

Coffeyville Community College

#HUMN-130

COURSE SYLLABUS

FOR

**HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF MOTION PICTURES**

**Jed Claybrook
Instructor**

COURSE NUMBER: HUMN-130 **COURSE TITLE:** History and Development of Motion Pictures

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Jed Claybrook

OFFICE LOCATION: 215 Arts and Sciences Building

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OFFICE HOURS: See scheduled posted on door

PREREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Cook, David A. *A History of Narrative Film*. 4th ed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A critical survey of motion pictures as a distinctive form and as a medium of expression and communication, with attention given to silent films, early talking pictures, and cinema innovators from the origins of the motion picture medium.

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

1. Recognize films that are important not only to themselves but also that seem to summarize a whole style or movement in film history.
2. Explain the interaction between stage and screen during the early years of this century.
3. Gain a comprehensive knowledge of the interaction between the public, the businessman, and the film artist.
4. Achieve a perspective on the full development of this unique art industry.
5. Develop a broad background about movies and some of the technical jargon associated with them.

LEARNING TASKS & ACTIVITIES:

SECTION I THE INVENTION AND INNOVATION OF THE MOVIES

RECOGNIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY PRIOR TO MOVIES

1. Explain how the invention of the cinema centers in the United States and France. (Comprehension)
2. Identify the contributions of Eadweard Maybridge. (Knowledge)
3. Describe the accomplishments of Thomas Edison. (Knowledge)
4. Explain the advances made by the brothers Lumiere. (Comprehension)
5. Distinguish between the stereopticon and the kinoscope. (analysis)

UNDERSTAND THE STRATEGY OF FILM INNOVATIONS

6. Relate three different strategies of early movie entrepreneurs to bring movie entertainment to the masses. (Analysis)
7. Describe the pioneering efforts of Eastman Kodak. (Knowledge)
8. Explain the introduction of movies through vaudeville theatres. (Synthesis)
9. Support Edwin S. Porter as one of the most important of early American filmmakers. (Evaluation)
10. Describe the contributions of Georges Melies. (Knowledge)

RECOGNIZE THE STRUCTURE OF THE EARLY MOVIE INDUSTRY

11. Define elements of film production. (Knowledge)
12. Describe the process of film distribution. (Knowledge)
13. Identify devices used for film exhibition. (Knowledge)

SECTION II THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOLLYWOOD

DESCRIBE THE HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEM

14. Identify the rise of the feature film. (Analysis)
15. Relate the star system as a method to construct and sell films. (Synthesis)
16. Explain the studio system as an organizational tool for production. (Comprehension)
17. Describe the standard working procedure established by Thomas Ince. (Knowledge)
18. Describe the innovations of Adolph Zukor and the development of Paramount. (Knowledge)
19. Summarize the changes in distribution methods during the 1910's that led to Hollywood's dominance. (Comprehension)

RECOGNIZE HOLLYWOOD'S DEVELOPMENT OF THEATRES OUTSIDE HOLLYWOOD

20. Explain the reasons for Hollywood purchase of theatres from New York to Los Angeles. (Comprehension)
21. Describe the contributions of Samuel Rothapfel. (Knowledge)
22. Relate the elements of location, architecture and service to the creation of successful movie palaces. (Analysis)

UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF HOLLYWOOD MOVIES

23. Describe the filmmaking industry from a sociological point of view. (Knowledge)
24. Identify what films tell us about the ideas and beliefs of a society. (Analysis)
25. Criticize the struggle for censorship. (Evaluation)
26. Explain the Hays Office. (Comprehension)

SECTION III THE CLASSIC NARRATIVE STYLE

DISCUSS THE NATURE OF THE CLASSIC STYLE

27. Describe the need for a set of norms. (Knowledge)
28. Identify three theme-ideas incorporated into a film. (Knowledge)
29. List eight definable boundaries of the unified system. (Knowledge)
30. Distinguish those filmmakers called auteurs. (Analysis)

UNDERSTAND THE SOURCES OF CLASSIC FILM

31. Compare early pre-Hollywood films to Hollywood films. (Evaluation)
32. Label the three phases of change. (Knowledge)
33. Relate the contributions of D. W. Griffith. (Analysis)

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR

34. Identify the "father of the American Cinema." (Knowledge)
35. Relate the influences of Cecile B. DeMille. (Application)
36. Describe John Ford's blueprint for the Western. (Knowledge)
37. Explain King Vidor's reputation for filming the spectacular. (Comprehension)
38. Define genre. (Knowledge)

RECOGNIZE INVENTIVENESS WITHIN THE CLASSIC SYSTEM

39. Describe the comedy perfected by Mack Sennett. (Knowledge)

40. Relate the style of Charlie Chaplin. (Analysis)
41. Identify Buster Keaton as a great stylist of the cinema. (Analysis)
42. Defend the technique of the German Expressionist, F. W. Murnau. (Comprehension)
43. Describe the development of the documentary film. (Knowledge)

SECTION IV THE COMING OF SOUND AND THE STUDIO SYSTEM

DISCUSS THE TRANSFORMATION TO SOUND FILMS

44. Explain the three-phases of change. (Comprehension)
45. Describe Warner Bros. development of "talkers." (Knowledge)
46. Describe the Fox Film Corporation's sound-on-film. (Knowledge)

RECOGNIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOVIE STUDIOS

47. Outline the growth of Paramount. (Knowledge)
48. Describe the progression of Loew's/MGM. (Knowledge)
49. Identify Twentieth Century-Fox as a studio power. (Analysis)
50. Explain how Warner Bros. distinguished itself from other major movie studios. (Evaluation)
51. Explain the formation of RKO. (Comprehension)
52. Identify the "Little Three" studios. (Knowledge)
53. Relate the importance of the double feature. (Analysis)

SECTION V THE GOLDEN AGE OF MOVIE MAKING

UNDERSTAND THE SOUND-RECORDING TECHNOLOGY

54. Describe the Moviola. (Knowledge)
55. Explain microphone innovations. (Comprehension)
56. Identify dialogue and music as they enhance character development. (Analysis)
57. Show four to six changes in moviemaking that resulted from sound development. (Application)

RECOGNIZE FILM GENRES

58. Describe the need for genres. (Knowledge)
59. Distinguish among the six basic genre. (Comprehension)
60. Explain the discrepancy in film noir as a genre. (Comprehension)
61. Identify what is meant by a star's persona. (Knowledge)

DESCRIBE TYPES OF AUTEURS

62. Name the elements analyzed to create the auteur. (Knowledge)
63. Describe the responsibilities of a producer. (Knowledge)

- 64. Identify the cinematographers fundamental contributions. (Analysis)
- 65. Identify three directors from Hollywood's Golden Age (1930's—1940's) and explain why they are to be considered auteurs. (Knowledge and Evaluation)
- 66. State and defend the two categories of filmmakers operating outside the mainstream during the period. (Knowledge and Comprehension)

ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES:

Grades of A(100-92%), B(91-82%), C(81-70%), D(69-60%), and F(59-0%) are given in this course. Incompletes at the semester end will only be given if previously agreed upon by the student and instructor with a specific time designated for the completion of the incomplete work.

A student's final grade will be based on the following:

- 1. Attendance 10%
- 2. Participation 15%
- 3. Quizzes, mid-term and
final exams 25%
- 4. Evaluations 50%

There will be no makeup of in-class assignments missed. A written assignment which is turned in after the calendar day on which it was due automatically receives a grade one letter lower than it would have received.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend all classes. It is the responsibility of the student to make definite arrangements with the instructor for makeup work **before** going on field trips or other college-sponsored events. Class periods and assignments that are missed without prior arrangements with the instructor may not be made-up unless unusual circumstances prevail and at the instructor's prerogative.

This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notification to the student by the instructor.