

Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: ENGL233

Year: 2024-2025

Course Title: Understanding Film

Credit Hours: 3

I. Course Description: Drawing upon both American and International films, classic and independent selections, Understanding Film delves into some of the most beautiful and powerful films made to date. This course will introduce the impact of cinematic storytelling using a diversity of directors, subject matter, and narrative voices. Students watch and analyze films, and learn to look deeper into the ways in which film techniques work together to create the layers of meaning that contribute to film's power as a medium. ENGL233 fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement in Humanities and DEISJ. Prerequisites: prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL101. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall and spring semesters.

II. Additional Course Information:

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| 1. This course is designed for students in all academic disciplines. |
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III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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| 1. Analyze film employing appropriate cinematic vocabulary and conventions |
| 2. Interpret a film and connect its themes to identity and the United Nations sustainability goals |
| 3. Identify how cinema has responded to inequity and issues of sustainability |

IV. Tompkins Cortland Institutional Learning Outcomes; Program Learning Outcomes; SUNY General Education Competencies and Knowledge and Skills Areas

Tompkins Cortland ILOs

Complete this section for "service" courses only (e.g., courses that are required of all students; courses that are not program specific but satisfy liberal arts requirements; or commonly used in multiple academic programs to meet non-program-specific requirements). Check only Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) that are meaningfully developed and assessed in this course. For each ILO chosen, include the SLO to which it aligns.

Students will:

- ☐ Communicate effectively, in oral and written forms, taking into consideration audience and purpose.
- ☐ Apply principles and methods of scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning appropriate to their discipline.
- ☐ Use information, critical thinking, and the creative process to solve problems and reach conclusions.
- ☐ Use technology appropriate to their discipline.

☒ Describe the ways in which social, economic, or environmental sustainability depends on their own and the collective contributions of a diversity of ideas and people.

SLO#2. identify how cinema has responded to inequity and issues of sustainability.

Program Learning Outcomes

Complete this section for program-specific courses (e.g., those that share the same discipline code as the academic program or satisfy requirements in related programs). List the academic program(s) here and note which Student Learning Outcomes align to specific Programmatic Learning Outcomes. Please see the MCS Instructions for more details.

Specify the Academic Program:

SUNY General Education Competencies

If this course assesses a SUNY GEN ED Competency, check all that apply and indicate which course outcome(s) address each checked item:

☐ CRITICAL THINKING & REASONING- Students will:

- a. clearly articulate an issue or problem;
- b. identify, analyze, and evaluate ideas, data, and arguments as they occur in their own or others' work; acknowledge limitations such as perspective and bias; and
- c. develop well-reasoned (logical) arguments to form judgments and/or draw conclusions.

Course SLO(s):

☐ INFORMATION LITERACY - Students will:

- a. locate information effectively using tools appropriate to their need and discipline; evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias; and demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.

Course SLO(s):

☒ SUNY GENERAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AREA(s): Humanities

For courses that are approved to meet one (or more) of the ten SUNY General Education Knowledge and Skills Areas, indicate which area the course fulfills, and which outcome(s) are aligned with the SUNY outcomes for that area:

Students will

- demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of at least one of the humanities; and

ENGL SLO#1: identify the conventions and methods of cinematic elements.

Students will

- recognize and analyze nuance and complexity of meaning through critical reflections on text, visual images, or artifacts.

ENGL SLO#2: interpret a film and connect its themes to identity and the United Nations sustainability goals

☒ SUNY GENERAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AREA(s): DEISJ

For courses that are approved to meet one (or more) of the ten SUNY General Education Knowledge and Skills Areas, indicate which area the course fulfills, and which outcome(s) are aligned with the SUNY outcomes for that area:

Students will

- describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender;
- ENGL SLO#2: interpret a film and connect its themes to identity and the United Nations sustainability goals

Students will

- analyze the role that complex networks of social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity; and
- ENGL SLO#3: Identify how cinema has responded to inequity and issues of sustainability

Students will

- apply the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomous participation to past, current, or future social justice action.
- ENGL SLO#3: Identify how cinema has responded to inequity and issues of sustainability

☐ This course does not address any of the above Tompkins Cortland ILOs, PLOs, or SUNY General Education Competencies or Knowledge and Skills Areas.

V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. Understand and utilize the appropriate terminology of cinematic technique.
2. Explore the impact of storytelling using a diversity of directors, subject matter, and narrative voice.
3. Apply cinematic concepts to a film and articulate a close and careful examination of cinematic elements.
4. Become familiar with the characteristics of a variety of cinematic genres.
5.

VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
1. Short responses and/or Discussion	25-35%
2. Presentations	0-15%
3. Research Projects and/or Essays	25-35%
4. Attendance and Active Participation/Discussion	10-20%
5. Tests or Quizzes	0-10%

VII. Texts – ☐ Required ☒ Recommended ☐ Used for more than one course (list courses)

High school instructors may consult with staff in the CollegeNow office for additional information and guidance.

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1. Anatomy of Film by Bernard K. Dick



Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Film Genre Reader IV by Barry Keith Grant

2. Film Art: An Introduction 10th Edition
by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson

3. World Cinema: A Critical Introduction 1st Edition
by Shekhar Deshpande and Meta Mazaj

4. The Film Experience: An Introduction Sixth Edition
by Timothy Corrigan and Patricia White

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

IX. Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual:

Electronic:

Other:

Attendance Policy: To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.

Services for Students with Disabilities: It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for academic adjustments. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.

Academic Integrity: Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of their academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms.

Any written work submitted by a student must be their own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, they must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in

misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.

Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.