

Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

FLM 160 American Film Effective Term: Spring/Summer 2020

Course Cover

Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department: Communication, Media & Theatre Arts (new)

Discipline: Film Studies (new)

Course Number: 160

Org Number: 11500

Full Course Title: American Film

Transcript Title: American Film

Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No

Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page

Reason for Submission: Course Change

Change Information:

Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.

Course description

Outcomes/Assessment

Rationale: Update of course to reflect current content and add updated assessment plan and tool.

Proposed Start Semester: Fall 2019

Course Description: In this course, students are introduced to the development of American cinema from its beginnings in 1891 to the present. The films viewed are discussed in terms of technique as well as in terms of content. The course relates American cinema to themes in American culture. Students will explore changes in the films and industry influenced by cultural values, legal decisions and emerging technologies. This course was previously HUM 160.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45

Lab: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Clinical: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45

Repeatable for Credit: NO

Grading Methods: Letter Grades

Audit

Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites

General Education

General Education Area 6 - Arts and Humanities

Assoc in Applied Sci - Area 6

Assoc in Science - Area 6

Assoc in Arts - Area 6

Michigan Transfer Agreement - MTA

MTA Humanities

Request Course Transfer

Proposed For:

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify historical changes in American film industries' style, technology and content.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Module quizzes and outcome-related questions on the final exam

Assessment Date: Fall 2021

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All

How the assessment will be scored: Tests are scored using an answer key.

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty and course instructor(s) will score and analyze the data.

2. Identify the contributions of the pioneers of early American film.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Module quizzes and outcome-related questions on the final exam

Assessment Date: Fall 2021

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All

How the assessment will be scored: Tests are scored using an answer key.

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty and course instructor(s) will score and analyze the data.

3. Recognize the influence of American culture on film and film's influence on American culture.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Module quizzes and outcome-related questions on the final exam

Assessment Date: Fall 2021

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All

How the assessment will be scored: Tests are scored using an answer key.

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty and course instructor(s) will score and analyze the data.

4. Identify the factors that cause the American film industry to become the dominant film producers.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Module quizzes and outcome-related questions on the final exam

Assessment Date: Fall 2021

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All

How the assessment will be scored: Tests are scored using an answer key.

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty and course instructor(s) will score and analyze the data.

5. Identify the factors that coalesced to create specific film genres.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Module quizzes and outcome-related questions on the final exam

Assessment Date: Fall 2021

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All

How the assessment will be scored: Tests are scored using an answer key.

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty and course instructor(s) will score and analyze the data.

Course Objectives

1. Discuss the pervasive influence film has had within our society and how society influences film.
2. Discuss the film industry as a business, cultural product and commodity, as well as the machinery of film making.
3. State the background and variety of events, circumstances and individuals which coalesced into the birth and early years of film, including advancements in photography, and the efforts of Edison, Eastman and the Lumière Brothers.
4. Discuss the natural phenomenon, "phi" effect, or persistence of vision which makes film viewing possible.
5. Discuss the eventual expansion into film narratives and commercial endeavors as well as emerging competitors.
6. Recognize the advancement in production techniques through film viewing.
7. Recognize the worldwide effect of D. W. Griffith upon cinema, citing the influence of Griffith's background in his film content. Identify and analyze the scope and production techniques used in The Birth of a Nation and describe the controversy surrounding the making of the film.
8. Analyze and describe the movies' second decade (1908-1919), outlining the effect of WWI on the film industry.
9. Discuss the downfall of the Trust Companies as well as screen credits and how it affected the film industry.
10. Recognize the creation of sound for the movies.
11. Identify the effect that newly created publicity departments had upon film content.
12. Describe early film censorship and the creation of the Hays office.
13. Recognize the background of Charlie Chaplin/Mack Sennett, and discuss the differences between Sennett's purely physical comedy and Chaplin's more subtle style.
14. Describe the way in which films effectively distill many of the urges and values of American society as a whole in the 1920s.
15. Describe the content of films during the American Studio Years, and describe the events leading up to the huge studios.
16. Describe the studio system of production and the tension between film art and film business.
17. Define film cycles and cinematic conventions.
18. Describe John Ford's traditional and sentimental values and his influence on American film.

19. Identify and analyze the film Citizen Kane, its technical innovations, structural complexity and its complicated handling of the narrative point-of-view.
20. Describe the years following WWII, and recognize the effect of the court decision U.S. vs. Paramount Pictures, 1948.
21. Identify the devastating effect that television has on the film industry and what Hollywood does to fight back.
22. Describe how the various studios are affected, as well as the creation of Screen Gems, the first television division from a film studio.
23. Analyze the collapse of the studio system.
24. Identify the Supreme Court decision of 1951 declaring movies a part of the nation's "press" and analyze its ramifications.
25. Identify how films of the 50's are analyzed and the differences between the clear values on their narrative surfaces and the more complicated social questions discussed beneath the surface.
26. Describe the emergence of the Film Noir genre.
27. Define the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and its effect on the film industry, film content, as well as individuals within the film business.
28. Identify and discuss the specific genres of the 1950's as well as outline Hollywood's desperate search to increase revenue throughout the 1950's.
29. Discuss the influence of foreign film makers on Hollywood films.
30. Describe the differences within the foreign films and how they affected the movie public.
31. Identify specific target audiences that Hollywood eventually found.
32. Recognize the events and circumstances which brought about the renaissance of Hollywood.
33. Discuss how the change in the audience, influence from Europe, the Underground Cinema and the discovery of the elitism of the new film audience are all analyzed in order to understand the radical shift in American film.
34. Identify and describe many specific production techniques as well as changes in soundtracks.
35. Analyze the creation of the director's cinema.
36. Compare and discuss directors such as Woody Allen, Stanley Kubrick, Robert Altman, Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese and Brian DePalma.
37. Identify specific style and production techniques for each director shown.
38. Describe the three conflicting critical attitudes concerning the independent American cinema as well as the shift in American Film content after the late 70's.
39. Identify the criteria marking the transition from one American film era to another.
40. Describe changes in the system of marketing and selling films to the public.
41. Identify changes and emerging technologies.
42. Describe dominant cultural values and attitudinal changes within the industry.
43. Outline new trends within the industry.
44. Address the influence that cable television, video rental and emerging technologies are having on the industry.
45. Summarize the main points and significant events in American Film.

New Resources for Course

Course Textbooks/Resources

[Textbooks](#)
[Manuals](#)
[Periodicals](#)
[Software](#)

Equipment/Facilities

Reviewer

Action

Date

Faculty Preparer:

*Dan Kier**Faculty Preparer**Sep 16, 2019***Department Chair/Area Director:***Allison Fournier**Recommend Approval**Sep 16, 2019***Dean:***Scott Britten**Recommend Approval**Sep 18, 2019***Curriculum Committee Chair:***Lisa Veasey**Recommend Approval**Oct 17, 2019***Assessment Committee Chair:***Shawn Deron**Recommend Approval**Oct 18, 2019***Vice President for Instruction:***Kimberly Hurns**Approve**Oct 18, 2019*