

COM 4090 – Spring 2020

Special Studies in Communication - Film Genre

Meeting Times & Places

Our weekly, in-class meetings will occur on Monday from 7-10pm and will take place in room TBD.

Grading Policies

ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES:

The due dates (and times) for all quizzes and the pitch are all posted on the "Course Schedule" page of this website. **NO LATE POSTINGS OR ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS ARE ACCEPTED.**

ASSIGNMENTS, WEIGHTING & POINTS:

Chapter Quizzes 200
 (Approximate)

Final Exam 400
 (Approximate)

Film Pitch 300

Attendance &
Participation 100

TOTAL POINTS: 1000

CUMULATIVE POINT RANGES & GRADE:

921-1000= A

900-920= A-

880-899= B+

821-879= B

800-820= B-

780-799= C+

721-779= C

700-720= C-

680-699= D+

621-679= D

600-620= D-

Quizzes and Test Information

Quiz Info

You'll have an online quiz on every chapter in the reading. The quizzes will occur during the first part of each class session. SHARP. Be sure to bring your laptop or smart phone to class with you to take these quizzes. Each quiz will include 15-25 questions per reading, and you'll have up to 20 minutes total for the quiz. The quiz chapters and dates are included on the Modules-Course Schedule page.

Test Info: The Final Exam

The final exam will be determined by the Professor.

The Pitch

You will be required to pitch to the class for 3 minutes a pitch of an existing film you have watched or one you create. It will be important for the content to include things you have learned from the class as well being persuasive in your presentation. This is one of the most important skills in the film industry to learn as you will be doing it in all positions throughout the production of a film.

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ASSIGNMENTS, WEIGHTING & POINTS:

Chapter Quizzes 200
(Approximate)

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Final Exam | 400 (Approximate) |
| Film Pitch | 300 |
| Attendance & Participation | 100 |
| TOTAL POINTS: | 1000 |

CUMULATIVE POINT RANGES & GRADE:

921-1000= A

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Course Assumptions, Content and Format

The course content and learning objectives derive from the following assumptions:

1. The film industry can be understood through the lens of genre;
2. The film industry oftentimes has a worldview contrary to Christianity;
3. The film industry is a barometer for where the culture is going;
4. The film industry has a high expectation on personal performance and understanding of the craft;
5. The differentiator for a career in the film industry will be your creative voice.

Course Format

1. Textbook readings and discussion of film history, theories, and production techniques;
2. Mini-lectures and screening selected films which reveal the history of the filmmaking industry--including economics, technological innovations, content and production techniques, social influences, and selected films and documentaries, and their roles in shaping the film industry;
3. Introductions to (and screenings of) selected film genres (full screenings or clips), followed by short in-class discussions about the films.

Course Schedule and Presentations

Session #1: Intro to Class (Jan 13, 2019)

- Course Overview, Syllabus, Brief Introductions
- Core Functions of Film: Faith and its overlap with Film/Filmmaking
- Film clips of genre over time
- Discuss faith and ethics in the film industry
- My experience and your experience...

Homework: Read Making Movies Ch. 1-2

Session #2: Crime (Jan.27)

- Quiz: Making Movies Ch. 1-2: Director/Script
- The Crime Genre; Discussion of Next Week Reading
- View and Discuss: Collateral, Directed by Michael Mann - 2 hours
- Homework: Making Movies Ch. 3-4

Session #3: Comedy (Feb.3)

- Quiz: Making Movies Ch. 3-4: Style; Actors
- Genre of Comedy
- View and Discuss: Monty Python and the Holy Grail
- Homework: Making Movies Ch. 5-7

Session #4: Thriller (Feb.10)

- Quiz: Making Movies Ch. 5-7: Camera/Art Direction/Shooting
- Genre of Thriller
- View and Discuss: In the Bedroom
- Homework: Making Movies Ch. 8-9

Session #5: War (Feb.17)

- Quiz: Making Movies Ch. 8-9: Rushes/Cutting Room
- Discuss: Reading/Next Week
- View and Discuss: Paths of Glory
- Homework: Making Movies Ch. 10-11

Session #6: Romance(Feb.24)

- Quiz: Making Movies Ch. 10-11: Sound/Music
- View and Discuss: Cinema Paradiso
- Homework: Making Movies Ch. 12-13

Session #7: Documentary (Mar.2)

- Quiz: Making Movies Ch. 12-13: Answer Print/Studio
- View and Discuss: Special Doc in Progress
- Homework: Make a Doc
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Session #8: International (Mar.16)

- Homework: Prepare your Pitch
- View and Discuss: The Stoning of Soraya M

Session #9: Pitch Day (Mar.23)

- Pitches Made
- Homework: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 1

Session #10: Epic (Mar.30)

- Quiz: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 1: The Powers That Be

- View and Discuss: Passion of the Christ
- Homework: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 2

Session #11: Western (Apr.6)

- Quiz: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 2: Elements of the Industry
- View and Discuss: Adventures 1, 2; The Ox-Bow Incident

Session #12: Historical (Apr.13)

- Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
- Homework: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 9

Session #13: Historical; Animation (Apr.20)

- Quiz: Adventures in the Screen Trade: All The Presidents Men
- View Animation Clips
- Homework: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 16

Session #14: Sci-Fi (Apr.27)

- Quiz: Adventures in the Screen Trade Chapter 16: The Screenplay
- View and Discuss: All the Presidents Men; Arrival

Final Exam (May.4)