

WESTERN UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES, FALL/WINTER 2021-22
INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES - FILM 1022-002
SCREENING: * VIRTUAL SCREENING -- SEE COURSE SITE ON OWL *****
CLASS: Wednesday 3:30-4:30 SH 3345

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Section 22 (Th 11:30; SH-3307)	TA: Ryan Shea	Email: rshea6@uwo.ca
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Section 24 (Th 2:30; PAB-34)	TA: Ray Reid	Email: rreid82@uwo.ca
Section 25 (Th 10:30; SH-3307)	TA: Mike Bodkin	Email: michael.bodkin@huron.uwo.ca

You are responsible for *all* the following information. Please read it completely and carefully:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A year-long introduction to Film Studies, this course will explore the concepts of film narration and film style, while remaining attentive to the various ways in which cinema always also involves an interaction with specific audiences and larger social structures. We will pay particular attention to the construction of film images, systems of film editing, film sound, and the varied modes of organizing these core elements (narrative, non-narrative, etc.). We will also pay particular attention to representations of race, ethnicity, gender, and the natural environment in the films. Throughout the course, we will closely examine the construction of a variety of film forms and styles—including the classical Hollywood style, New Wave cinemas, experimental films, and contemporary independent and global cinemas. The second term of the course will incorporate key issues in film studies, including theories of realism, spectatorship, authorship and genre.

COURSE AIMS

This course has been designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the study of film. In addition to teaching students the basic vocabulary of film studies, it is intended to provide an overview of the variety of films that have been and are being made, the different approaches to film (e.g., film as art, film as industry, film as ideology), and specific ways of grouping films in critical practice (e.g., historically, by genre, nation, style, authorship, or mode of production). The course will also introduce students to critical methodologies for the close analysis of audiovisual texts and to ways of writing about film.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you will have a solid grounding in the study of cinema: you will have learned the basic vocabulary of the discipline and the elements of film form and style; you will have been introduced to key figures, films, movements, and theories of the Classic Hollywood and other cinemas, and you will have begun to learn to read and write critical analyses of film.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Bordwell, David, and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 12th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2019). This will be referred to in the syllabus as *Film Art*. You can use either the paper or electronic version of the textbook, both available through the bookstore.
2. In addition to the textbook, articles are assigned as required reading in several weeks, particularly in the winter term. All articles will be posted along with the weekly lecture outlines under the Resources folder in Owl. I have also posted a bibliography of the readings on the Syllabus page.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN

Fall Term (30%)	Assignment	Due Date	Length	Value
	Attendance and Participation	every class		5%
	Quizzes	weekly		5%
	Midterm Test	October 27	50 minutes	10%
	Shot Analysis	December 2	1000-1250 words	10%
Winter Term (35%)				
	Attendance and Participation	every class		5%
	Quizzes (in section)	weekly		5%
	Midterm Test	January 26	50 minutes	10%
	Sequence Analysis	March 25	1500-1800 words	15%
Final Exam (35%)		TBA	3 hours	35%

COURSE CONTENT

The "Resources" link on the left side of the Home Page in Owl contains folders for each week with links to the film(s), screening notes, lecture slides (posted after the lecture), readings, and other materials for that week. Please note *these materials are copyrighted* and cannot be shared with people outside the class.

Electronic devices

You will need a laptop, a tablet, a smart phone, or a clicker for the in-class polls and quizzes. The "iClicker" link on the left side of the Home Page in Owl links to the iClicker Student web site. Please set up an account and install the app on your electronic device before the first class. If you do not have a laptop, tablet, or smart phone that can run this software please set up an account and purchase a physical clicker at the campus bookstore. For more information, [see this website](#). *Electronic devices must not be used for random web surfing, social networking, game playing, or any other activity unrelated to the class.*

Recording Lectures and Tutorials

Those students who, because of a learning disability or physical impairment, need to record the lectures must get permission from the professors through [Student Accessibility Services](#). Students may *not* record the lectures or tutorials with the idea of posting them to YouTube, Facebook, or any other website. Lectures are

not in the public domain but are each instructor's intellectual property. Furthermore, we do not want anyone to refrain from making a point or comment, asking a question, or engaging in discussion because they are worried that they might end up the latest viral sensation.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Senate regulations state: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course".

All screenings in this class are *virtual*: the film will be linked to from the Resources folder for each week on Owl. Students are expected to watch *all* the films, including films you have already seen, and attend *all* lectures, having completed the readings assigned for that week. Attendance will be taken through iClicker at the beginning of each lecture. Tutorial attendance is also *mandatory* and will comprise a large part of the Attendance / Participation mark (10% of your final grade). Students who miss more than 4 tutorials per term (1/3 of the course) without appropriate notification will be barred from the final exam and will fail the course.

Taking notes during lectures is highly recommended. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. Your professor and TAs will never share their own notes with students. Chatting, noise of any kind, surfing the web on your laptop, Facebooking, etc. will NOT be tolerated in lectures or tutorials. Rude and/or disruptive students will be asked to leave or, in extreme cases, barred from the course. Please arrive on time.

While we understand that not all students are comfortable talking in class, we encourage all students to engage in tutorial discussions and to ask questions. Participating actively enhances your experience in any class and facilitates greater learning. If you feel unable to engage in person, speak with your TA about alternative forms of participation.

This is a large lecture course, and we will all be masked. Polls will be run regularly in class to check that I'm getting my point across. They will also be used to engage you in questions that arise in the course of the lecture. There will also be a feedback poll at the end of every class in case there's something you want to ask. All these polls will be anonymous in class, but the software will check that you are contributing and that will become part of your participation grade.

QUIZZES, TESTS, AND FINAL EXAMINATION

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given each week at the beginning of class. These tests will cover the content of the previous week's class as well as the screening and readings for the current week. Questions will be multiple choice. You must be on time; no make-ups for missed quizzes will be granted without excused absences. Your two lowest-scoring quizzes each term will be dropped from your score.

October Test

This 50-minute midterm test will cover all the material covered in Weeks 1 to 7. The test will comprise two parts: Part 1: 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions: 40 marks; Part 2: two out of four paragraph questions: 60 marks. Total: 100 marks, worth 10% of the final grade. We will return your grade before November 12, the last day to withdraw from the class without penalty.

January Test

The 50-minute midterm test will test cover all the material covered from Weeks 10 to 16 and comprise two parts: PART 1: 20 multiple choice or true/false questions: 40 marks; PART 2: two out of four paragraph questions: 60 marks. Total: 100 marks, worth 10% of the final grade.

Final Examination

The 3-hour final exam will test your knowledge and understanding of the material covered throughout the course and comprise four parts: PART 1 – multiple choice or true/false questions: 20 marks; PART 2 – two out of at least five paragraph questions on the course readings assigned in the winter term: 20 marks; PART 3 – three out of at least five paragraph questions on material covered since the start of the course: 30 marks; PART 4 - one out of at least three essay topics discussing three films from the course: 30 marks. Students may *not* write on any film or issue/topic more than once in Parts 2, 3, and 4. Total: 100 marks, worth 35% of the final grade. Final exams are not returned to the students.

ASSIGNMENTS

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of good writing skills. Students should make good use of a writing handbook and, if necessary, the [Writing Support Centre](#) (WSC), which is part of the [Student Development Centre](#) (SDC), located in the UCC. The WSC offer drop-in and online services, as well as workshops and seminars. If you have difficulties with the English language or if you have a learning, reading, or writing disability, please speak to me immediately and contact the SDC.

Topics

The requirements for the assignments will be posted in the Assignments folder in Owl.

Formatting and Citations

The assignments are not to be researched; that is, you are not to research what others have written about the film on which you are writing. However, students may need background information—historical or cultural information—to advance their arguments. If such information is required, all sources must be cited in the body and at the end of the analysis using the [Modern Language Association \(MLA\)](#) style as outlined in the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) (8th ed.) and the [Owl at Purdue website](#). Marks will be deducted for improperly cited sources.

Shot Analysis

Students will write a short analysis (minimum 1000 words, due December 2) of the mise-en-scène of a still from one of the films on the course. Detailed instructions will be posted in Owl.

Shot Breakdown and Sequence Analysis

Students will prepare a shot breakdown – something that we will practice multiple times in the tutorials – of a given sequence from one of the films on the course. Then, each student will write a 1500-1800-word

analysis of the given sequence. Detailed instructions will be posted in Owl. The paper is due on Friday, March 25.

Assignment Length

Ensure you are within the assigned word limit. If your analysis is short or long, expand or edit your work carefully until you are within the word limits. If an analysis is short of or exceeds the word limits, we will deduct marks at our discretion to a maximum of one full grade. In some cases, if an assignment exceeds the word limit by 50% or more, it will be returned unmarked to the student; if an analysis is short by 50% or more, it will receive a failing grade.

Due Dates

Papers handed in late without prior permission will be returned with a grade but without comments. We will deduct 3% from the final grade of the assignment each day it is late, including weekends (Saturday + Sunday = 6% deduction). Papers submitted after the assignment has been returned to the rest of the class will not normally be accepted.

Submitting Your Assignments

To submit an assignment, in Owl click on "Assignments" in the menu on the Home Page. Find the appropriate assignment and follow the instructions to upload. Assignments are submitted to Turnitin. Make sure you receive confirmation that your submission has been uploaded and that you have uploaded the correct file. You are responsible for ensuring that the assignment is properly uploaded to the system. You will not be credited with completing the assignment until it is.

Planning Your Year

I recommend strongly that you *map out the assignment due dates and test and exam dates for all your courses* at the beginning of the year or term and plan your research, writing, and study times accordingly. Saying that you have a busy week is not an acceptable reason for an extension since you will have had several weeks prior to get your work done.

Extensions

All requests for extensions must be made through Academic Counselling in your home faculty. The student must ask for it well in advance of the due date (preferably **at least a week in advance**) and have a good reason for the extension. Extensions do not apply to tests and exams.

If you miss an exam or an assignment due date, or if you require an extension at the last minute on medical or compassionate grounds, you must notify your professor *and* your academic counsellor *immediately*. Proper documentation will be required and must be given to the academic counsellor (never to your professor) as soon as possible.

In all cases, if the academic counsellor believes the student has a valid need for an extension, the academic counsellor will then contact your professor. Only once the professor has been contacted by your academic counsellor will s/he grant the extension or schedule a make-up exam and inform your TA. Should you require an extension due to a disability, please consult the policy found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Keep a copy!

Always save electronic copies of each file on your computer *and* on an external hard drive, a USB key, or the cloud. Services such as Dropbox or OneDrive are highly recommended. Retain all assignments at least until you receive your official final grade for the course from the Registrar's Office. If you plan to go on to grad school, keep everything!

Grading

All papers are rigorously marked according to Film Studies' Grading Rubric, which gives the criteria for each grade level. The Grading Rubric is posted in Owl, in the Resources section.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University Senate's Preamble to its "Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students" document reads as follows: "Members of the University Community accept a commitment to maintain and uphold the purposes of the University and, in particular, its standards of scholarship. It follows, therefore, that acts of a nature which prejudice the academic standards of the University are offences subject to discipline. Any form of academic dishonesty that undermines the evaluation process, also undermines the integrity of the University's degrees. The University will take all appropriate measures to promote academic integrity and deal appropriately with scholastic offences."

Students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/academic/undergraduate/academic_integrity.html. Plagiarism and other scholastic offences will be prosecuted to the fullest extent that university regulations allow.

In its academic calendars, Western University defines **plagiarism** as "*The act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own*" (emphasis added). Western University subscribes to **Turnitin**, a plagiarism-prevention service, and the Senate states, "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

All assignments in this course will be submitted through Owl and checked by Turnitin. This service is *not* used on the assumption that most students plagiarize—most do not—rather to deter a small minority of students who may be tempted to plagiarize and to protect all students from academic theft. As well, we do not rely solely on Turnitin: other measures are in place to ensure students hand it their own, original work.

Further, the Senate notes that "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

If you are not sure what plagiarism is or what constitutes an academic offence, *ask!* The university assumes that all students have read "[Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students](#)" in the [Academic Calendar](#) and are thus knowledgeable about academic integrity. Remember, ignorance is no excuse.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. *Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.* See p. 9.

RETURNING ASSIGNMENTS

We will do our very best to return assignments *within three weeks of the due date*. Assignments will be returned through Owl. If you wish to discuss the comments or grade you have received on an assignment or test with your marker, ***you must wait for at least three days after the assignment has been returned to you***—no exceptions.

If you believe an assignment has been unfairly graded for whatever reason and you to launch an appeal, you must follow the procedures prescribed by the university. See the "[Undergraduate Student Academic Appeals](#)" document posted on the University Secretariat's "[Rights and Responsibilities](#)" webpage and in the Academic Calendar.

In brief, though, you must first consult with the person who marked your paper. If a TA marked your paper and you are still not satisfied after s/he has re-examined the assignment, request through your TA a consultation with the professor. The professor will verify with the TA that the proper procedures have been followed, and if they have, the professor will then review the assignment and contact you with a decision. If you are still not satisfied after the professor re-examined the assignment, you must make a request for academic relief in writing to the Chair of the English and Writing Studies department.

Gradebook in Owl

Your marks will be recorded as percentages in Gradebook. You will also be able to see a grade that represents a tally of the work submitted so far. The marks for the final exam and your final grade will not be posted in Owl.

Students should always keep track of their marks during the term. If a grade posted in Gradebook does not match the grade on a quiz, test, or assignment, let us know immediately.

FINAL GRADES

Your final grades are released by the Registrar's Office, not your instructor.

TALKING TO YOUR PROFESSOR AND TAs

Office Hours

Please check the office hours listed for the professor and TAs on the first page of this syllabus. For students who are unable to come to the scheduled office hours, we will book appointments at our convenience. Be aware that professors and TAs are extremely busy people, so please be considerate: if you schedule an appointment, show up! Be sure to inform us if you can't make it.

Email

We are happy to communicate with students via e-mail, but there are two provisos:

1. We can't always answer emails instantly; please allow 48 hours for a response and remember that we might not check email after the end of workdays or on weekends (therefore, emails received Friday to Sunday will be answered by Tuesday).
2. We will respond only to *short* emails. Extended discussions or questions about lecture material, assignments or exam expectations or results, course readings, etc. must be in person or, if you wish to speak to me at length but are unable to meet with me in person, contact me by email to set up a zoom appointment.

Student Email Accounts

The university requires that students use their uwo.ca email accounts for university business. If we need to contact you, we will email you either at your uwo.ca email account or through Owl. You have the option to forward your Owl messages to your uwo.ca or other email address. *Students are required, therefore, to check your UWO email account(s) daily.*

FILM 1022-002 WEBSITE

Through the miracle of modern technology, we have a course [website](#), where you will find not only this syllabus but also lecture outlines; stills; assignment, test, and exam information; tip sheets; notices; etc. To save expense and the environment, almost all course documents will be posted *only* on the website, and students will submit their assignments electronically. *Students are responsible for all website materials.*

FILM ANALYSIS WEBSITE

There is a supplementary [website](#) that I once created to teach an Introduction to Film Studies course. The site drew heavily on an earlier version of our textbook; I encourage you to check it out.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, medical issues, or religious obligations. Contact the appropriate person (myself, an academic counsellor, a staff member in Student Services, etc.) as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

If you require accommodation for religious observance, see the [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) page posted on the University Secretariat's "[Rights and Responsibilities](#)" webpage and in the Academic Calendar. See also the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Students with disabilities should contact the [Student Development Centre](#) to obtain assistance and/or letters of accommodation.

Learning Skills: go to [SDC's Learning Skills Services](#), Rm 4100 WSS. From the SDC: "LS counsellors are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre and year-round through individual counselling."

Complaints: If students have a complaint concerning a course in which they are enrolled, they must first discuss the matter with the instructor of the course. If students are still not satisfied, they should then take the complaint to the Department of English and Writing Studies office (University College Rm. 2401). See the Senate Policy on Appeals.

These regulations are in place because a failure to follow these procedures creates the potential for injustices of various kinds affecting either the instructor or the students themselves, or both parties. Concerns should not be allowed to fester but should be raised with the instructor in a timely manner, so that they can be addressed in time to make a difference to the course.

If you are having difficulties coping with the pressures of academic life or life in general, please seek assistance immediately from an academic counsellor in your home faculty and/or from someone in [Psychological Services](#) or [Health and Wellness](#). Never hesitate to seek assistance for any problem you may be having. Consult the [Current Students](#) page on Western's website to apprise yourself of all the assistance available to students.

For further information, including the regulations governing Term Work, Exams, Faculty Office Hours, Academic Relief (appeals, petitions, complaints), and other matters, please see the [Academic Policies](#) page in the University Secretariat's website and the [Student Services](#) pages in the Academic Calendar and the Western Student Guide, SAO Handbook, and other publications posted on the [Academic Calendars](#) webpage.