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Humanities (HUM) 2010 Introduction to Film Studies (3 Units) CSU:UC  
[formerly Humanities 10]

Prerequisite: Successful completion in English 1500 with a grade of 'C' or better

Prerequisite knowledge/skills:

1. develop the ability to organize written expression in formal, clear language,
2. demonstrate correct mechanics of sentence structure and punctuation,
3. demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze written passages of increasing difficulty,
4. effectively self-evaluate written work,
5. compose coherent essays, and
6. analyze the fundamentals of term paper techniques and library use.

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This is an introductory course designed to educate the student about the form and content of narrative documentary and experimental films. The focus is on how practitioners of the crafts have used the technologies of cinematography, editing and sound; includes selected cinematic movements from the early Twentieth Century to the present. Students will apply their knowledge to write an analysis paper.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Barsam, Richard and Dave Monahan. *Looking at the Movies: An Introduction to Film*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013. Print.

Additional Instructional Materials: Videos or DVDs

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. define terminology used in film studies,
2. identify the technical aspects of film,
3. identify the plot characteristics of a classic Hollywood narrative film,
4. evaluate the relationship of commercial success and the plot structure of a classic Hollywood film,
5. think analytically about how the plot of a narrative film relates to contemporary American values,
6. identify stylistic traits used by major directors working within the classic Hollywood film tradition,
7. identify stylistic traits used by major directors working outside of the classic Hollywood film tradition,
8. think analytically about the formal aspects of a narrative film, and
9. critically evaluate the relationship between the form and content of a narrative film.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I           The Hollywood Standard: Classic Hollywood Narrative Film
  - A.     Illusionism
  - B.     Film Culture
  
- Unit II           The Elements of Film
  - A.     Film Space
    - 1.     The Image
    - 2.     Tone
    - 3.     Composition
    - 4.     Movement
  - B.     Film Time
    - 1.     Manipulation of Time
    - 2.     Stopped Time: The Freeze Frame
    - 3.     Subjective Time: Dream, Fantasy, memory and Perceptual Distortion
    - 4.     Objective Time: The Flashback and the Flash-Forward
    - 5.     Achronological Time
    - 6.     Visual Rhythm
    - 7.     Meaning through Editing—Relationship Between Shots
    - 8.     Meaning with Minimal Editing—Relationships within Shots
  - C.     Film Sound
    - 1.     The Process
    - 2.     The Human Voice
    - 3.     Sound Effects
  
- Unit III          Types of Film
  - A.     Genre Films
    - 1.     The Definition of Genre
    - 2.     Types of Genre Narrative
    - 3.     Genre Parody
  - B.     Nongenre Films
    - 1.     Nongenre Narrative
    - 2.     Personal Vision
    - 3.     Documentary Experimental and Animated Films
  
- Unit IV          Critical Analysis of Film
  - A.     Analysis of Film Form and Film Style
  - B.     Film Criticism

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Completing required reading and viewing assignments
2. Written work
3. Preparation for examinations
4. Select and view appropriate foreign film to use for the analysis paper, and write that paper

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures and class discussions
2. Audiovisual: Videos or DVDs of documentary films about the technology of film making and of the respective narrative or documentary films

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Short essay questions
2. Analysis paper assignment
3. Multiple choice and essay examinations