

DC222 Classic Hollywood Film Structure

Spring Quarter 2019

Tuesdays 1:30-4:45pm, CDM708

Online section 610

Instructor: Kevin Endres

Office: Student Center 332 (Lincoln Park)

Office hours: 5:00-6:30pm Mondays (BlueStar appointments please)

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Course Description — Critical analysis of successful Hollywood films and their narrative structures. Films of various genres and eras will be examined. Students will learn how to recognize classical three-act structure in finished films and scripts. Students will develop a cinematic language with which to discuss films as well as a toolbox of techniques to use when making films. Key story concepts to be discussed include: protagonist, antagonist, want versus need, elements of the future, poetic justice, planting and payoff, catalyst, climax, and Aristotelian terminology.

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.

Learning Outcomes — After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- identify the relationship between character development and story structure
- apply *Three Act Structure*, *Hero's Journey*, and *Sequence Approach* paradigms
- analyze the manner in which story structure is influenced by genre
- discuss nontraditional narratives as a counterpoint to “classic” structure
- employ a vocabulary of cinematic terms

Learning outcomes will be achieved through in-class discussions and exercises. Outcomes will also be achieved by writing assignments that will require students to think critically and analyze a film as well as quizzes. Students are expected to write a minimum of 6 pages this quarter in accordance with the Arts and Literature domain requirement.

Textbook — There is no required textbook for this class. All readings will be made available through D2L.

Online Course Management System — We will use D2L as our online course management system. You can log in at <<https://d2l.depaul.edu>>. Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, important information, and news will be posted there. Please check D2L regularly.

If you do not turn something in through D2L, *you will not get credit*. ***Do not email me any homework assignments or other course documents.***

Film screenings

All films that we screen will be posted on Panopto, DePaul's video management system. You can access Panopto via the link on the Content page of D2L. You may watch the films in their entirety there after logging in with your CampusConnect credentials. You are welcome to find the films at the library, streaming services, or elsewhere if desired.

If you are having trouble viewing the films on Panopto, it is your responsibility to reach out to me or DePaul's Panopto support team at <panoptoadmin@depaul.edu>.

Grading

Attendance and Participation 15%

Weekly response papers 50%

Midterm quiz 15%

Final paper 20%

Grade scale:

93 - 100: A

90 - 92: A -

87 - 89: B +

83 - 86: B

80 - 82: B -

77 - 79: C +

73 - 76: C

70 - 72: C -

67 - 69: D +

60 - 66: D

For final grades I follow standard rounding practice: .5 and above rounds up, .4 and below rounds down.

Standards for Achievement:

Grade A:

Student performs in an outstanding way. Student exhibits achievement and craftsmanship in all work. Criteria are exceeded and student challenges him/herself in project development. Student exhibits commitment to expanding ideas, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade B:

Student performs beyond the requirement of the project. Student exhibits above average progress and craftsmanship. A criterion is exceeded. Student exhibits above average interest in expanding ideas, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade C:

Criteria of assignment are met, and all requirements are fulfilled. Student shows average quality work and minimum time and effort on projects. Student shows moderate interest.

Grade D:

Student performance is uneven and below average. Requirements for projects are only partially fulfilled. Minimal interest is shown and attendance, participation and involvement are inadequate.

Grade F

Student fails to meet minimum course requirements and shows no interest. Levels of participation and craftsmanship are extremely poor. Student's attendance is inadequate.

Writing Help — I *strongly* encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-based Learning (aka The Writing Center). It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your assignments are of the highest quality. To learn more about the services they offer, visit their website:

<http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/index.html>

Assignments and Exercises – Class work and assignments must be handed in on time. I will not accept late work. All assignments for the class are due at 1:00pm on the day of class. If you come in late with an assignment it will not be accepted. Submission folders on D2L close automatically so you will not be able to turn work in late.

I do not accept any assignments by email. Submitting to D2L is the only way to get credit for your work.

While the weekly response papers are not as formal as your typical college essay, they should still be thoughtful and thorough engagements with the film screenings and the readings. Your weekly response papers make up—by far—the largest portion of your grade.

Online Section Only — This information pertains only to the online students. If you attend this course in person, please disregard.

While the online section of this course is asynchronous, it is NOT self paced. That means you can watch the lecture recordings/films and complete assignments/readings at your preferred times, but you MUST stay current with the weekly schedule for the course. Deadlines for the online section are the same as deadlines for the in-person section.

To make up the Attendance and Participation portion of your grade (15%), you will turn in your notes from the lectures. Thus you are required to watch every lecture recording and to take notes, though whether you do it by hand or electronically is up to you. If you take notes by hand just upload images of your notes (phone quality images are fine). Your notes cannot simply be a transcription of the lecture slides. You must incorporate points from the spoken lecture to get full credit.

****Online students must send me an email by 4/9 at 1:00pm telling me your favorite movie and your favorite guilty pleasure movie. To save you some scrolling my email is kendres@depaul.edu. Do it right now before you forget. This email is proof that you've read the syllabus and will count for one point of your Attendance and Participation grade.****

General Notes:

- All lecture slides will be posted to D2L as PDFs on the Content page. Clips and other media files used in class will be made available for download there too.
- Any supplemental readings will be available on D2L on the Content page under the week they are assigned.

Last day to withdraw (without penalty): 4/12

Last day to withdraw (with penalty): 5/17

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 — 4/2

Course introduction, Story, Conflict

Screening: *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse*

Homework: D2L movie survey

Week 2 — 4/9

Three Act Structure

Screening: *Mean Girls?* TBD

Homework: Response 1

Week 3 — 4/16

Three Act Structure pt. 2

Screening: *Lars and the Real Girl*? TBD

Week 4 — 4/23

The Hero's Journey

Screening: *Gladiator*? TBD

Homework: Response 2

Week 5 — 4/30

The Hero's Journey pt. 2

Screening: *Arrival*? TBD

Homework: Midterm Quiz

Week 6 — 5/7

Ensemble Films

Screening: *Do the Right Thing*

Homework: Response 3

Week 7 — 5/14

Sequences

Screening: *Get Out*

Homework: Response 4

Week 8 — 5/21

Save the Cat

Screening: *Her*? TBD

Homework: Response 5

Week 9 — 5/28

Alternative Narratives

Screening: *Coherence*? TBD

Homework: Response 6

Week 10 — 6/4

Alternative Narratives pt. 2

Screening: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*? TBD

Finals week — No class

Due: Final paper due 6/12 at 1:00pm

****Note**:** Course content, assignments, screenings, and due dates are subject to change at any time. Any changes will be communicated clearly in class, on D2L, or by email. As such, it is important for you to read emails and come to class to stay apprised of any changes to the syllabus. The most current version of the syllabus will always be available via D2L.

My policies

Attendance — Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Anyone who misses 3 classes will automatically drop a whole letter grade. Anyone who misses 4 classes will automatically fail.

If you are more than 15 minutes late or if you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will be considered absent. I take attendance at the beginning of every class, **so if you come in late**, please let me know after class otherwise you will be accidentally marked absent.

If you are legitimately sick however, I mean really sick, please stay home. We don't want your evil germs. Please email me if you are going to miss class and make arrangements to have the absence documented by the Dean of Students Office.

Sleeping — Do not sleep in class. Just don't do it. If you sleep for more than 15 minutes you will be considered absent.

Participation — Do participate in class. Just do it. We'll all have more fun if everyone contributes to the conversations.

We are a community. We're all here to support each other. Remember, this is your class, you will get out of it what you put into it. This is not a class in which to sit back and let others do the talking.

Respect — Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs. We do not have to agree on everything but we should be able to discuss anything civilly. This is not the comments section of YouTube.

Please also respect the films we'll watch, many of which have mature themes and situations. During screenings, please do not talk and keep all comments/observations to yourself.

Email — The best way to contact me is through email. I usually respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. Emails received Saturdays and Sundays may not be returned until Monday.

Computer and cell phone use — Computers, cell phones, and tablets may NOT be used during class. If you have a documented learning need or disability that requires

you to use a laptop, exceptions will be made. Otherwise, no screens in class. Computer or cell phone use will affect your participation grade.

All phones must be kept *silent*. Please do not have a phone that is constantly buzzing in your backpack.

I understand that emergencies happen and you may need to be available by phone. If that's the case, please tell me at the start of class if you know you may need to take a call. In any event, if you do need to use your phone during class please step outside quietly and answer your phone in the hallway. *There is no such thing as a text message emergency.*

Grade disputes — Any disputes or challenges to an assignment's grade must be made in writing (email is fine) within 48 hours of receiving your grade. You must state why you are challenging the grade and provide evidence to support your claim. Challenges to your final grade should follow the University's policy on grade challenges, which can be found in the student handbook:

<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/Pages/challenges-to-grades.aspx>

Expectations — Though this is a course designed for non-majors, I expect the same high quality work that faculty in your major do.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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 me.

You will get caught. Don't do it.

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 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.

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

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

Incompletes — Students can read about requesting or receiving an incomplete grade at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

Excused absences — Students can read about the procedures for getting an excused absence at

<http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>