

## **DC 227 FILM PHILOSOPHY**

### **Syllabus**

Term: Winter 2018  
Section: 501 | 510 (Online)  
Class#: 20708 | 25595 (Online)  
Location: 14EAS LL105, Loop  
Class Times: Thursday

Instructor: Sanghoon Lee  
Phone: N/A  
Email: slee198@depaul.edu  
Office: 14EAS LL105, Loop  
Office Hour: Thursday 10:00am ~ 11:30am

#### **CHANGES TO SYLLABUS:**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted in D2L and sent via email.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to philosophy, using film as a lens through which philosophical ideas are examined. In discussion and writing, students analyze narrative or documentary films (classic or contemporary) on enduring philosophical questions such as: what is truth; what is right; or what is the meaning of life.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LEARNING DOMAIN DESCRIPTION:**

DC 227 Film Philosophy is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Philosophical Inquiry domain. Philosophical Inquiry examines the most basic questions of human existence. It considers the fundamental beliefs and convictions that shape what it means to be human, our relationships with others, and the nature of the world itself. Its aim is to develop our critical, imaginative, and analytical abilities, and it enables students to understand various kinds of important intellectual problems from a variety of perspectives and approaches, interpret and assess historical and contemporary texts concerned with these issues, and articulate reasoned judgments about these most basic concerns of human life. Philosophical inquiry is thus committed to the task of reflecting on the ideas and events that make up the cultures, societies, and traditions within which we live and to enhancing our understanding of their significance and complexity. Courses in Philosophical Inquiry support the mission of the Liberal Studies Program by fostering deeper understanding and appreciation of the worlds of meaning and of value and of the enterprise of intellectual inquiry and social dialogue.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion this course, students will be able to:

- Address, critically think about, and analyze philosophical questions and problems.
- Evaluate philosophical questions, issues and/or problems using informed judgment.

- Analyze and interpret the methods used by philosophers in addressing philosophical questions, issues, and/or problems.
- Engage with philosophical topics and figures in their historical context.
- Confront and interpret primary texts from the philosophical tradition.
- Write an analytic essay treating a philosophical question, issue and/or problem that forwards an identifiable thesis, argument, and conclusion.

#### **HOW LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE MET:**

- Through the assignment of screenings of multiple films, students will be provided common texts from which they can address, critically think about, and analyze philosophical questions and problems.
- Through the assignment of multiple response papers, students will evaluate philosophical questions, issues and/or problems using informed judgment. In these papers, students will analyze and interpret the methods used by philosophers in addressing philosophical questions, issues, and/or problems.
- Through the assignment of readings from the required textbook, students will engage with philosophical topics and figures in their historical context.
- Through the assignment of excerpts from primary texts, students will confront and interpret primary texts from the philosophical tradition.
- Through the assignment of a final paper, students will write an analytic essay treating a philosophical question, issue and/or problem that forward an identifiable thesis, argument, and conclusion.

#### **WRITING EXPECTATIONS:**

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 18 pages of writing for this course. This writing may take the form of essays, response papers, reading journals, critical analyses, etc.

#### **HOW WRITING EXPECTATIONS WILL BE MET:**

- Students will write nine, one-page response papers on assigned readings and films, based on discussion question prompts.
- Students will write two, 5 to 7-page midterm and final research papers.
- One response paper will be revised.
- Total pages written for the course equals 18 to 20 pages.

#### **COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:**

- D2L
- Class films can be found on COLTube on D2L

#### **TEXTBOOKS AND PRINTED RESOURCES:**

Litch, Mary. *Philosophy Through Film*. Routledge, 3rd edition, 2015.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

IN-CLASS STUDENTS: Class attendance is mandatory. One unexcused absence will be allowed

without penalty. Every unexcused absence thereafter will result in a 5% deduction of your final grade. Absences may be excused with proper documentation (doctor's note, funeral notice for death in the family, etc.).

ONLINE STUDENTS: Class "attendance" is mandatory, and verified through posting on the discussion board. If you answer the discussion board question in your paper, but forget to post on the discussion board, I will mark you absent. The point of the discussion board is to allow your classmates to read your answer, and reply to it (their class participation grades depend on it). One absence (missing post) will be allowed without penalty. Every unexcused absence thereafter will result in a 5% deduction of your final grade. Absences may be excused with proper documentation (doctor's note, funeral notice for death in the family, etc.).

#### **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

IN CLASS STUDENTS: Students will receive one final class participation grade. Students must make at least one comment in every class. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a 1% deduction of your final grade.

ONLINE STUDENTS: Students will receive one final class participation grade. Students must reply at least once to a classmate's post on the discussion board in every week. The reply doesn't need to be long – a sentence or two long. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a 1% deduction of your final grade.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

##### **1. Discussion Question Response Papers (total 9 papers)**

After each film, a set of discussion questions will be posted under Dropbox on D2L. Write a minimum one-page (250 words total for ALL questions, and I will check word count) response paper, and upload the .doc or .pdf to D2L. There will be a total of nine of these assignments in the course. One assignment could be submitted for revision.

FOR ONLINE STUDENTS ONLY: In addition to answering all the questions in your response papers, post answers to designated discussion questions on the Discussion Board on D2L. Only questions designated in each assignment will be required to post.

Discussion question responses are due on the class AFTER they are assigned.

##### **2. Midterm Paper & Final Paper**

In lieu of the midterm and the final, you will write a research paper, 5-7 pages long. Citations and a short bibliography must be included for each paper.

- Midterm Topic: Choose a topic from Class 1 ~ Class 5.  
Final Paper Topic: Choose a topic from Class 6 ~ Class 10.
- Research the primary or non-textbook secondary sources that articulate this position (you cannot use the textbook as a source, and you cannot use online only sources, like Wikipedia).
- Find any two films that deal with or illustrate the topic you choose. You cannot use a film that was shown in class or is discussed in the textbook.

- Briefly describe the chosen topic (be sure to cite primary and non-textbook secondary sources to support your summary).
- Analyze the two films and describe how the film illustrates or deals with the topic.

#### **GRADING:**

Grading Scale

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62

Discussion Questions Response Papers: 45% (5% x 9 papers)

Class Attendance: 10%

Class Participation: 10%

Midterm Paper: 15%

Final Paper: 20%

Total: 100%

#### **PERMISSION TO READ PAPERS:**

One of the main ways we discuss class topics is through the reading of student papers. If you DO NOT want your name displayed while your paper is read in class, e-mail me immediately. If you do not e-mail me, I will assume that you are granting permission for your paper to be read and discussed in class. NEVER INCLUDE YOUR ID NUMBER IN YOUR PAPERS.

#### **CLASS SCHEDULE & COURSE OUTLINE:**

##### **Jan. 4 – Class 1**

Topic: Course Introduction and “What is Film Philosophy?”

Screen in class: *Double Life of Veronique* (Kieslowski, 1991)

##### **Jan. 11 – Class 2**

Topic: “What is truth?”

Screen: *Memento* (Nolan, 2000)

Read: Litch, Ch. 1, and “Allegory of the Cave” from *The Republic* under “Readings from Primary Sources”.

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 1 – *Double Life of Veronique*

##### **Jan. 18 – Class 3**

Topic: Personal Identity: What is the Self?”

Screen: *Moon* (Jones, 2009)

Read: Litch, Ch. 3, and John Locke, excerpts from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 2 – *Memento*

##### **Jan. 25 – Class 4**

Topic: Personhood, or “What is a Person?”

Screen: *Blade Runner* (Scott, 1982)

Read: Litch, Ch. 4, and Alan Turing, excerpts from *Computing Machinery and Intelligence*

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 3 – *Moon*

##### **Feb. 1 – Class 5**

Topic: Free will and Determinism

Screen: *Truman Show* (Weir, 1998)

Read: Litch, Ch. 5 and David Hume, excerpts from *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 4 – *Brazil*

### **Feb. 8 – Class 6**

Topic: Ethics, or “What is right or wrong?”

Screen: *Clockwork Orange* (Kubrick, 1971)

Read: Litch, Ch. 6, and Immanuel Kant, excerpts from *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals* and John Stuart Mill, excerpts from *Utilitarianism*

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 5 – *Truman Show*

### **MIDTERM PAPER**

### **Feb. 15 – Class 7**

Topic: Political Philosophy

Read: Litch, Ch. 7 and John Stuart Mill, excerpts from *On Liberty*, Thomas Hobbes, excerpts from *Leviathan*

Screen: *The Candidate* (Ritchie, 1972)

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 6 – *Clockwork Orange*

### **Feb. 22 – Class 8**

Topic: The Problem of Evil

Read: Litch, Ch. 8 and Augustine, excerpts from *On Free Choice of the Will*

Screen in class: *Apocalypse Now* (Coppola, 1979)

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 7 – *The Candidate*

### **Mar. 1 – Class 9**

Topic: Existentialism

Read: Litch, Chapter 9 and Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus* and Jean-Paul Sartre, excerpts from *Existentialism is a Humanism*

Screen: *All That Jazz* (Fosse, 1979)

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 8 – *Apocalypse Now*

### **Mar. 8 – Class 10**

Topic: Taoism

Screen: *Life on a String* (Chen, 1991)

Assignment: Discussion Question Response Paper 9 – *All That Jazz*

### **Mar. 15**

No class

Assignment: FINAL PAPER

## **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 [CampusConnect](#).

**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](http://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: Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd. Phone number: (312)362-8002 | Fax: (312)362-6544 | TTY: (773)325-7296

**CELL PHONE/COMPUTER/ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY:**

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

If you are using any personal or school electronic equipment during class for anything other than class-related work, *you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that class.*