

Division: Communications, Entertainment & Media Arts (CEMA)

Course name: CINEMA 107: Understanding Motion Pictures

Section: 8242 / **Semester:** Fall 2016

Instructor Name: ELMI, I.

School Website: www.wlac.edu

Length: 2/8/2016 – 6/6/2016

<https://myetudes.org/portal>

If you don't know how to log into myetudes, consult this:

<http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp>

Instructor E-mail: ishma70@hotmail.com

Instructor is available online.

Welcome to CINEMA 107: Understanding Motion Pictures

This semester, you will study the art of cinema such as visual composition, color, music, acting, editing, lighting, story and sound. In other words, you will learn the language and the grammar of film. This class will make you more appreciative of the art of cinema which borrows from all other arts such as literature, theater, music and painting. And if you are a film major or you're planning to get an AA Certificate in film, this class will give you a solid foundation towards to build on your film career. Therefore you will regularly view assigned classic movies and write short response papers about them. Education is solely the responsibility of every learner. And that could not be truer than taking an online class. However the instructor is just one email away from you. S/he will always be with you. You'll get a response to all your questions and concerns within 24-hours sometimes much less than that. The instructor is at least online with you three days or nights with you online. So do log in at least twice a week and be acquainted with the material you need to do well in this class.

Course Description:

An analysis of the elements that make film an art form, including visual composition, color, music, acting, editing, lighting, story and sound. This course includes regular screenings of classic and contemporary motion pictures, television programs and other videos. This class is transferrable to both UC and CSU. This course teaches you both the aesthetics and the language of cinema. Furthermore, the student will learn what makes cinema a standalone art form that has become the art of this century.

Required Texts

Our required textbook, *Understanding Movies (13th Edition)* by Louis D. Giannetti, is available in our bookstore that is located on campus. It is highly recommended that you purchase the book within the first week of class.

Recommended Materials

Film Art: An Introduction Tenth Edition by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson

The Visual Story: Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV and Digital Media Second Edition by Bruce Block

Required Materials

- Required Textbook
- Computer
- Internet
- DVDs (rent, buy or watch them online if available. Instructor will give links to those available online).

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Describe the art of cinema.
2. Analyze major categories of filmic elements.
3. List camera techniques and their effects on the viewer.
4. Interpret the effects of editing (picture and sound) on narrative storytelling.
5. Explain the use of color and lighting and how they shape the mood and tone of a film.
6. List the different methods of acting.
7. Critically respond to, review, and analyze a movie (from story to screen).

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will acquire the knowledge, skills, abilities and confidence to...

1. Understand cinema from concept to screen.
2. Explain, discuss, interpret and analyze films.
3. Be fluent in film language
4. Work in a film production environment.

Course Requirements and assignment guidelines

Reading Chapters & Viewing movies are crucial to success in this course.

You are required to do weekly chapter readings of our required textbook, *Understanding Movies*, and to view one movie a week. Furthermore, you are expected to log into the Etudes and participate the online discussion and to do the assigned papers and quizzes. The response papers to some of the movies we view are short papers. Yet you are expected to discuss some of the cinematic elements of the movie. You need to look at the movie critically and refrain from being personal. In your critical response to the movie you have just seen, you need to look at it objectively. Don't just write that you don't like the movie because the movie does not speak to you. It is imperative that you critically and

objectively analyze why a movie like Rashomon is an important Japanese movie that has inspired other filmmakers like Robert Altman and Spike Lee.

NOTE: Please be aware that the computer will automatically mark you as late if you turn your work in later than the due date. I am here to help. So if you have problems with internet or with your computer, let me know in due time. If you do not have a computer or internet at home, use the lab computer at our campus, at West.

Quizzes

To do well in the quizzes, you need to do the assigned readings and turn them in on time. Of course, you can do them with open book. But if you do the readings and you participate in our discussions, you will find them to be easy.

Papers

Papers are in the form of an essay. So please strive to write a short essay of at least 250-words with an opening, a middle and a conclusion. While you will not be penalized for your grammar, you will be graded down by the quality of your paper. It is imperative that you identify, interpret, explain and analyze the movie. Be careful to just not summarize the movie. You can use a couple of lines to summarize the story if you will but the rest has to be an interpretation of cinema in all its glory. What is cinema? Cinema is many things rolled into one: image, sound, light, silence, music, darkness and so forth. When writing the paper, look for how these elements all mesh together to create an entertaining story.

Final Assignment, as listed below, is an accumulation and culmination of all that you have learned:

- o **A Final Paper will count towards half of your final exam grade**
- o The other half of the exam will be a multiple-choice.

Late submissions

All assignments and papers are accepted until the last day of class. But all late submissions will be marked down. So please make sure you turn all assignments on time.

Grading

Assignment Category	# of Assign.	Points Per Assignment	Total Points	% of Total Grade
Quizzes	4	20	20	20%
Papers	4	20	20	20%
Participation	All 16 wks	5	5	5%
Attendance/Presence online	All 16 wks	5	5	5%
Final Exam Part A	1	25	25	25%
Final Exam Part B	1	25	25	25%
Grand Total	10 (+2)	100	100	100%
90 - 100 = A	80 - 89 = B	70 - 79 = C	60 - 69 = D	59 and below = F

Class Policies

Online Presence is counted as Attendance

Be aware that the computer alerts the instructor how many days or weeks a student has not logged in. So do log in at least twice a week to see what is going on in the **Discussion Room**. **Being absent from online for a whole week will lower your participation and attendance grades, which total to 10% of your final grade.**

The online learning process

You are expected to read the assigned readings, view the films, do the assignments and participate in class discussion. How well you participate and contribute to the class will be taken into consideration toward your final grade.

Good Etiquette and Civility go a long way in learning.

The great thing about an online class is that you can be anywhere in the world. All you need is a computer, internet and a comfortable place to do your work. You may have a hectic schedule in your life but as long as you put aside a certain amount of time to log into the Etudes, do the required work and participate the class, you should all do well. One of the best ways to do well in any class, besides doing the assigned work, is to ask questions. No question is silly. If you are not sure of something, ask away. The instructor is your assistant. Furthermore, you can (and should) observe our world of entertainment and bring that into class. What are your favorite tv shows, movies, and programs that you watch or have watched? Share that with us. Ask, answer, share, participate and do it in a civil manner with respect to your classmates. Get to know them in the chat room or in the Discussion or Lounge, participate, participate, participate and share your views of cinema. What sort of legacy did D.W. Griffith has left us? What about John Ford or Alfred Hitchcock? These filmmakers, and others alike that we're about to study, have given us the meaning of cinema. We will talk and learn about these filmmakers and their films and legacy. Let's do that with good etiquette and civility. And we can smoothly learn all that is to be learned in Cinema 107: Introduction to Motion Pictures.

Contacting Me

You can contact me through the online Private messaging or just E-mail me. I will get back to you as soon as I get your message.

College Policies:

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, **academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this online class.** Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, or paper or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from

another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation. That includes copying someone's essay from an online site and submitting it as your own.

o **Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment, possible dismissal from the class and disciplinary action from the college. You will not receive credit for any essay that is found to be someone else's work.**

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Student Conduct

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for more information.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

West Los Angeles College is a fine college that aims to support its body of students so if you are having any problem with any class work, please feel free to seek help. The instructor is your first stop for help. If you need extra help with anything, please check these below resources that are available to you:

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)

Located in Student Services Building (SSB 320), phone number 310-287-4450

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486

Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center. Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects (WLAC College Catalog).

Library Services

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog). Please refer to the following link:

http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog_Policies.pdf

NON-CAMPUS RESOURCES: Where to rent DVDs of hard to find films

CINEFILE VIDEO: 11280 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025. (310) 312-8836

VIDEOTS: 302 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405. (310) 392-8508

CINEMA 107: Understanding Motion Pictures

ONLINE

Required Text Book: *Understanding Movies (13th Edition)* by Louis D. Giannetti

All readings are from our textbook unless specified otherwise. Some students requested that they are allowed to use older editions but it's highly recommended that you have the 13th edition. If you decide to use another edition, be aware that the reading pages listed below in the schedule will be different.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change and to be modified if the instructor so chooses. Further readings or movies and shows that are not listed here may be posted online to enforce our learning about cinema.

Week	Date	Course topics	Assignment
Chapter 1 - Photography I			

1	Mon. 2/8 – Sun. 3/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & introduction • Questions and Answers • Language of Cinema: Photography I • D. W. Griffith & Cinema. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase <i>Understanding Movies (13th Edition)</i> by Louis D. Giannetti • Chapter 1 readings. Pages: 1-22 • Movie of the week : The Birth of A Nation (1915)
Chapter 1 - Photography II			
2	Mon. 2/15 – Sun. 2/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Photography II • Film language terms • Eisenstein and Cinema • Odessa Steps Sequence analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 readings. Pages: 23-45 • Movie of the week : Battleship Potemkin (1925) by Sergei Eisenstein. • Quiz #1 & Paper #1 on 2/21
Chapter 2 - Mise-en-scene I			
3	Mon. 2/22 – Sun. 2/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Mise-en-scene I • Film language terms • John Ford. John Wayne. And the Western. • Epic Cinema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 readings. Pages: 46-66 • Movie of the week : Stagecoach (1939) by John Ford. • Quiz #1 & Paper #1 are due on 2/28
Chapter 2 - Mise-en-scene II			
4	Mon. 2/29 – Sun. 3/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Mise-en-scene II • Discussion of film language terms • Akira Kurosawa and Cinema • Rashomon and the relativity of truth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 readings. Pages: 67-94 • Movie of the week : Rashomon(1950) by Akira Kurosawa • Quiz #2 & Paper #2 open on 3/6
Chapter 3 - Movement I			

5	Mon. 3/7 – Sun. 3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Movement I • Film language terms • Lawrence of Arabia and the vanity of mankind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 readings. Pages: 95-113 • Movie of the week : Lawrence of Arabia(1962) by David Lean
Chapter 3 - Movement II			
6	Mon. 3/14 – Sun. 3/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Movement II • Film language terms • Renoir and the art of cinema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 readings. Pages 114-134 • Movie of the week : The Grand Illusion (1937) by Jean Renoir • Quiz #2 & Paper #2 are due on 3/20
Chapter 4 - Editing I			
7	3/21 – Sun. 3/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Editing I • Film language terms • Dreams and cinema • Bergman and religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 readings. Pages 135 –161 • Movie of the week : Wild Strawberries (1957) by Ingmar Bergman • Quiz #3 & Paper #3 open on 3/27
Chapter 4 - Editing II			
8	Mon. 3/28 – Sun. 4/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Editing II • Film language terms • Lang and fate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 readings. Pages 162 –192 • Movie of the week : M (1931) by Fritz Lang.
Chapter 5 - Acting I			
9	Mon. 4/4 – Sun. 4/10	<p>NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK APRIL 1 – 8th Spring Break begins on Friday 1st and ends on Friday 8th; but since our weekly schedule is from Monday to Sunday, we can use this week as our Spring Break week.</p>	<p>Nothing is due for this week though. So if you log into the Etudes through the previous week (3/28-4/3), you should be okay for this week.</p>
Chapter 6 - Acting I			

10	Mon. 4/11 – Sun. 4/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Acting I • Film language terms • Styles of acting. • The film director. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 readings. Pages 232 –264 • Movie of the week : 8½ (1963) by Federico Fellini. • Quiz #3 & Paper #3 are due on 4/17
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Chapter 6 - Acting II

11	Mon. 4/18- Sun. 4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Acting II • Discussion of film language terms • Reality vs make-belief • The world of illusions • Acting styles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 readings. Pages 265–282 • Movie of the week : Sunset Boulevard (1950) by Billy Wilder • Quiz #4 & Paper #4 open on 4/24
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Chapter 7 - Dramatization I

12	Mon. 4/25- Sun. 5/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Dramatization • Film language terms • Art Cinema • Commercial vs Art. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 readings. Pages 284–301 • Movie of the week : Pather Panchali by Satyajit Ray
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Chapter 7 - Dramatization II

13	Mon. 5/2- Sun. 5/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Dramatization • Film language terms • The anti-hero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 readings. Pages 302-326 • Movie of the week : Cool Hand Luke (1967) by Stuart Rosenberg
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Chapter 8 - Story I

14	5/9- Sun. 5/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Dramatization • Film language terms • French New Wave Cinema • Hitchcock: Thriller vs horror 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 readings. Pages 327-341 • Movie of the week : Psycho (1960) by Alfred Hitchcock
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Chapter 8 - Story II

15	Mon. 5/16- Sun. 5/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Dramatization • Film language terms • Film Genres • Rewriting the language of cinema. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 readings. Pages 342-362 • Movie of the week : Breathless (1960) by Jean-Luc Godard • Quiz #4 & Paper #4 are due on 5/21
Chapter 12 - Synthesis			
16	Mon. 5/23- Sun. 5/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of Cinema: Dramatization • Film language terms • Film Genres • Reinventing cinema. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 readings. Pages 489-520 • Movie of the week: Citizen Kane (1941) by Orson Wells
17	Mon. 5/30- Sun. 6/6	<p>Final Exam: Tuesday, May 31 - June 6</p> <p>Final Exam of two parts:</p> <p>Part A: Critical Essay: 25%</p> <p>Part B: Multiple choice: 25%</p> <p>Part A will be based on a movie and Part B will be a multiple choice based on our readings.</p> <p>Both Part A & B will open on the same day, on May 31st, at 8:30 am and close on Monday, Jun 6th, at 11:30 pm. You have one whole week to watch the movie, to write the paper based on it, and to take the exam.</p> <p>NOTE: The site will close on 11:59 pm on Jun 6th and that not turning both parts of the final exam on time is a ground for failure.</p>	

After reading this syllabus, please write the below sentence and return it to me signed by email or by Private messaging:

“I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Should you have any questions or you are confused about something, please let me know.

Prof. Elmi,

Communications, Entertainment & Media Arts (CEMA)

West Los Angeles College

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www.wlac.edu

<http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp>

<https://myetudes.org/portal>

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 [Cinema 107 Syllabi Spring 2016 - West.pdf](#)

MOVIES FOR CINEMA 107

MOVIES FOR CINEMA 107

WK 1. The Birth of A Nation (1915) By D. W. Griffith

WK 2. Battleship Potemkin (1925) by Sergei Eisenstein.

WK 3. Stage Coach (1939) by John Ford.

WK 4. Rashomon (1950) by Akira Kurosawa

WK 5. Lawrence of Arabia (1962) by David Lean.

WK 6. The Grand Illusion (1937) by Jean Renoir.

WK 7. Wild Strawberries (1957) by Ingmar Bergman

WK 8. M (1931) by Fritz Lang.

WK 9. 8½ (1963) by Federico Fellini.

WK 10. Sunset Boulevard (1950) by Billy Wilder

WK 11. Pather Panchali by Satyajit Ray.

WK 12. Cool Hand Luke (1967) by Stuart Rosenberg.

WK 13. Psycho (1960) by Alfred Hitchcock.

WK 14. Breathless (1960) by Jean-Luc Godard

WK 15. Citizen Kane (1941) by Orson Wells.

WK 16. (Mystery movie)

 [Movies for Cinema 107.rtf](#)

WELCOME TO CLASS, EVERYONE!

Hello everyone.

Welcome to West's **Online Cinema 107 class, which begins on 2/8/2016 and ends on 6/6/2016. Please do download the syllabi and read it.**

For our first week, I would like you to introduce yourself to each other and to your instructor. Please go to the TAB in the discussion room and do introduce yourself to the class. Use the following guideline when you are introducing yourself to the class:

1. Your full name.
2. Your profession or dream career.
3. The reason you are taking this class.
4. What you hope to get out of this class.
5. Where you are at your education or career.
6. The weekly hours that you intend to put into this class.

Log into the Etudes at least twice a week, participate the discussion and interact with your classmates. I recommend that you interact with your classmates and always do unto them the way you would want them to do unto you. In other words, be respectful to each other. Some of us may know more than the others. So sometimes if one asks a question, let's not label the question wrong and call anyone unintelligent. Remember that learning is teaching and teaching learning.

In the DISCUSSION and Private Messages, there will be a by-weekly topic to discuss. Consider this as part of our class (and attendance) discussion.

As far as grading is concerned, you should all do well in this class if you all put in the effort and time to do the readings and watch the movies and turn in the assignments on time.

This class is not a technical class and can be very easy if you read the chapters of our required Textbook, *Understanding Movies (13th Edition)* by Louis D. Giannetti

The selected movies that we view for this class will help us to learn about art (and art practitioners). So do make sure that you watch every movie in the syllabus.

Buy the book from the college bookstore. I use this book for all my classes so you can always sell it back to the bookstore. It is imperative that you have the book and watch the movies and do all assignments and turn them on time. If you fall behind the computer automatically marks you as LATE and you lose one point. We'll be reading 12 chapters of the book and our final multiple-choice exam will be based on the readings. So do buy it and read it.

Cheers to a great Spring, 2016

Prof. Elmi.