

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** FILM 200 **TITLE:** Film in Focus
Units: 4.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 64.0-72.0 Lecture hours; and 128.0-144.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)
Recommended Preparation:
 FILM 100, FILM 110 FILM 120 or FILM 121

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:
 Study of the art and history of film by focusing on selected film topics, such as genres, directors, stars, gender, race, national cinemas, new technologies (course topic varies from semester to semester). 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. Distinguish critical categories in the study of film (genres, directors, etc.).
 2. Articulate verbally and in written form the relationship between film form and more advanced areas of study.
 3. Appreciate major works in a specific period, genre, director or other film study area.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Distinguish critical categories in the study of film (genres, directors, etc.).
 2. Articulate the relationship between film form and more specific areas of film study.
 3. Appreciate major works in a specific period, genre, director or other film study area.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 The course topic focus varies from semester to semester (previous topics included film genres, film directors, ethnicity and film, 1970s Hollywood, and film and music). Whatever the semester topic focus, the content of the course includes examining:
 - A. issues of film style and film aesthetics;
 - B. directors and genres associated with the topic;
 - C. relevant historical, social and political factors;
 - D. selected relevant works of film criticism.

7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**
 Typical methods of instruction may include:
 - A. Discussion
 - B. Other (Specify): screening, and in-class exercises. Film clips via video projection are used to illustrate concepts and elicit discussion. Students are asked to verbally apply relevant film study concepts to film sequences. Students are asked to write brief commentaries on readings, form groups for critical discussion, and respond in writing to various worksheets, as preparation for midterms and papers.

8. **REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**
 Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:
Writing Assignments:

Analyzing the use of specific film form techniques (such as editing, lighting, sound, moving camera, etc.), but focused on whatever genre, director, historical period, or other film studies topic is being offered. The writing should demonstrate clarity of concept knowledge, historical context of concept, and aesthetic impact of concept in scene.

Reading Assignments:

Students are assigned weekly reading assignments relevant to the particular course topic. Sometimes this comes from a traditional textbook; other times a more theoretical book focused on a particular film, director, genre, or time period. Essays are also posted on web access in PDF form.

Students need to do readings to be prepared for class discussions, reading quizzes, and midterm and final exams. Students are also asked specifically in paper prompts to integrate ideas from the readings.

Other Outside Assignments:

The midterm exams and final paper ask students to use several film form concepts to analyze a scene from a film; and to compare different films from the specific topic focus (genre, director, etc.) and their respective uses of a specific film form concept.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Group Projects
- C. Homework
- D. Papers
- E. Quizzes
- F. Written examination
- G. Short essay and multiple-choice exercises

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Meléndez, A. Gabriel. *Hidden Chicano Cinema*, ed. Rutgers University Press, 2013
- B. Grant, Barry Keith and Jeannette Sloniowski. *Documenting the Documentary Film: Close Readings*, ed. Wayne State University Press, 2013
- C. Wierzbicki, James. *Music, Sound and Filmmakers: Sonic Style*, ed. Routledge, 2012

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Course Originator: David Laderman