



Course name: CINEMA 107
Semester FALL 2013

Instructor Name: Paul Calderon

Class Hours: Tuesday 1-4pm

Address: 9000 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

Office Hours: Tues

Instructor E-mail: calderon.paul@gmail.com

Immediately following class

Course Description:

Analysis of the elements that make motion pictures 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.

Required Texts:

The Visual Story - Bruce Block 2nd Edition. ISBN-13: 9780240807799

Recommended Materials: (see example below)

Top Film Graduate Schools (as reported in *U.S. News and World Report*):

www.d.umn.edu/~tisbell/FilmSchools.html

- Interesting Film Sites: www.d.umn.edu/~tisbell/FilmSites.html
- Internet Movie Database: www.imdb.com
- New York Times film reviews: www.nytimes.com
- Screenplays on line: www.script-o-rama.com
- Film Reviews (Rotten Tomatoes): www.rottentomatoes.com
- American Film Institute Top 100 American Films: <http://www.AFI.com/tv/movies.asp>
- American Film Institute Top 100 Love Thrillers: <http://www.AFI.com/tv/thrills.asp>
- American Film Institute Top 100 Love Stories: <http://www.AFI.com/tv/passions.asp>

American Film Institute Top 100 American Comedies: <http://www.AFI.com/tv/laughs.asp>

Student Objectives

Describe major categories of filmic elements.

Identify significant compositional elements.

Differentiate among camera techniques and analyze their effect on the viewer.

Explain how color affects the viewer's experience.

Recognize various lighting styles and explain how each affects the viewing experiences.

Appraise how camera movement and lenses enhance a film's unique aesthetics.

Identify digital effects in a film.

Identify major editing approaches and interpret their effect on a movie.

Compare and contrast literary narrative types with parallel ones in filmic storytelling.

Differentiate a fictional film with non-fictional filmmaking.
Appraise the art and craft of a film by applying all the topics and skills listed above.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

To achieve competency in film aesthetic analysis, the student must be able to communicate information on how the various elements of film production interact and coalesce. In addition to class discussion and screenings, the student is expected to expand his or her understanding and critical thinking by getting information on each film screened through library and Web-based research.

Course Requirements and assignment guidelines

Essays

Essays provide you the opportunity to practice and demonstrate skills learned in class. Previous drafts must be attached to final essays. **NOTE: All writing assignments, except those designated as in class writing assignments, must be typed.** Grading rubrics will be attached to final essays.

Midterm and Final

A Midterm and final exam will be given. The focus of both test will be on lecture and book material.

Late Assignments

Each student is allowed one late essay assignment. It must be turned in by the next class meeting to receive credit and the grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

Grading

- | Assignment | Point Value |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Class Participation | 10-20 points each |
| Midterm Exam | 75-100 points |
| Final Exam | 75-100 points |
| Essays | 20 points |

- At the end of the semester, points will be totaled and graded on the following scale:

Grading Scale	
Letter Grade	Average
A	91-100
A-	88-90
B+	85-87
B	81-84
B-	78-80
C+	75-77
C	72-74
C-	69-71
D+	66-68
D	62-65

Class Policies

Attendance

Because class discussions and group work are an integral part of this course, attendance is mandatory. Up to 3 absences are allowed. After that, you could be dropped. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. **Excessive absenteeism will lower your grade, as well as walking in and out of class.** 3 tardies = 1 absence. Students may be dropped from class for excessive tardiness, or for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class.

Walking In and Out of Class

When you arrive to class, make sure you have used the restroom, had a chance to eat, check your messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude and disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some other problem, you need to notify me in advance. **Any student who makes a habit of walking in and out of class may be asked to leave.**

Preparedness

You are expected to arrive on time. You will come to each class session prepared. You will have your books, binder, pens/pencils, any work that is due, and you will be prepared to discuss all readings/assignments.

Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

Turn them off and put them away when class begins! Talking and texting on cell phones not only distract you, but they are a distraction for me and your peers. Distractions interrupt/disrupt the class and I will not tolerate interruptions. **You will be asked to leave if this occurs.**

Food

No eating or chewing anything in class. I will allow fluid in a sealable container.

College Policies:

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, **academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this class.** Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, 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.

- **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 missing previous drafts, citations and/or a Works Cited page.**

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.

Recording Devices

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (WLAC College Catalog).

Week 1-3

Chapter 1 -"The visual Components"

The building blocks

The script

space

line

shape

tone

color

movement

rhythm

the screen

the real world/screen world

foreground, mid-ground, background

visual progression

the picture plane

Week 4-6

Chapter 2

Contrast & affinity

Chapter 3

Space

Deep space

depth cues

size difference

perspective convergence

two and three point perspective

Vanishing point

Textural diffusion

Movement

object movement

camera movement

Areal Diffusion

Shape change

Tonal separation

Color separation

Overlap

Up / Down position

Focus

Deep space and television

Week 7

Review for midterm.

Week 8-11

FLAT SPACE

Size consistency
Perspective and convergence
textural diffusion
Movement
Areal diffusion
Tonal Separation
Color separation
Overlap
Up / down position
Focus
Reversing Depth Cues

LIMITED SPACE

AMBIGUOUS SPACE

SECONDARY PROPERTIES

Aspect Ratio
Film Frame
Screen
Surface Divisions
Dividing the Frame
Halves, Thirds, Grids
Square on a Rectangle
The Golden Section

Surface Divider

CLOSED and OPEN SPACE

Week 12 - 13

CHAPTER 4 LINE AND SHAPE

LINE
SHAPE
CONTOUR
CLOSURE

Week 13
INTERSECTION OF PLANES
AXIS
TRACK

LINEAR MOTIF

Week 14-15

CONTRAST AND AFFINITY

Quality
Direction
Orientation

Finals review.