

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** FILM 100 **TITLE:** Introduction to Film
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)
Recommended Preparation:
 eligibility for ENGL 100 or 105.
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
Degree Credit
Transfer credit: CSU; UC
AA/AS Degree Requirements:
 CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities
CSU GE:
 CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C1 - Arts (Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater)
IGETC:
 IGETC Area 3: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: A: Arts
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
Catalog Description:
 Introductory survey of fundamental film techniques and styles of expression. Emphasizes film appreciation, the language of film, and analysis for full film enjoyment. Lectures, screenings, discussions, quizzes and writing of critical papers.
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
 1. Demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze the formal aesthetic elements of film.
 2. Demonstrate the ability to interpret film in writing, using film studies vocabulary.
 3. Demonstrate visual literacy with regard to different styles, genres and ideologies of filmmaking.
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Identify the basic techniques of film form.
 2. Analyze film form in a film segment, emphasizing aesthetics, narrative and/or ideology.
 3. Distinguish and explain key directors, genres and modes of film.
 4. Critically analyze film as a technology, industry, cultural product, entertainment and art form.
 5. Demonstrate an ability to discuss film's complex relationship to ideology, history and society.
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 Film 100 introduces students to the basic components of film form and film language. The course covers all the aesthetic categories of film expression-mise en scene, editing, camera movement, sound. The course also introduces students to the diversity of film expression: international cinemas, documentary and experimental film traditions, animation, and so on. The course likewise addresses basic tenets of the film industry, as well as elements of the classical Hollywood studio system, including stars, genres, directors, film movements and cycles, and technological innovations. This is a critical thinking course, with emphasis on vocabulary, aesthetic concepts, historical and cultural influences, and analytical abilities-both verbally and in writing.
 Course topics to include many of the following:
 1. The Film Industry: business, creativity, technology
 2. Film Form: Mise en scene, cinematography, editing, sound
 3. Film Narrative: systems of storytelling and genre
 4. Documentary, Experimental, Animation, and National cinemas
 5. Introduction to major historical movements and styles**Lab Content:**
 None.
7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Other (Specify): Instruction includes lecture, screening, discussion and in-class exercises. Film clips via video projection are used to illustrate concepts and elicit discussion. Students are asked to verbally apply film form concepts to film sequences. Students are asked to write brief commentaries and more formal extensive writing assignments on film form concepts, as preparation for midterms and final paper.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Students are asked to write brief commentaries on specific film form concepts, as preparation for midterms and final paper.

The final paper (5-8 pages) analyzes a segment from a film not shown in class, focusing on one or two of the film form topics covered (sound, lighting, editing, etc.). Final paper assignment also emphasizes relating segment analysis to the themes and style of the film as a whole; and to the film's cultural and historical context.

Reading Assignments:

Assigned readings from textbook.

Other Outside Assignments:

Assigned screenings, including DVD or online tutorials.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Homework
- D. Papers
- E. Quizzes
- F. The final grade for the course is based on approximately two midterms, a final paper, and participation. Midterms are comprised of multiple choice questions based on vocabulary and reading materials; and short essay answers regarding critical application of film form concepts. The final paper (5-8 pages) analyzes a segment from a film not shown in class, focusing on one or two of the film form topics covered (sound, lighting, editing, etc.). Final paper assignment also emphasizes relating segment analysis to the themes and style of the film as a whole; and to the film's cultural context. SLO 1: Assessment method: Vocabulary exams; short answer identification for screening; grade of B or higher. SLO 2: Assessment method: Short in-class essay based on clip screening; final paper focused on segment analysis; grade of B or higher. SLO 3: Assessment method: Multiple choice and short answer exam questions; grade of B or higher.

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Corrigan, Tim. *Short Guide to Writing about Film*, 9th ed. Pearson, 2014
- B. Lewis, Jon. *Essential Cinema*, 1st ed. -, 2013
- C. Barsam & Monahan. *Looking at Movies*, 5th ed. -, 2015

Origination Date: October 2016

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: February 2017

Effective Term: Fall 2017

Course Originator: David Laderman