taken risks and most of them succeed. Clear development of a specific and challenging thesis, with proper paragraphs. Detailed reference to appropriate texts, with evidence of individual response. Ability not only to expound subject but to see it around

