

COURSE CODE: HUM 120
COURSE TITLE: Film in American Culture
SEMESTER: Fall 2005
PLACE/TIME: Mon & Thurs, 7:45 am – 9:05, rm 103
PROFESSOR: Bruce Sabin

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TEXTBOOK: Giannetti, L. & Eyman, S. (2001). *Flash-back: A brief history of film, 4th edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

USEFUL SITES: Ain't it Cool News: www.aintitcool.com
Rotten Tomatoes: www.rottentomatoes.com
Internet Movie Database: www.imdb.com



WEBBER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:

Webber International University educates students in preparation for careers in the worldwide business environment. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills in administration and strategic planning, oral and written communication, applied modern business practices, personal growth, entrepreneurship and professional development. The University offers educational programs at the associate, bachelor and master levels exclusively in areas of business.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to film as an art form and as a study of the American culture.

EDUCATIONAL AND COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Education, in general, should seek to achieve three primary goals. Education should lead students toward and provide resources for:

1. self-actualization, so that students become more developed individuals.
2. productive citizenship, so that students positively impact their communities.
3. critical thinking, so that students can make better life decisions.

This course is designed to achieve educational goals within the framework of studying film. During this course, each student will:

1. describe artistic and cultural functions of film.
2. discuss aspects of the technological, artistic, cultural and political history of American cinema.
3. interpret films respective of their artistic, cultural and political significance.
4. describe the use of film as a mean of mass communication and public influence.
5. practice written and oral communication skills.
6. practice critical thinking skills.

REQUIREMENTS AND RUBRIC:

Note: Course requirements are subject to modification; students may negotiate alternative requirements based on individual educational needs.

Assignment	Quantity	Weight Each	Total Value
Tests	3	10%	30%
Film Quizzes	10	2%	20%
Film Reviews	2	5%	10%
Participation	N/A	N/A	10%
Group Project	1	15%	10%
Web Discussions	8	N/A	20%

GRADING SCALE:

A	90.0% - 100%
B	80.0% - 89.9%
C	70.0% - 79.9%
D	60.0% - 69.9%
F	00.0% - 59.9%

Grades will be rounded to nearest tenth. An upward curve may be applied to final grades.

Film Quizzes

Quizzes will be given periodically following movies. These will test whether or not you watched the film closely.

Film Reviews

During the semester, you will review two films you watch outside of class. See the class schedule and rubric for more information.

Group Project

The project will be explained more at the appropriate time.

Web Discussions

Questions will be posted on the discussion website periodically. Check the schedule and rubric for more information.

Participation

You are expected to attend each class, pay attention during films, be prepared for class, and contribute well to class discussions.

Tests

More information will be provided during the course.

Note: Syllabus is subject to change.

Day	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Mon	8/29		
Thurs	9/1	Film 1	
Mon	9/5	No Class – Labor Day	
Thurs	9/8	Film 2	Discussion 1
Mon	9/12		Discussion 2
Thurs	9/15	Film 3	
Mon	9/19	Film 4	
Thurs	9/22	Film 4	
Mon	9/26	Film 5	Discussion 3
Thurs	9/29	Film 5	
Mon	10/3	Film 6	Discussion 4
Thurs	10/6		Test 1
Mon	10/10	Film 7	
Thurs	10/13		
Mon	10/17		Film Review 1
Thurs	10/20	Film 8	Discussion 5
Mon	10/24	Film 9	
Thurs	10/27	Film 9	
Mon	10/31		Discussion 6; Test 2
Thurs	11/3	Film 10	
Mon	11/7		Film Review 2
Thurs	11/10	Film 11	
Mon	11/14	Film 11	
Thurs	11/17	Film 11	
Mon	11/21		Discussion 7
Thurs	11/24		Test 4
Mon	11/28	Group Project Presentations	Group Project Report
Thurs	12/1	Group Project Presentations	Discussion 8

Reading Report

HUM 120: Film in American Culture (Fall 2005)

Name: _____ Assignment: _____

Directions: This report must be turned in at the first class meeting of each week.

1. Please indicate how well you completed the assignment.

- ☐ I did not read the assignment.
- ☐ I skimmed or partially read the assignment.
- ☐ I read the assignment closely, but did not take notes.
- ☐ I read and took notes, but do not fully understand the text.
- ☐ I read, took notes, and believe I understand the text well.

2. What do you think is the most important idea or concept in the text?

3. What questions do you have about the text?

4. Please indicate how well you think the text contributed to the course.

- ☐ The text was essential to the course.
- ☐ The text was beneficial to the course.
- ☐ The text had some slight benefit to the course.
- ☐ The text added no value to the course.

Please feel free to make additional comments on the back.

Film Review

HUM 120: Film in American Culture (Fall 2005)

Watch a contemporary film and write a review. The film must be one released in American theatres during 2004 or 2005. You must watch the complete movie, so televised films will not usually qualify for this assignment. The text of your review should be between 300 and 500 words.

Your review might answer the following:

- Where can the film be viewed? Is it in theatres, on DVD, etc?
- When did the film open in theaters or become available for rental?
- Who are the major actors?
- Who directed the film? What other films has this person directed?
- What is the film's genre?
- How long is the film?
- Who is the film's intended Audience? What is the film's rating?
- What is the plot?
- What films are similar? How is this film unique?
- Would you recommend the film? If so, to whom?

Film Review Rubric
HUM 120: Film in American Culture (Fall 2005)

A (100%)

The review contains a good introduction, body and conclusion. Writing is succinct, articulate, interesting, and informative. The review provides enough information for the reader to determine their own interest in viewing the film. The review does not 'spoil' the film. The review meets professional expectations.

A- (90%)

The review is of good quality, but is below the highest standards. Writing is succinct, accurate and articulate, but may lack the detail or perspective needed for readers to make informed decisions.

B (80%)

Grammar and spelling are below professional standards (e.g., obvious spelling errors, use of homonyms, etc.). The review is only moderately helpful to the reader or otherwise fails to meet the standards for an A.

C (70%)

The review appears superficial and lackluster. Writing has a few notable problems by lacking clarity, brevity and/or accuracy. The review has minimal value for the reader. Grammar and spelling fail to demonstrate careful editing (e.g., sentence fragment, confusing structure, run-on sentence, etc.).

D (60%)

Writing demonstrates lack of editing. The review fails to provide adequate information to readers. Only minimal reflection on the film is demonstrated by the review.

F (no credit)

The review does not meet the standards for any of the above grades.

Grade



Deduct 20% for each day late.

PASS Learning Center approval:

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ ☐ Ready for submission ☐ Needs further revision

Web Discussions Rubric HUM 120: Film in American Culture (Fall 2005)

Throughout the semester, discussion questions will be posted on the turnitin.com website. At the minimum, you are expected to make a thoughtful, articulate, insightful response to each question. Additionally, you should be willing to respond to the comments of your classmates. Do not feel that you must respond to every, or even most, posts by other students. Respond to those posts for which you feel you have something valuable to add to the discussion. You may agree, disagree, or expand on the posts of other students. And feel free to respond to comments made responding to you. This is a “discussion” board and discussions involve a cycle of communication. You must make your first response to each question by the due date specified in the syllabus. You may, however, continue the discussions throughout the semester.

Your grade for the discussions will be a summative evaluation of your overall participation in the discussions. The evaluation will be made according to the following criteria:

A (100%) → The student’s responses to discussion questions were consistently thoughtful, articulate and insightful. The student carried on excellent discussions as appropriate. Discussions were consistently conducted with professionalism. The discussions added to the course atmosphere.

A- (90%) → The review is of good quality, but is below the highest standards. Writing is succinct, accurate and articulate, but may lack the detail or perspective needed for readers to make informed decisions.

B (80%) → Grammar and spelling are below professional standards (e.g., obvious spelling errors, use of homonyms, etc.). The review is only moderately helpful to the reader or otherwise fails to meet the standards for an A.

C (70%) → The review appears superficial and lackluster. Writing has a few notable problems by lacking clarity, brevity and/or accuracy. The review has minimal value for the reader. Grammar and spelling fail to demonstrate careful editing (e.g., sentence fragment, confusing structure, run-on sentence, etc.).

D (60%) → Writing demonstrates lack of editing. The review fails to provide adequate information to readers. Only minimal reflection on the film is demonstrated by the review.

F (no credit) → The review does not meet the standards for any of the above grades.

Extra Credit
HUM 120: Film in American Culture (Fall 2005)

During the semester, you may write a film review for submission to the Webber *Warrior* student newspaper. If your review is accepted for publication by the *Warrior* advisor, you will receive 2 points extra credit. You may submit as many reviews as you would like to submit, but you may receive credit for only two reviews published during the semester. These reviews may not be the same as the reviews submitted as class assignments.

The film you review must be a film recently released and currently in American theaters. Your review should be between 450 and 500 words. The review should be targeted toward the audience of the *Warrior* newspaper.