

SCWR120 Film Structure

Fall Quarter 2020

Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:45

Online

Instructor: Ben Kumming

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312-362-6728

Office: Remote

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

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 non-linear 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.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- 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. Weekly responses to films, a mid-term, and a final will assess and develop student learning across these objectives.

Writing Expectations

A minimum of 5 - 7 pages of writing for courses in the Arts and Literature domain (including studio courses) is required. This is accomplished through weekly study questions and a final paper.

College-level writing is expected. College-level writing is coherent, proofread and free of typos and grammatical errors, and is well structured with a clear thesis statement and evidence to support the claim.

If I find your writing below this standard I will require that you have your work reviewed by the Writing Center before submitting. You will need to provide proof

University Center for Writing-based Learning (UCWbL):

Loop Campus: 25 E. Jackson Ave, Lewis room 1600. 312-362-6726
Lincoln Park: 2320 N. Kenmore, SAC room 212. 773-325-4272

I grade your writing based on the following:

1. An argument about the subject is well-articulated.
2. The argument is supported with evidence films and high-quality written sources.
3. The writing is clear and concise.
4. There is evidence of critical thought, research, and engagement on the part of the writer.

Course Management System

We will use D2L extensively for both online and in-person sections of this course. Readings, assignments, discussion boards, and films will be posted via D2L.

Textbooks and Printed Resources

All films and reading material will be distributed via D2L. All assigned items must be read and/or watched prior to the following class session.

Attendance

Attendance to online class sessions is required for all students. An absence includes arriving more than 10 minutes past the start of class or resumption of class after an announced break. Repeated late arrival less than 10 minutes may also be counted as an absence.

To request an excused absence, please complete the Absence Notification Form via the Dean of Students Office [here](#).

Course Policies

Late work will be penalized by 10% per day past the original due date and time. Work later than 7 days will not be accepted and will be marked as 0.

Participation is expected and will be factored into your final grade. Your thoughts and opinions on the subjects we discuss and the films we watch are important, valid, and may be helpful to other students.

Changes to Syllabus

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

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.

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

Assignments

Each week, students will be expected to complete the following:

1. Attend the weekly synchronous class session.
2. Complete any reading and watch any films assigned.
3. Participate in online discussion groups.

Midterm: 2 to 3-page paper analyzing a traditionally structured film.

- Final Project:
 - 4+ page written essay or 3+ minute video essay analyzing non-traditional structure of particular film, or...
 - Creative project including outline of original feature-length script with non-traditional structure, 10 sample pages, and 1-2 page reflection on the intention of the non-traditional structure.

Grading

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+= 89-87, B=86-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-77, C=76-73, C- =72-70, D+=69-67, D=66-63, D-=62-60, F=59-0. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Final course grade is composed as follows:

Attendance and Participation 15%
Discussion Board Posts 20%
Paradigm Worksheets 5%
Midterm 30%
Final 30%