

**DC222 Classic Hollywood Story Structure**

Spring Quarter 2019

Monday 5:45-9:00 and online

Student Center 330Daley 801

**Instructor: Ben Kumming**

bkumming@depaul.edu

312-362-6728

Office: Student Daley LL103

Office Hours: M & T, 4:45-5:30. Others by appt.

**Course Description**

This course provides critical analysis of successful films and their narratives structures. Films of various genres and eras will be examined. Students will learn how to recognize classical three-act structure in the 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.

**Domain Description**

DC222: Classic Hollywood Story 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 while 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, come to better understand the original audience that witnessed a work of art and how its meaning and significance changes over time. These courses focus on works of art or literature, however the process of analysis may include social, cultural, and historical issues. Genres covered in this domain include literature, the visual arts, media arts, the performing arts, music, and theater.

**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
  - Articulate and explain the “content” of that work and/or its methodology of production.
- Comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
  - How does the 14-line sonnet both enable and inhibit its practitioner, for example?
  - What are the generic expectations of a particular form?
  - How does an artist complicate, enrich, or subvert such expectations?
- Assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Contextualize a work of art.

- Do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre.
- 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.

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**

1. Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*
2. Other reading material will be distributed via D2L.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required for students in the in-person section of this class. Attendance is 10% of the course grade.

An absence includes arriving more than 5 minutes past the start of class or resumption of class after an announced break.

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.

Students in the online section will have their participation assessed based on their activity in online discussion forums each week.

### **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](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: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto: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, in-person and online students will be expected to complete the following:

1. Complete any reading and watch any films assigned.
2. Write a short answer to a weekly study question pertaining to readings, films, and previous class content.

In addition, on-line students will be expected to participate in weekly online discussion forums in D2L.

Final: You will write a paper of at least 4 pages analyzing the structure of a film, discussing its artistic impact and creative intention. Films will be selected by students from a list I provide.

### **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:

#### In-person

Attendance and Participation 20%

Screening Response Assignments 50%

Final Paper 30%

#### Online

Discussion Post Participation 20%  
Screening Response Assignments 50%  
Final Paper 30%