

DePaul University
School of Cinema and Interactive Media

DC 222 601/610: Hollywood Film Structures

Th, 1:30-4:45 PM, 14 East Jackson RM 801 & Online

Professor Brad Riddell: briddell@cim.depaul.edu, 312-362-5212

Office Hours: T, 10AM-1 PM, 5:00-5:30 PM in CDM 506 and by appointment.

Description:

This course provides critical analysis of successful films and their narrative structures. Films of various genres and styles will be examined, as will multiple structural approaches to creating cinematic narratives.

Objectives:

- understand the relationship between character and story structure
- grasp the differences and similarities between story structure systems
- explore the manner in which story structure is influenced by genre
- develop a cinematic vocabulary with which to discuss films critically

Outcomes:

Four quizzes and one essay will assess and develop student learning across these objectives.

Schedule:

Week 1: Course intro + "What is a movie?" + Tools, terms and Clips.

Character and Three-Act Structure

Week 2: *Lars and the Real Girl*

Week 3: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

The Hero's Journey

Week 4: *Gladiator*

ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

Week 5: *Moon*

The Sequence Approach

Week 6: *Mean Girls*

ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE

Week 7: *Let Me In*

Save the Cat

Week 8: *Thelma and Louise*

ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE

Alternative Narrative

Week 9: *Do The Right Thing*

ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE

Week 10: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

Finals Week:

ASSIGNMENT 5 DUE

Procedures:

Each class involves a screening followed by a lecture and group discussion. Lectures and films are posted on CoTube. Required reading is posted on D2L.

Grading:

ASSIGNMENTS: Five assignments will be completed outside of class, and each is worth 20% of your grade. At least two of the assignments will involve films not screened during class. Each assignment will be posted on D2L after class the week before it is due, and must be completed and posted before the next class. Late work will not be accepted without an excuse that I determine to be legitimate, and advance notification from you that it will be late.

A = 95 C+ = 78

A- = 92 C = 75

B+ = 88 C- = 70

B = 85 D+ = 69

B- = 80 D = 65 These values are minimums for each grade.

Laptops/Cell Phones:

If your computer and the mind attached to it drift away from class, and I so much as suspect you of online activities not related to the task at hand, you will lose laptop privileges for the entire semester. Phones must be silenced and stowed.

Integrity:

Plagiarism will earn you an immediate F in this course. Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the *Student Handbook* or by visiting <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>.

Disabilities:

Students who feel that they need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their needs as soon as possible.

Alterations:

The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus at any time. Students will be apprised of any and all changes with clear instructions should they occur.