

HISTORY OF FILM ENG 4121 Fall 2013

Tu 2:00PM - 4:45PM

GL132

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Office Hours:
T 12:30-1:45pm/Th 2:30 pm-3:30 pm

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Turnitin.com Class ID: **6776307**

Password: **chaplin**

REQUIRED TEXT: Kawin, Bruce and Gerald Mast. A Short History of the Movies ed. 11

WEBSITE FOR REVIEW: <http://www.filmsite.org/filmh.html> (for supplementary reading)

"Film is more than the twentieth-century art. It's another part of the twentieth-century mind. It's the world seen from inside. We've come to a certain point in the history of film. If a thing can be filmed, the film is implied in the thing itself. This is where we are. The twentieth century is on film....You have to ask yourself if there's anything about us more important than the fact that we're constantly on film constantly watching ourselves." --Don DeLillo (The Names)

"Cinema is a matter of what's in the frame and what's out"
— Martin Scorsese

"A film is - or should be - more like music than like fiction. It should be a progression of moods and feelings. The theme, what's behind the emotion, the meaning, all that comes later."
---Stanley Kubrick

"Suddenly the Empire State Express looms in sight way off in the distance and comes steaming towards you right dead at you at full speed...two ladies who were in the box last night screamed and fainted. It is so realistic that, at the appearance of the train the spectators draw back instinctively, fearing they'll be run over by the steel monster." ---the New York Telegram, October 1896

"It's the movies that have really been running things in America ever since they were invented. They show you what to do, how to do it, when to do it, how to feel about it, and how to look how you feel about it."
--Andy Warhol

Goals: To introduce the history of film as it has evolved from the technological realization as a moving image medium, through the omnipresent medium of special effects wizardry of present day, with emphasis on the classical montage of Griffith, German mise-en-scène aesthetics, the rise of Hollywood and the Studio System, Italian Neorealism, the French, Czech and German New Waves, film noir, the New American Cinema and the Blockbuster traditions. An understanding of film evolution will broaden perspective and appreciation of film as an artistic medium rather than merely an entertainment medium. Viewing the world development of the medium will introduce cultural and historical traditions so as to understand diverse points of view as well as the international, multi-cultural development of film.

Attendance and Tardy Policy: "Eighty percent of success is showing up" ---Woody Allen

The principle is: success at anything requires significant amounts of time, effort, and sacrifices. Sure we all have different natural talents, predispositions, and abilities but *real success* in mastering something requires putting in time and effort. It doesn't come easy for anyone.

Regular attendance in this class is **MANDATORY**, especially in a double-session class when each class is, in effect, equal to 2.3 weekly classes. In addition, since assignments may be given out on a daily basis and I will inevitably make changes to the syllabus, it would behoove you to be present for these announcements. If you do miss class, you are responsible for making up any missed work. Please be on time and stay for the entire class period. If you arrive late, it is **your** responsibility to talk to me after class to avoid being marked absent. Absenteeism as well as excessive tardiness will adversely affect your grade.

Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes cheating on quizzes or exams as well as plagiarism. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating defined as using as one's own, without proper citation, words and/or ideas expressed by others in public arenas such as (but not restricted to) print, electronic publications, and scholarly lectures. It is your responsibility to be knowledgeable about this topic. Please be aware that there are numerous ways to detect plagiarism beyond the instructor actually identifying the source of the plagiarism. Plagiarism wastes my time and yours—if you are experiencing any kind of difficulty in completing an assignment, PLEASE see me as soon as possible. I will consider instituting the policy on student academic dishonesty for any case of plagiarism I discover. Evidence of cheating, plagiarism or fabrication of sources will result in a failing grade for the course and report to the appropriate University authorities

Late Papers and Assignments: All Assignments are to be handed in the hour they are due. The grade will be dropped one point for each 24 hour period it is late after that. Starting an assignment well in advance is a good start.

Preparation/Participation: I expect you to come to class prepared. If a reading is due, make sure you have read the chapter and are prepared to discuss it. Responding to readings, films, and assignments through class discussion is an explicit part of this course, crucial for making it successful and enjoyable.

Class attendance is very important.

"The thoughtless, the ignorant, and the indolent, seeing only the apparent effects of things and not the things themselves, talk of luck, of fortune, and chance. Seeing a man grow rich, they say, "How lucky he is!" Observing another become intellectual, they exclaim, "How highly favored he is!" And noting the saintly character and wide influence of another, the remark, "How chance aids him at every turn!" They do not see the trials and failures and struggles which these men have voluntarily encountered in order to gain their experience; have no knowledge of the sacrifices they have made, of the undaunted efforts they have put forth, of the faith they have exercised, that they might overcome the apparently insurmountable, and realize the Vision of their heart. They do not know the darkness and the heartaches; they only see the light and joy, and call it "luck"; do not see the long and arduous journey, but only behold the pleasant goal, and call it "good fortune"; do not understand the process, but only perceive the result, and call it "chance."

In all human affairs there are efforts, and there are results, and the strength of the effort is the measure of the result. Chance is not. "Gifts," powers, material, intellectual, and spiritual possessions are the fruits of effort; they are thoughts completed, objects accomplished, visions realized." -James Allen

Etiquette (or Pet Peeves)

- Please turn off all cell phones when class begins. I will not tolerate phoning, texting, or using your cellphones for any other purpose. Please **close** laptops and turn off e-tablets or readers EXCEPT for taking notes (which you will have to do if you want to do well in this class!)
- Please make every attempt not to leave the room during discussions and screening of films or clips. This disturbs others in the class (including myself) and prevents you from seeing the entire screening and understanding the concepts being presented. If you have a condition which prevents you from sitting for two hours at a time, please talk to me at the beginning of the semester, so we can make arrangements.

Other Details: All out-of-class assignments should be submitted on turnitin.com

Grade breakdown: Your grade in this class will consist of the following elements:

- Class participation & attendance 15%
- Weekly in class quizzes/assignments 15%
- Submission of Film Journal 20%
- Mid-Term Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Policies indicated in this syllabus may be changed or amended at any point during this semester. Bring this syllabus with you to every class to make changes on it as necessary.

ENG 4121 Class Schedule

Aug 27

No Class

Read Ch. 1; pp. 10-22

Sept.3

EARLY CINEMA/Discussion/Film clips

Read pp. 22-39; Ch 3

Sept 10

CINEMA AS ART FORM AND INDUSTRY/Discussion/Film Clips

Read Ch 4,5

Sept 17

BEFORE THERE WAS HOLLYWOOD

Read pp. 151-165

Sept 24

THE POWER OF HOLLYWOOD/Discussion/Film Clips

Read pp. 117-150

Oct. 1

THE ROARING TWENTIES

Read Ch 7

Oct 8

WORLD-WIDE INFLUENCE OF GERMAN CINEMA/Discussion/Film Clips Read Ch 9

Oct 15

THE COMING OF SOUND/Discussion/Film Clips

Read Ch 11

Oct 22

THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD 1934-43 (more or less)

Study for Exam

Oct 29

Mid-Term Exam/Film Journals due (5 entries)

Read pp 207-210; Handouts

Nov 5

Film Noir/ Discussion/Film Clips

Read pp 195-198; Handouts

Nov 12

POST-WAR HOLLYWOOD and THE BIRTH OF ART CINEMA/Discussion/Film Clips

Read Ch 13 and pp. 265-267

Nov 19

THE NEW WAVES—France, Italy, Czechoslovakia/Discussion/Film Clips

Read pp 203-219

Nov 26

FILM IN THE TELEVISION AGE/Discussion/Film Clips

Read Ch 15

Dec 3

THE HOLLYWOOD RENAISSANCE/Discussion/film clips

Study for Final

Dec 10

Final Exam 2:15PM - 4:15PM

Dec 6

Film Journals due (5)