

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Division of Communication and Arts

COMM 1003 Film Arts

Catalog Description:

Film is studied as a form of entertainment and art. Through film viewing and class discussion, students learn to analyze the components of film, become familiar with film history, distinguish among genres of film, and evaluate the success of particular films as cinematic art.

Prerequisite:

ENGL 1013 or consent of instructor

Credit hours/Contact hours/Load hours:

3

Target Audience and Transfer:

Film Arts 1003 is a Humanities course and transfers to other institutions fulfilling one, three-hour Fine Arts/Humanities requirement. Non-degree seeking students will find this as a personal enrichment course. Although some filming techniques are discussed, this is not a film production class.

General Course Outcomes:

Students completing this course will be able to complete the following tasks which correspond to the NWACC Institutional Outcomes:

Knowledge:

1. Trace the history of American film from the 1800's to the present
2. Understand and apply film elements and film terminology
3. Identify different film genre and trace their evolutionary process

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving:

1. Identify purpose of a film: to entertain, to educate, to persuade
2. Critically view and analyze a film demonstrating knowledge and application of film elements, as well as identifying ideological perspectives and social influences/ramifications of film
3. Evaluate strengths/weaknesses of a film from a scholarly perspective

Basic Skills:

1. Write clear, coherent, well-organized papers

Awareness of Cultural Perspectives:

1. Acknowledge and apply one's ideological perspectives in personal and social contexts and identify one's level of tolerance for differing ideologies through the study of film.
2. Become a savvy consumer of mediated information

Research: (optional)

1. Gather and evaluate information to be synthesized into a research paper and or class project.

Texts:

Textbook: *Understanding Movies*, 9th edition, Louis Giannetti, author.

Films: To be selected by instructor in conjunction with chapters/elements being discussed; a minimum of eight full-length films for a sixteen week course plus additional biographical, technical, or other teaching/instructional films.

Course Content

1. An introductory Film Arts course includes content related to the realism-formalism dichotomy of film and basic elemental components of film (ie: photography, mise en scene, movement, editing, sound) to the more complex aspects of film (ie: narratology, theory, ideology).
2. Student evaluation will be based on individual instructor's exams, papers, and assigned projects dealing with film art rather than film production.