

West Los Angeles College/FALL 2015
CINEMA 001:001 - Introduction to Film Production

Section: #0584

Transfer: UC:CSU → Units: 3

Instructor: Elmi, I → ishma70@hotmail.com

MW: → 1:00 – 1:50 pm & 2:00 – 3:05 pm → (8/31-12/20) → RM: GC 470

To help students save time and money on paper and ink to print their assignments, this course has an online component, which allows them to submit their assignments electronically. All students can access the Etudes with their student IDs and names.

Here is the Etudes link:

<https://myetudes.org/portal>

The Etudes also gives all students a chance to send a private message to the instructor in case of absence or family emergency. Missing FOUR CLASSES or more will be a legitimate ground for exclusion from class. Plagiarism is not tolerated at West LA College and will be a ground for an F Grade. Any student whose work is found to be not his will get an F in the class.

Course Objective:

Cinema 001 is a comprehensive introduction to basic film production techniques. It introduces the elements that make motion picture an art form, including visual composition, light, acting, editing through lectures and screenings of classic and contemporary films.

Required Reading:

Understanding Movies (13th Edition) by Louis D. Giannetti

The Bare Bones Camera Course For Film and Video (3rd Edition) by Schroepfel & DeLaney

Recommended Reading:

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

* All Quizzes, assignments and exams will be posted and done online. This is an opportunity for us to go paperless (and green).

Grading:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Chapter Quizzes:	5(5) = 20% lowest will be dropped
Response Papers:	5(5) = 20% lowest will be dropped
Extra Credit:	1(5) = 5-point

Final Exam of two parts:

Multiple choice: 25% Analysis paper of one movie: 25%

While all assignments are open book the Final will be TIMED.

On grades:

Welcome to Cinema 001 – Intro to film production. In this introductory class, we will learn the language of cinema, its language and tools of production. **Attendance, participation and quizzes will account for 30% of your final grade.** If you read the assigned chapters in the book,

you should all do well. Please do buy the required textbooks from the College Library. We will have reading quizzes from the assigned chapters of the book, **Understanding Movies**, and response papers based on the movies we view in or out of class. We will not have a mid-term exam. However we will have a final exam that will have two components of equal weight. In the last week of class, we will have the option to choose one of three movies and then prepare a well-written paper of 500-750 words. That is 2-3-pages long. The other component of the final paper will be a multiple-choice...

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

At the completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Know the language of cinema.
- Write a short story.
- Use a camera.
- Know film genres.
- Identify and differentiate among different camera lenses.
 - Interpret the effects of sound and its use on film
- Explain the use of color.
- Set up a basic lighting for filming.
- Explain how lighting shapes the tone of a film.

CAMPUS CLOSED

Labor Day: Sept 7

Veterans Day: Nov 20

THANKSGIVING: Nov 26th – 29th

SCHEDULE:

All readings are from the textbook, **UNDERSTANDING MOVES** by Louis D. Giannetti. Pearson; 13th edition. 2013

Week 1 – Mon. 8/31 – Sun. 9/6

Introduction. Syllabi. Overview of class. Get TEXTBOOK.

Chapter 1. Photography. Language of Cinema.

Movie of the week: **The Birth of A Nation (1915).**

Week 2 – Mon. 9/7 – Sun. 9/13 Labor Day: Sept 7

The Camera. Language of Cinema.

Movie: **Battleship Potemkin (1925)** by Sergei Eisenstein.

Quiz #1 & Paper 1 are assigned on 9/13

Week 3 – Mon. 9/14 – Sun. 9/20

Composition. Language of Cinema.

Movie: **Stage Coach (1939)** by John Ford).

The Great Train Robbery (1903)

Week 4 – Mon. 9/21 – Sun. 9/27

Basic Sequence. Language of Cinema.

Readings → Chapter 2. **Mise-en-scene.**

Movie: **Lawrence of Arabia** (David, Lean 1962)

Week 5 – Mon. 9/28 – Sun. 10/4

Screen Direction. Language of Cinema.

Readings→ Chapter 3. **Movement**

Movie: North By Northwest (1959) -Hitchcock.

Quiz #1 & Paper 2 are due on 10/4 at 11:59

Week 6 – Mon. 10/5 – Sun. 10/11

Readings→ Chapter 4. **Editing**

Camera Moves. Language of Cinema.

“Psycho” (Alfred Hitchcock, 1960)

Movie: **Rashomon (1950)**

Quiz #2 & Paper #2 are assigned on 10/11

Week 7 - Mon. 10/12 – Sun. 10/18

Sound. Language of Cinema.

Readings→ Chapter 5. **Sound**

“M” (Fritz Lang, 1931)

Week 8 – Mon. 10/19 – Sun. 10/25

Montage. Language of Cinema.

Readings→ Chapter 6. **Acting**

“On The Waterfront” (Elia Kazan, 1954).

“Taxi Driver” (Martin Scorsese, 1976).

Movie: **Sunset Boulevard (1950)**

Week 9 – Mon. 10/26 – Sun. 11/1

Lighting. Language of Cinema.

Three-point lighting. Exercise.

Quiz #2 & Paper #2 are due on 11/1 at 11:59 pm

Week 10 – Mon. 11/2 – Sun. 11/8

Shooting I. Language of Cinema.

Readings→ Chapter 7. **Drama**

movie: **Written On The Wind (Douglas Sirk, 1956)**

Quiz #3 & paper 3 are assigned on 11/8

Week 11 – Mon. 11/9 – Sun. 11/15 X Veterans Day

Shooting II. Language of Cinema.

Readings→ Chapter 8. **Story**

Movie: “The Champ” (Franco Zeffirelli, 1979)

Week 12 – Mon. 11/16 – Sun. 11/22

Editing I. Language of Cinema.

Readings→ Chapter 9. **Writing**

movie: **Sunset Boulevard (1950)**

Quiz #3 & paper 3 are due on 11/22 at 11:59 pm

Week 13 – Mon. 11/23 – Sun. 11/29

Editing II. Language of Cinema.

Readings → Chapter 10. **Ideology**

Movie: Road Warrior (George Miller, 1981, Australian)

“Blade Runner” (Ridley Scott, 1982)

Quiz #4 & paper 4 are assigned on 11/23

Campus Closed. Thanksgiving. Nov 26th – 29th

Week 14 – Mon. 11/30 – Sun. 12/6

Angles. Exercise. Language of Cinema.

Movie: The Bad and the Beautiful (1952) – Vincent Minnelli

Week 15 – Mon. 12/7 – Sun. 12/13

Basic Sequence. Montage. Exercise.. Language of Cinema.

Movie: Citizen Kane (1941)

Quiz #4 and Paper #4 are due on 12/6 at 11:59 pm

Week 16 – Mon. 12/14 – Sun. 12/20

12/14 Mon Class: → **Review for the Final. Final Exam – Part A opens.**

12/16 Wed Class: → **Final Exam – Part B begins at 1:00 pm – 3:05 pm.**

MOVIES:

1. The Birth of A Nation (1915).
2. Battleship Potemkin (1925) by Sergei Eisenstein.
3. Stage Coach(1939) by John Ford
4. Lawrence of Arabia (1962) by David Lean
5. Ugetsu (1953) by Kenji Mizoguchi
6. The Bicycle Thief (1959) by Vittorio De Sica.
7. M (1931) by Fritz Lang – German
8. The Wizard of Oz (1939) – Victor Fleming
9. Rashomon (1950) by Akira Kurosawa
0. The Grand Illusion (1937) by Jean Renoir
1. Citizen Kane (1941) by Orson Wells