

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
COMM 3307-001: FILM STUDIES – GLOBAL CINEMA**

FALL 2016  
Tuesdays/Thursdays  
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm  
BAB 304  
Briscoe Administration Building

Marjorie Scott, Assistant Professor of  
Communication & Theater  
Office: FAB 203A  
Phone: 432-837-8039  
E-mail: [msscott3@sulross.edu](mailto:msscott3@sulross.edu)  
Office hours: MW 1-3:00 pm  
Other times by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

---

In this class you get to watch and analyze films from around the world. More specifically, you will examine how elements like mise-en-scène, cinematography, lighting, editing, and sound design work together to create meaning in films from a variety of cultures. We will also examine how films function as a mass communication tool to circulate ideas and ideologies. This class is designed to provide you with the skills to analyze film aesthetics, as well as an understanding of the tremendously important role films play throughout the world.

We'll view 14 films from around the globe over the course of the semester. The selection of the 14 films was made using the following criteria:

- 1) Does the film have theme beyond the entertainment value of the story?**
- 2) Is the film recognized within the canon of film criticism as defining in its particular genre?**
- 3) Does the film have a particular strength or element suited to a lecture topic in this class?**

Analyzing films is an acquired skill and it takes time and effort to develop the ability to “see” the many layers in good cinema. This course is an attempt to broaden both the idea of what a film can be and your own personal tastes.

### **PREREQUISITES**

---

Sophomore status.

### **TEXTBOOK**

---

None but I will provide several handouts, which will be the course of your required reading. Please keep track of all handouts. I do not make a habit of giving students multiple copies of the same handout. Get a binder.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

---

This course is designed to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes applied to

all Communication majors. The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. Competency in public presentations, including the use of presentation technology such as presentation software, video, and audio.
2. The ability to analyze communication content for argument, including identification of major elements, such as claims, warrants, data, etc.
3. Competency in appropriate discipline specific written communication.
4. The ability to apply communication theory to the analysis of communication situations appropriate to each degree specialization.
5. Competency in the application of media technology including video, audio, and internet-based technology.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

---

By the end of this class, students will:

- Demonstrate a working vocabulary of film criticism terminology.
- Articulate the formal elements of cinema.
- Evaluate and critique cinematic works from the standpoints of both art and craft.
- Recognize and define elements that belong to various cinema styles (formalist, realist, etc.).
- Synthesize the elements of cinema critique into a clear, thoughtful point-of-view in written form.

## **SCREENINGS**

---

Film screenings are mandatory. That means you must attend each and every one, even if you've seen the film(s) before. Any films you've seen previously I guarantee you'll see something new in them upon second viewing. As a class, we will determine what day and time the weekly screenings will take place. This day/time will not change during the course of the semester. All screenings will be held in BAB 304 (this room) unless otherwise noted.

## **E-MAIL RESPONSES**

---

You are required to submit a written response to each film via email no later than 10 p.m. on Sunday of each week. Responses must answer all questions posed by the instructor during each Thursday setup class and must be sent to me at the following email address: [mscott3@sulross.edu](mailto:mscott3@sulross.edu). You must be prepared to discuss the films in class on Tuesdays.

## **MIDTERM PAPER**

---

You must choose a film from a select list of films that the instructor will provide. Watch the film and write a 2-3-page analysis of the film answering the question: *What ideas/criticisms is the filmmaker expressing through this film?* Films are a form of entertainment but they are also a medium through which ideas can be expressed and shared. You will need to research your selected film, including any criticism, as well as the history and culture of the country where the film was produced. Please cite examples

from the film to support your analysis, and make sure you include all source citations. Please use MLA style for all papers in this class.

**FINAL PAPER**

---

Your final for this course is to write a cultural analysis paper of Miloš Forman’s film *The Firemen’s Ball*. We will view the film in class twice, once on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and once on Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup>. The film’s running time is 75 minutes. You are required to attend both screenings. Select a topic from one of the four choices below and develop an argument in response. You’ll need to research Czechoslovakian culture during the Soviet era and what was happening in the country when the film was produced (1967). Your research will also help you understand the historical and cultural significance of the film. Make sure you include detailed evidence from the film to support your argument.

- 1) What is Forman saying about the communist government in Czechoslovakia in 1967? Cite examples from the film.
- 2) What is Forman saying about the role and responsibility of the Czech people in regard to their own government? Cite examples from the film.
- 3) What is Forman saying about the role of women in Czech society in 1967? How are women represented in the film? Is Forman making a direct or indirect statement about women? Cite examples from the film.
- 4) What’s the role of comedy in this film? When does Forman use comedy as a device? Why is this film a comedy rather than a drama? Cite examples from the film.

Papers must be typed, 3-5 pages in length, and include all research cited in MLA style. Please consult OWL (Online Writing Lab) at on the Purdue University website for MLA Style instruction. PAPERS ARE DUE IN CLASS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:30 P.M.

**CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines**

---

*Note that the dates and details of each class are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.*

DATE	TOPIC	READING DUE/ACTIVITY
Aug 23	Introduction to the class. Review syllabus.	What’s Your Favorite Movie? Select Date/Time for Screenings
Aug 25	Lecture: Discuss reading	Giannetti, Ch. 1: Photography (Handout) and View Clips
Aug 30	Lecture: Critique vs. Review/Discuss reading Setup: <i>Let the Right One In</i>	Giannetti, Ch. 2: Mise En Scène (Handout) and View Clips
Aug 31 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Let the Right One In</i> , (Dir. Tomas Alfredson, Sweden, 2009) 115 minutes	
Sept 1	Review: <i>Let the Right One In</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Sept 6	Setup: <i>The 400 Blows</i> (French New Wave)	French Cinema Handout

Sept 7 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>The 400 Blows</i> (Dir. François Truffaut, France 1959) 100 minutes	
Sept 8	Review: <i>The 400 Blows</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Sept 13	Setup: <i>Amélie</i>	
Sept 14 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Amélie</i> (Dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet, France 2001) 129 minutes	
Sept 15	Review: <i>Amélie</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Sept 20	Setup: <i>Totsi</i> (South Africa)	Corrigan & White, Ch. 12, "Writing a Film Essay: Observations, Arguments, Research and Analysis"
Sept 21 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Totsi</i> (Dir. Gavin Hood, South Africa 2005) 95 minutes	
Sept 22	Review: <i>Totsi</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Sept 27	Setup: <i>A Separation</i> (Iran)	
Sept 28 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>A Separation</i> (Dir. Asghar Farhadi, Iran 2011) 123 minutes	
Sept 29	Review: <i>A Separation</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Oct 4	Setup: <i>Eat, Drink, Man, Woman</i> (Taiwan)	
Oct 5 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Eat, Drink, Man, Woman</i> (Dir. Ang Lee, USA 1994) 124 minutes	
Oct 6	Review: <i>Eat, Drink, Man, Woman</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Oct 11	Setup: <i>Ran</i> (Japan)	
Oct 12 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Ran</i> (Dir. Akira Kurosawa, Japan 1985) 162 minutes	
Oct 13	Review: <i>Ran</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Oct 18	Setup: <i>The World of Apu</i> (India)	<b>Midterm Papers Due in class</b>
Oct 19	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>The World of Apu</i> (Dir. Satyajit Ray, India 1994) 117 minutes	
Oct 20	Review: <i>The World of Apu</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Oct 25	Setup: <i>Los Olvidados</i> (Mexico)	
Oct 26	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Los Olvidados</i> (Dir. Luis Buñuel, Mexico 1950) 80 minutes	
Oct 27	Review: <i>Los Olvidados</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Nov 1	Setup: <i>Amores Perros</i> (Mexico)	<b>QUIZ</b>
Nov 2 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>Amores Perros</i> (Dir. Alejandro González Iñárritu, Mexico 2000) 155 minutes	
Nov 3	Review: <i>Amores Perros</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)

Nov 8	Setup: <i>The Bicycle Thief (Italy)</i>	
Nov 9 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>The Bicycle Thief</i> (Dir. Vittorio De Sica, Italy 1948) 89 minutes	ELECTION DAY! VOTE!!!!
Nov 10	Review: <i>The Bicycle Thief</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Nov 15	Setup: <i>8 ½ (Italy)</i>	
Nov 16 at 8 p.m.	<b>SCREENING:</b> <i>8 1/2</i> (Dir. Federico Fellini, Italy 1963) 135 minutes	
Nov 17	Review: <i>8 ½</i>	Blackboard Questions DUE VIA E-MAIL BY 12:00 PM (NOON)
Nov 22	<b>SCREENING in Class:</b> <i>The Firemen's Ball</i> (Dir. Miloš Forman, Czechoslovakia 1967) 75 minutes	
Nov 24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	
Nov 29	<b>SCREENING in Class:</b> <i>The Firemen's Ball</i> (Dir. Miloš Forman, Czechoslovakia 1967) 75 minutes (Viewing film twice)	
Dec 3	NO CLASS – DEAD DAY	
Dec 5	<b>FINAL PAPERS DUE – Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.</b>	Surprise Screening!

## GRADING

---

Assignments are valued as follows:

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1) Attendance and Participation | 20% |
| 2) Quiz                         | 10% |
| 3) Weekly Written Responses     | 30% |
| 4) Midterm Paper                | 20% |
| 5) Final Paper                  | 20% |

### Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

### LATE WORK

---

Deadlines are an inescapable part of responsible, professional, adult life. I do not accept late work.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

---

Combined, attendance and participation comprise 20% of your overall grade. Keep in mind that you can't participate if you don't attend.

**Class will start promptly at 2:00 p.m.** Lateness will not be tolerated. Two late arrivals are equal to one absence.

**NOTE:** As this class is one hour and fifteen minutes, each absence counts as one and one half absence. This means that after six (6) unexcused absences, I will drop you from the course with an "F."

The following is the Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University Course Catalogue:

*Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.*

*The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.*

*An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.*

## **ELETRONIC DEVICES**

---

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering class. If you ignore this rule, you will be asked to leave the class. Absolutely no cell phones/texting permitted during screenings.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

---

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: [432-837-8698](tel:432-837-8698). E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu).