



First Semester 2014  
**BJM 270, Film Studies**  
 August 18<sup>th</sup> – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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### Course Description:

Film Studies introduces sophomores to the multidimensional process of making films. Students explore the filmmaking process from screenwriting through production, from the conceptual collaboration of visualizing stories to the practical skills of lighting, shooting and blocking. This course covers an immense amount of material in a relatively short period of time. Writing assignments aim to get students to write clearly and succinctly. Assignments range from writing short dialogs or screenplays to critical reviews. Young journalists will see the debt they owe to movies via the way they think about presenting stories. They will also recognize a new skill set that helps them use new media for journalistic purposes.

### Course Objectives:

This course aims to give students basic skills in terms of cinematographic composition such picture size, internal composition, screen direction, eye-lines and reaction shots. Students also have a chance to practice basic three-point lighting and understand the relationship between different light-positions and their function. Students will recognize these techniques, in practice, and be able to critically analyze how they are used in mass media and to what effect. Other major objectives are to introduce students to the variety of genres, the intellectual history and critical writing surround film history.

### Required Textbooks:

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson, Film Art: an Introduction. New York, McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Corrigan, Timothy, Short Guide to Writing about Film (8<sup>th</sup> Edition). London, Longman, 2011.

### Grading:

Writing assignments	20%
Participation and projects	35%
Midterm examination	20%
Final examination	25%
Total	100%

**Assessment:**

Level	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
Grade	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0

**Contents:**

Week	Dates	Topics	Note
1	Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction, explanation and questions. Preproduction, script writing concerns	JC Cinema Theater
2	Aug 26 <sup>th</sup>	The production crew: production values, budgeting, and three-point lighting.	<b>Studio</b>
3	Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Documentary and non-fiction film.	JC Cinema Theater
4	Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Shot reverse shot, POV, inserts and cut-aways.	<b>Studio</b>
5	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Film genres. Film Noir, Camp, Comedy, Musicals. Stylistic concerns.	JC Cinema Theater
6	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Advanced studio techniques: lighting, camera placement	<b>Studio</b>
7	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Editing theory: continuity vs. montage. Floor plans, camera angles.	JC Cinema Theater
8	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	
9	TBA	Continuity, picture size, framing.	JC Cinema Theater
10	Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Media and society. Ethical considerations. Commercialism.	<b>Studio</b>
11	Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mis-en-scen, Lighting, special effects, sound.	JC Cinema Theater
12	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Montage Theory	<b>Studio</b>
13	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Technical considerations: f-stop, depth of field, shutter speed, et cetera.	JC Cinema Theater
14	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced studio techniques: blocking, eye-line.	<b>Studio</b>
15	Nov 25 <sup>th</sup>	Conclusion and review	<b>Studio</b>
16	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Technical considerations: f-stop, depth of field, shutter speed, et cetera.	JC Cinema Theater
17-18	TBA	<b>Final Examination</b>	

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