

ONLINE STUDENTS MUST EMAIL ME @ jsyrek@depaul.edu BY WED 7/19 TO VERIFY THE SYLLABUS HAS BEEN READ AND YOU'RE GOOD TO GO. DEPAUL UNIVERSITY REQUIRES NON-REPLYING STUDENTS TO BE REPORTED FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

DC 222 CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD FILM STRUCTURE

When: Mon & Wed 1:30P-4:45p/video posted on D2L each Mon/Wed evening

Where: 14 E. Jackson Blvd, 2nd floor, Rm 214

instructor: James Syrek, jsyrek@depaul.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, 12-1:30pm, CDM 703

Summary of Course

Critical analysis of three-act film structure as well as an introduction to alternative narrative structures including, but not limited to, dual protagonist, ensemble, and nonlinear structures. Films of various genres and eras will be examined. ***Students will develop a cinematic language with which to discuss films*** as well as a toolbox of techniques to use when making films.

Course Objectives

- Students will develop a solid understanding of the relationship between character and story structure.
- Students will be able to identify the various narrative tools available to filmmakers in the writing and producing process.
- Students will develop a cinematic vocabulary with which to discuss films critically.

Further course objectives are in place to also develop a mastery of storytelling structure that 1) create a deeper and more meaningful engagement with film & television as a viewer, and 2) develop a storytelling skillset of your own to utilize in your own personal, collegiate and professional endeavors.

Learning Domain Description

DC 222 Classic Hollywood Film Structure is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts by developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning and through critical and/or creative activity to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, though the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take course in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater. No more than two courses can be chosen from one department or program.

Liberal Studies Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced.

- Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
- Students will be able to assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Students will be able to contextualize a work of art. They will be able to do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. They will also be able to contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

Writing Expectations

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of ten pages of writing for this course.

Textbooks

Assigned digitized readings and handouts provided by the instructor.

Websites

D2L (<https://d2l.depaul.edu>) -Main course page for all videos, assignments & readings

COLTube (<coltube.cdm.depaul.edu/>) -All films assigned are streamable here throughout quarter

Prerequisites

None

Online Students

You're taking a course that meets on Monday and Wednesdays, entirely on video through D2L. You're required to view each video in its entirety within 72 hours of each video posting. Videos can be accessed on D2L, main course page, right-hand side. Which means-

Mon classes (starting 7/17): video must be viewed/notes submitted by every Thurs 11:59 PM

Wed classes (starting 7/19): video must be viewed/notes submitted by every Sat 11:59 PM

-For each class, starting with class #1, you'll be turning in "NOTES" (see below) on D2L to verify you've viewed the session, have taken part, answered all questions I've posed, completed any quiz questions, etc. These notes are a part of your quarter grade, count for your attendance, and also will contain any quizzes given on the video.

-You cannot stockpile videos to view at a later date. The course is built to keep you on a manageable pace so you have the best and most fair learning opportunity possible. But you must keep up. If you fall behind, there is no makeup work at a later date to get back on track.

-You are also responsible for accessing D2L immediately and learning how to access/playback videos. I recommend using Chrome or Firefox only as your browser. All tech issues have to be addressed through D2L via opening a tech request ticket on the site. I don't handle tech issues, and ongoing tech issues are not grounds for missing work due.

Attendance

In-class students are required to attend every class. For each class missed, you've missed the equivalent of one week of the quarter, and final grade all be deducted -10% for each absence. I don't excuse absences. This must be done through the Dean's office.

Online students your (properly and on-time) submitted notes (see above) are how I mark you as present. No late notes are accepted (see above for deadlines).

Grading

Attendance/Participation/Notes	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midpoint Movie Theater Activity	15%
Screening Response Assignments	25%
Final Paper	40%

Quizzes

In class/on the videos, I will pause at various points to assess your understanding of the course as our understanding of film structure evolves. These are to help me assist you with any learning deficiencies or areas of concern. For online students, all this is done and must be noted clearly in your notes to be counted. No late quizzes accepted.

Midpoint Movie Theater Activity

We are in the middle of the summer box office season! What better way to practice what we learn in the classroom by applying our knowledge to Hollywood blockbusters! In week 3, we'll be assigned this activity. You are required to attend a movie screening of your choosing by the due date, between when this is assigned and when the activity is due. More soon!

Screening Response Assignments

Attached to each class is a film we are screening to accompany each discussion. Online students, you'll do this from home via COLTube; NOT on the D2L class video you're viewing. So, each class session consists of ***lecture + film screening**. From each screening comes an assignment to assess your application of the lesson to the case study movie under examination.

*Expect each lecture to last 60-90 minutes, at which time you'll be instructed on the video to turn to COLTube to spend the rest of class time viewing each assigned movie. Again, this totals three hours each session, the required class time needed.

For online students, these assignments are due just like your notes are, above. Same schedule. But separate dropbox folders. No late assignments accepted.

Final Paper

This will be assigned week 4, and due on the last class, session #10, Wednesday of week 5.

Schedule

Monday 7/17

Class Introduction

Discussion: *Origins of Story Structure*

Assigned reading: "Narrative Structure"

Screening: JAWS

Assignment: Screening response

Wednesday 7/19

Discussion: *Character & Conflict*

Assigned reading: excerpts from Lajos Agri

Screening: PARIAH

Assignment: Screening response

Monday 7/24

Discussion: *The Hero's Journey*

Assigned reading: excerpts from Joseph Campbell & Christopher Vogler

Screening: 3:10 TO YUMA

Assignment: Screening response

Wednesday 7/26

Discussion: *Paradigm of Dramatic Structure*

Assigned reading: excerpts from Syd Field

Screening: MOONLIGHT

Assignment: Screening response

-Midpoint Activity ASSIGNED-

Monday 7/31

Discussion: *Save the cat approach*

Assigned reading: excerpts from Blake Snyder & Robert McKee

Screening: LA LA LAND

Assignment: Screening response

Wednesday 8/2

-Midpoint Activity DUE-

Discussion: *Genre Narratives*

Screening: GET OUT

Assigned Reading: To be announced

Assignment: Screening Response

Monday 8/7

Discussion: *Adaptations*

Screening: NEVER LET ME GO

Assigned Reading: excerpts from NEVER LET ME GO

Assignment: Screening Response

Wednesday 8/9

Discussion: *Non-Linear Narratives*

Screening: several films to choose from; TBD

Assigned Reading: to be announced

Assignment: Screening Response

-FINAL PAPER ASSIGNED-

Monday 8/14

Discussion: *Structure and the future of cinema*

Screening: to be announced

Assignment: final screening response

Wednesday 8/16

FINAL PAPER DUE

College Policies

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in Campus Connect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu. Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd. Phone number: (312)362-8002 Fax: (312)362-6544 TTY: (773)325.7296