CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE
FILM STUDY & APPRECIATION: (special topic title)
Proposal: rev. date 10/24/04
Approved as VCOM 299 by SBS Department, 04/03/03; offered FA03 and SP04

SECTION I

SYSTEM COMMON COURSE NUMBER: Communication Media COM* 155

COURSE TITLE: Film Study & Appreciation: *(special topic title)*

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introductory study of cinema as a cultural force and artistic form. Students will view and discuss representative films from the early years of the industry to the present, and offer their own oral and written analysis of these films as applied to topics covered during the semester.

SPECIAL NOTE: This course can be offered either as a general survey of films produced for theatrical release, or as a special interest course related to a specific topic or genre. Examples of special topics include, but are not limited to, *Women in Film*, *Film Music,* or *African-American Cinema.* Instructors may customize their syllabi to incorporate these special topics/genres, while maintaining the educational objectives presented in this outline.

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3   **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

PREREQUISITE: ENG 101, English Composition.

SECTION II
A. SCOPE:
Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired an appreciation of film as a medium of artistic expression, and the powerful role it plays in political and social commentary, cultural dialogue, and storytelling. Students will learn the purpose of film criticism and how to write each of the four basic types of film criticism. Students will also have learned how to recognize the interplay of film and personal and group identity.

Course subject matter will include:
  A. Film criticism and writing about film
  1) Preparation for and the process of film criticism
  2) Style and structure in film criticism
  3) Approaches to writing about film
  4) Style and structure in writing film criticism
  5) Researching the movies

B. Film Genres (discussion of historical context, development, and current examples as related to social and political commentary)
1) Animation
2) Comedy
3) Documentary
4) Drama
5) Epic/Historical
6) Film Noir
7) Gangster
8) Horror
9) Musical
10) Romance
11) Science Fiction
12) War
13) Others

C. Understanding Film Technique
1) Photography – realism and formalism, shot selection, angles, light and dark, color, the role of cinematographer.
2) Mise en Scéne – the frame, composition, space
3) Movement – kinetics, the moving camera, mechanical distortions of movement
4) Editing – continuity, pacing
5) Sound – historical background, sound effects, music, spoken language
6) Acting – screen versus stage acting, styles of acting, casting
7) Drama – time, space, costume, makeup, role of the Director
8) Story – narration, the spectator, nonfiction, fiction,
9) Writing for film – role of the Screenwriter, the screenplay, point of view
10) Ideology – film as social commentary, political ideology, religion, ethnicity, feminism, gay liberation, tone

B. REQUIRED WORK: determined by the instructor as described in the course syllabus.

C. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend each class, arrive on time, take exams at the scheduled time, and participate in the learning process. (Specific instructor policies are included on the course syllabus.)

D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Each faculty member determines the methods of instruction for the semester. However, by definition, the methods for this course must include the viewing and discussion of films produced for theatrical release. Other methods may include, but are not limited to, lecture, lecture/discussion, small group collaborative learning, guest speakers, student presentations, on-line assignments using distance learning technology, required field trips, and the use of classroom audiovisual and computer-based presentation materials.

E. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, ASSESSMENT

The following objectives and outcomes represent the department's core requirements for student achievement.

To demonstrate an understanding of:	Students will:	As measured by:
Film as a form of artistic expression and storytelling	a) View all assigned films in class and review outside of class time if needed (if the films are available on reserve in the Library or on-line via streaming media) b) Read all assigned material from textbooks, handouts, and on-line or Library resources c) Participate in classroom and on-line discussions	Written or on-line quizzes, tests, and examinations; on-line discussions and chat; presentations to the class; out-of-class projects; written reports; class participation; attendance; homework assignments.
The powerful role film plays in political, social, and cultural dialogue.	d) Keep a written journal of their individual perspectives on each film e) Lead one classroom discussion reacting to a film viewed in class f) Identify common themes and elements in the films presented during the semester	Same as above
The interplay of film and personal and group identity	g) Prepare written analyses of several films presented and discussed during the semester	Same as above
Synthesizing "textbook" understandings with the personal film viewing experience		Same as above
The four basic types of film criticism (review, analytical critique, comparative analysis, documented research paper)		Well-written and documented academic papers reflecting the four types of film criticism

Note 1: This table of learning outcomes should not be considered exhaustive; other learning outcomes may also support the objectives. The list is not intended to limit the learning outcomes that can be used to achieve the objectives.

Note 2: There is no expectation that an instructor will employ all the assessment methods or any particular set of them. Also, the list of applicable assessment methods is not exhaustive. Other methods that measure the learning outcomes may be used.

F. TEXTS AND MATERIALS: College-level textbooks, audiovisual materials (the films studied for the semester), and other materials placed in Library reserve for the course.

G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Access to audiovisual and computer-based presentation equipment; access to online course content delivery systems.