

# FILM 022: AMERICAN FILM TO THE 1960S

---

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Tue, 02 Oct 2018 05:29:36 GMT

### Originator

mgladych

### Justification / Rationale

College of the Desert offers two expanding degree programs in film (the ADT in Film, Television and Electronic Media, and the AS in Film Production) where a film history course will be of use. Classes in film studies, such as Introduction to Film, draw consistently high numbers of students, demonstrating both student interest and demand for the subject matter. This course also articulates with the C-ID course description for History of American Cinema to the 1960s.

### Effective Term

Fall 2019

### Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

### Subject

FILM - Film

### Course Number

022

### Full Course Title

American Film to the 1960s

### Short Title

AMERICAN FILM

### Discipline

#### Disciplines List

Broadcasting Technology (Film making/video, media production, radio/TV)

Film Studies

### Modality

Face-to-Face

100% Online

### Catalog Description

Study of the development, history and aesthetics of the Hollywood studio system, as well as its impact on our culture. Study of classic films as forms of popular entertainment and cinematic art, including various Hollywood genres and their independent counterparts. Lectures, discussions and readings are supplemented by the screening and critical analysis of representative films.

### Schedule Description

Introduction to the development, history and aesthetics of Hollywood and American independent films to the 1960s. Study of classic films as entertainment and cinematic art.

### Lecture Units

3

### Lecture Semester Hours

54

### Lab Units

0

### In-class Hours

54

**Out-of-class Hours**

108

**Total Course Units**

3

**Total Semester Hours**

162

**Required Text and Other Instructional Materials****Resource Type**

Book

**Author**

Jon Lewis

**Title**

AMERICAN FILM: A HISTORY

**Edition**

1st

**City**

New York

**Publisher**

W. W. Norton Company

**Year**

2007

**College Level**

Yes

**ISBN #**

978-0393979220

---

**Resource Type**

Book

**Author**

Cynthia Lucia (Editor), Roy Grundmann (Editor), Art Simon (Editor)

**Title**

American Film History: Selected Readings, Origins to 1960

**Edition**

1st

**Publisher**

Wiley-Blackwell

**Year**

2015

**College Level**

Yes

**ISBN #**

978-1118475126

**Resource Type**

Web/Other

**Description**

Subscription to Netflix required for online offering of the course.

**For Text greater than five years old, list rationale:**

Jon Lewis's first edition is the classic text on American film history, and a second edition will be released August 1, 2019.

**Class Size Maximum**

45

**Course Content**

1. Early film production. The great primitives: Muybridge, Edison, Dickson and Porter, D.W. Griffith.
2. The Golden Era of Silent Comedy: Sennett, Chaplin and Keaton
3. The Classic Hollywood Studio and its system of division of labor and the perfection of film cycles or genre films: gangster, musical, western, hard-boiled detective, screwball comedy, action/adventure, family drama, and socially concerned film.
  - a. Key directors: Von Sternberg, Capra, Ford, Hawks, Hitchcock, and Welles.
  - b. Key Concepts: The transition to sound and the impact on the industry; The Hollywood Production Code, Catholic Legion of Decency, the Hays Office, and the Production Code Administration and its moral restrictions. How directors complied with and subverted the PCA. The star system, WWII and the appearance of European talent. Technical concepts: continuity editing, Hollywood montage, film noir, shot/reverse shot, cross cutting, parallel editing, match shot, match action, synchronized and non-synchronized sound, camera movement.
4. Post World War II Hollywood. The decline of the Hollywood system. House Un-American Activities Committee. The Sherman Antitrust Act and the Paramount decision. Independent producers. The advent of the modern era.
  - a. The Fifties. The impact of television and foreign films. 3-D, anamorphic lens and Cinemascope. Method acting versus the epic.
  - b. The Sixties. The rating system and new freedoms of expression. The anti-establishment film. Popular music soundtracks, zoom lens, and rack focusing. New directions: the independent film.

**Course Objectives**

	<b>Objectives</b>
Objective 1	Describe the evolution of the American film from its early beginnings through the Golden Age of Silent cinema, the emergence of sound, the development of the Hollywood studio system, the decline of the studio system and the rise of the Independent film.
Objective 2	Identify the major motion picture studios and describe the type and quality of film each produced, including the studio system's specialization and division of labor.
Objective 3	Categorize and describe major directors, films, genres and actors of Hollywood and independent films.
Objective 4	Identify and define the basic technology of film making, including pre-production, shooting, and post-production.
Objective 5	Describe the historical emergence of the dominant narrative form during the golden era of silent film, through the Classical Hollywood Cinema and the independent film to the 1960's.
Objective 6	Interpret the significance and effect of technological advances, censorship laws, public opinion, studio economics and foreign films on the form and content of Hollywood and American independent cinema in each time period.
Objective 7	Compare and contrast the techniques of filmmaking used to create various genre film styles: the aspects of the shot, the framing, the mise-en-scene, cinematic properties and editing.
Objective 8	Develop a critical analysis of a film by identifying the stylistic techniques and recognizing the symbiotic relationships among the film style, form, and thematic content and intention.
Objective 9	The student will be able to identify and define the technical aspects of production and post-production of a film, and apply them to the analysis of film.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:	
Outcome 1	Compare multiple films in relation to style, narrative, and genre applying film terminology.
Outcome 2	Differentiate significant periods and movements within U.S. film history from its beginnings to the 1960s.
Outcome 3	Apply stylistic film analysis to historical research of U.S. film history from its beginnings to the 1960s.

**Methods of Instruction**

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each instructional method will be used in this course.
Collaborative/Team	Guest speakers from the film industry, film festivals, etc.
Lecture	Enhanced by multi-media presentations.
Journal	Journal of films viewed both in class and outside of class, including evaluation and interpretation.
Experiential	In class demonstrations of various film genres.
Discussion	Small group or pair/share discussions reporting back to the entire class.
Demonstration, Repetition/Practice	Multi-media and film presentations.

**Methods of Evaluation**

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each evaluation method will be used in this course.	Type of Assignment
Presentations/student demonstration observations	Students present to the class an in-depth analysis of the work of a motion picture director, including the impact of specific films, and the critical response to that director's work.	In Class Only
Self-paced testing, Student preparation	Students are required to read a minimum of one textbook chapter per week, and take an online quiz covering each chapter.	Out of Class Only
Written homework	Written analysis, interpretation and evaluation of films viewed each week for a total of at least 14 essays. These weekly essays are submitted online.	Out of Class Only
Mid-term and final evaluations	Written exams, taken and submitted outside of class, based on textbook readings and lecture content.	Out of Class Only
Term or research papers	Written draft outline of class presentation submitted, assessed and revised multiple times.	Out of Class Only
Guided/unguided journals	14 films will be viewed out of class, one per week, and students record in a journal their personal observations, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of each film. These journals will be submitted and evaluated.	Out of Class Only
Mid-term and final evaluations	500-word written critique of a film viewed in class.	In Class Only
Self-paced testing, Student preparation	Students are required take an online quiz covering each chapter of the textbook, a minimum of 14 chapters.	Out of Class Only

**Assignments**
**Other In-class Assignments**

Students present Present to the class an in-depth analysis and interpretation of the work of a motion picture director or producer, including the impact of a specific films, film, and the critical response to that director's work as reflected in the media.

Handwritten journal notebook containing original evaluations of films viewed in class.

**Other Out-of-class Assignments**

Keep a journal of films viewed outside of class.

View short films as homework each week, and relate these films in writing to that week's chapter on various film genres and technical elements of a film (screenwriting, cinematography, film editing, use of color, production design, acting, etc.).

### **Grade Methods**

Letter Grade Only

## **Distance Education Checklist**

### **Instructional Materials and Resources**

**If you use any other technologies in addition to the college LMS, what other technologies will you use and how are you ensuring student data security?**

The course will use the Netflix online streaming service, which is password-protected providing students with robust online security.

**If used, explain how specific materials and resources outside the LMS will be used to enhance student learning.**

The Netflix online streaming service provides students access to an extensive library of critically acclaimed feature motion pictures, including Hollywood classics and recent international films. The SLOs and course objectives of FILM 008 American Film are based on watching, analyzing and interpreting feature motion pictures, so the use of Netflix, already popular among students, is a logical choice.

### **Effective Student/Faculty Contact**

**Which of the following methods of regular, timely, and effective student/faculty contact will be used in this course?**

#### **Within Course Management System:**

Timely feedback and return of student work as specified in the syllabus  
Discussion forums with substantive instructor participation  
Chat room/instant messaging  
Regular virtual office hours  
Private messages  
Online quizzes and examinations  
Video or audio feedback  
Weekly announcements

#### **External to Course Management System:**

Posted audio/video (including YouTube, 3cm mediasolutions, etc.)

**Briefly discuss how the selected strategies above will be used to maintain Regular Effective Contact in the course.**

- Private messaging in Canvas will allow the professor to give personal feedback to each student every week on quizzes and/or homework assignments.
- Regular virtual office hours will give students the opportunity to reach out to the professor with questions or concerns, or to follow up on feedback.
- Online quizzes and examinations include feedback from the professor and the opportunity for student interaction.
- Timely feedback and return of student work lets each student know their progress as each module is mastered.
- Posted YouTube audio/video is part of each homework assignment, and is integrated into the Canvas LMS.
- Weekly Announcements in Canvas alert students to upcoming assignments, discussions and quizzes. Students will be encouraged to configure the Canvas app to give them real-time alerts of posted notifications and due dates.
- Discussion Forums with substantive instructor participation, particularly for the term project, invite students to interact with each other and the instructor in analysis and interpretation of films.

**If interacting with students outside the LMS, explain how additional interactions with students outside the LMS will enhance student learning.**

N/A

## **Online Course Enrollment**

**Maximum enrollment for online sections of this course**

45

## Other Information

### Comparable Transfer Course Information

**University System**

CSU

**Campus**

CSU Fullerton

**Course Number**

CRTV 121F

**Course Title**

The American Film

**Catalog Year**

2015

**Rationale**

This course examines the American motion picture industry as a unique economic, industrial, aesthetic, and cultural institution. Development and changes to the 1960's are examined related to technology; industrial and economic models; aesthetic styles and genres; production, marketing, and distribution processes; and audiences.

---

**University System**

UC

**Campus**

UC Los Angeles

**Course Number**

106A

**Course Title**

American Motion Picture History

**Catalog Year**

2017

**Rationale**

Historical and critical survey, with examples, of American motion picture both as developing art form and as medium of mass communication.

---

**COD GE**

C3 - Arts, Humanities, and Culture

### MIS Course Data

**CIP Code**

09.0701 - Radio and Television.

**TOP Code**

060420 - Television (including combined TV/film/video)

**SAM Code**

C - Clearly Occupational

**Basic Skills Status**

Not Basic Skills

**Prior College Level**

Not applicable

**Cooperative Work Experience**

Not a Coop Course

**Course Classification Status**

Credit Course

**Approved Special Class**

Not special class

**Noncredit Category**

Not Applicable, Credit Course

**Funding Agency Category**

Not Applicable

**Program Status**

Program Applicable

**Transfer Status**

Transferable to UC & CSU

**Allow Audit**

No

**Repeatability**

No

**Materials Fee**

No

**Additional Fees?**

No

**Files Uploaded**

Attach relevant documents (example: Advisory Committee or Department Minutes)

FILM 022 GE\_COD.doc

**Approvals****Curriculum Committee Approval Date**

11/15/2018

**Academic Senate Approval Date**

11/29/2018

**Board of Trustees Approval Date**

12/14/2018

**Chancellor's Office Approval Date**

1/7/2019

**Course Control Number**

CCC000599880

**Programs referencing this course**

Film, Television, and Electronic Media AS-T (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=10>)

Film Production AS Degree (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=69>)