

Fall Semester, 2018 English 4315:1– Film as Narrative MAB 200, Tues., 6-8:30 p.m. Hrs Tues. 9-11; Fri. 9-11

This syllabus will also serve as a general description of the course under the course number of English 5304, for graduate students, with some additional assignments.

Instructor: Nelson Sager, Prof. of English. E-mail: nsager@sulross.edu Tele: 432/837-8153 Office: MAB 112D Office Hrs: Tues. 9-11; 1-2, and by appt.

TEXT: Sikov, Ed. *Film Studies: An Introduction*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-231-14293-9..

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES: Students in this course will study film as a narrative form to learn the following skills:

(1) to identify the basic film-making techniques and story components as used to tell a story visually and audibly; (2) to discern these elements in well-crafted films that effectively tell stories visually and audibly, to differentiate these films from those only mediocre; (3) to recognize the qualities of certain films which have earned their status as classics, differentiating between existence in a film of a certain technique and excellent use and application of the technique in the film; (4) identify how values of the society and culture in which these films were produced affected their final form and (5) be able to produce critically-based written film analyses of some aspect of one or more of the films studied in this class or an equivalent film, using effective evaluative and expletive criteria applied while viewing film and reading established critical opinion written about the film.

For the Purposes of Program Outcomes, the Course Objectives for this course are as follows:

Program (SRSU Alpine/RGC) – English BA

SLO 1 – Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development, and are grammatically correct.

SLO 2 – Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.

SLO 3 – Students will be able to produce researched documents that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of credible sources, employ them effectively through quotations and paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using the style appropriate to the document.

To meet the SLO prescribed for this course, students in this course will be able to understand the vocabulary and techniques of film-making used to create audio/visual cinematic narratives and then apply this knowledge to the analysis of these narratives, developed from adaptations of print fictional forms (short story, novel, drama, etc.) as well as from original film-scripts

Be able to respond effectively in critical analysis essays and exams on cinematic narratives screened and discussed in this course

Develop and organize essays written in expository, persuasive, and research-based modes.

Conduct online research using library databases and creditable web sites.

Graduating students in English major and Education Generalist programs will demonstrate that they can

Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development

1. Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
2. Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
3. Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
4. Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods of literature assigned in this course..
5. Understand how to interpret, analyse, evaluate and produce visual images and messages in various media and to provide students with opportunities to develop skills in this area.

GRADING: The final grade in the course will be determined from the following weighted assignments:

Letter Grade Equivalent: A = 89.51-100; B = 79.51- 89.5; C = 69.51-79.5; D = 60-69.5; F = any average below 60

GRADING Basis: The final grade in the course will be determined from the following weighted assignments:

(1) number of classes attended X 2; (2) number of critical analyses completed and submitted by deadlines established, based on films screened in the class X 10; graduate film paradigm developed with researched sources listed used to evaluate a given film as a cinematic narrative.. Of the films screened and discussed in the class, you must submit analytical written critiques on a minimum of six separate films. The final exam will be a real-time, objective set of questions answered in response to selected film clips, shown in class the night of the final. The written critical analysis is to be a paper with one inch margins, double-spaced, written on one side of the page, with a text of **3-5** pages in length (each page double-spaced with one inch margins). It is a short documented critique showing evidence of research performed by using one to three written sources (in-print or on-line) integrated into the text of the critique through quotation and paraphrase of material from the outside sources (proper and precise punctuation of quotations required). These sources should be properly cited in the text using the current MLA system of documentation, and each source should be properly listed in a Works Cited list at the end of the critique. The Work Cited list is not to be counted in the pagination of of text. Sources may be acquired from the internet WWW, but at least one source must be from a hard-copy text (i.e. off the shelf) in the Sul Ross library [in the stacks, reference, or bound periodical sections]. ***If an accessible, printed film-script text exists for the film or films being critically analyzed in the critique, examination of changes occurring between the film-script and the final cut of the film should be included in the analysis of the film.**

Possible Points Earned Through Attendance, Written Critiques, and Final Exam:

Attendance (15 meetings X 2 points each)	30 points possible
Submission of Analytic Critiques of Films (6 required at 10 points each)	60 points possible
Completion of Final Exam (10 points)	<u>10 points possible</u>
	100 points potential total

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Classes which meet once a week are the equivalent of a full week of MWF classes. There is no make-up available for lecture and discussion; you are either present to take part, or not. If you know you will be absent when major tests and written assignments, or screening of films are scheduled, wherever it is possible, you should make arrangements to complete the scheduled work ahead of time, turn in assignments ahead of time, or take exams, or watch the films in advance. If you are scheduled for an authorized school trip or have a verifiable family or health emergency that precludes fulfilling requirements in advance, I will work out other post-class arrangements with you.

Americans with disabilities Act: 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-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203

Tentative Schedule of Screening Assignments and Class Activities:

Aug 28 First Class meeting: discussion of class activities and manner in which the class will be conducted [discussion of syllabus (schedule, grading, content, writing assignments and final exam, etc. I intend that we will cover more than call roll and give out syllabi: examples types of films to be analyzed and discussed; [we will screen excerpts of narrative feature films to illustrate manner of film analysis] This class is not one to be skipped.

Sep 02 The Usual Suspects

Sep 09 The Usual Suspects

Sep 16 Atonement

Sep 23 Atonement

Sep 30 Chinatown

Oct 02 Chinatown

Oct 09 A Soldier's Story

Oct 16 A Soldier's Story

Oct 23 Zoot Suit

Oct 30 Zoot Suit

Nov 06 Stranger Than Fiction

Nov 13 Stranger Than Fiction

Nov 20 The Sense of an Ending

Nov 27 The Sense of an Ending

Dec 04 Review/Overlap

Dec 10 [Monday] 6:00 pm (tentative date of final, since schedule has not been published)