Instructor: Sandra Kern Mollman
Email: access via Course Mail
Class Meeting: Online
Semester: SUMMER 2017

3 Undergraduate Credit Hours

Course Description
Film appreciation is a course that explores the world of film and filmmaking. We will examine the styles of film, and the techniques used in making a film, and some of the stylistic theories. Students will read text material, view films, and use the course website to prepare for online exams, quizzes, discussions, and assignments. Students are required to view films for this class.

Required Textbook

Required Films
The films listed below are required viewing. All should be readily available at any Blockbuster or major chain video store. Some may also be viewed online or from your local or school library. Students may wish to explore purchasing the films. Contact the instructor ASAP if you have trouble locating any of the films listed below. Please try to get the movie in the WIDESCREEN format whenever possible.

- The Hunger Games (2012) Directed by Gary Ross
- Milk (2008) Directed by Gus Van Sant
- Inside Job (2010) Directed by Charles Ferguson
- Life of Pi (2012) Directed by Ang Lee
- Selma (2014) Directed by Ava DuVernay
- Chocolat (2000) Directed by Lasse Hallstrom
- Interstellar (2014) Directed by Christopher Nolan

Contacting the Instructor
The best way to contact me is via the D2L mail, which can be accessed within the course. I will have “Virtual Office Hours” on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. I will respond to your emails at those times, and will do my utmost to respond to emailed requests within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekdays, or forty-eight (48) hours on the weekends. All emails will be responded to within 48 hours Monday through Friday. In an emergency type situation, you can email me at sandra.mollman@usd.edu.
Technology Requirements
The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the "Technology Support and Requirements" section in the CE Online Orientation Packet (http://www.usd.edu/continuing-and-distance-education/courses.cfm). If you have technology questions and/or problems, please contact the ITS Help Desk at 877.269.6387, 605.677.5028, or helpdesk@usd.edu.

Aside from the requirements listed in the Online Orientation document, this course requires that you are able to view pictures and videos, and that you are able to listen to audio and video recordings that you will access through D2L.

Instructional Method
This course will be instructed entirely online via Desire2Learn (http://d2l.sdbor.edu). While this is an online class, this does not mean that it is a self-paced or correspondence-like course. Each week you will be required to complete tasks as outlined on the class schedule listed below.

Desire2Learn (D2L):
D2L will be used to facilitate all aspects of the course. In D2L, you will be able to:
- Communicate with your classmates and the instructor via discussions and course mail
- View lecture notes, photos, and videos
- Participate in virtual office hours
- Access additional materials not found in your textbook or your listening CD
- Access your course progress and grades

Expectations
Students
Students are expected to read, understand and abide by all policies and procedures outlined in this syllabus as well as those in the CE Online Orientation, which can be accessed from the “Getting Started” section on the course homepage. The latter contains important information about the various academic, student, and technical resources and services available at USD.

Students should expect to invest anywhere from three to eight hours per week in the course*. This time will be largely occupied by viewing supplemental materials, participating in the weekly discussions, and by keeping up with the assigned weekly reading.

* EACH FRIDAY, check your Homepage News within the D2L course for a detailed list of that week’s available assignments.
Check the News each time you log on to check for UPDATES.

Instructor
The instructor will strive to provide timely feedback and, unless otherwise stated, will respond to all communications within twenty-four (24) hours on weekdays, or within forty-eight (48) on the weekends. The instructor will also abide by all policies set forth in this syllabus and those by the CE Online Orientation, The University of South Dakota, and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

⚠️ IMPORTANT: The instructor will provide regular updates during the week, so students should log into D2L to check for announcements and emails at least three times per week, if not more frequently.
Goals of the South Dakota System General Education Requirements

This class fulfills the following Goals of the South Dakota System General Education Requirements:

**System General Education Goal: # 4**  Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through the study of arts and humanities.
A. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values, beliefs, and ideas embodied in the human experience;
B. Identify and explain basic concepts of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.
C. Identify and explain the contributions of other cultures from the perspective of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.

**System General Education Goal #5:**  Students will have a greater understanding of the fine arts as an expression of human imagination and creativity, and will understand the contribution of the arts to self-understanding and a more enriched life experience.
A. Students will be able to demonstrate creative and aesthetic understanding.
B. Students will be able to explain and interpret formal and stylistic elements of the fine arts.

**Course Goals:** For the last 100 years no medium has captured the interest of the public like film. The language of film has evolved and spread throughout the world. This class explores the structure, theory, and history of film though readings in the text, online discussion, and required film viewing.

**Specific Goals:** Upon completion of this course students will be able to...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify and define film vocabulary</td>
<td>Tests, Quizzes, Written Assignments, Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraise a film from a critical perspective</td>
<td>Written Assignments, Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze the social/political aspects of a film’s cultural origin</td>
<td>Written Assignments, Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze the film’s structure and form</td>
<td>Written Assignments, Discussions, Quizzes, Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain film theory</td>
<td>Written Assignments, Discussions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**General Course Requirements and Assessments**

This is a three-credit course, which would normally constitute three hours of meeting time per week in a face-to-face class, plus homework, reading, and study time. The three hours of “meeting time” should consist of posting in the weekly discussions; reading the posts by your colleagues in the weekly discussion; self-assessment quizzes, viewing, reading, listening to the information contained within the Course Content. You will also be required to complete a movie analysis, and 2 exams.

**Ungraded Assessments**
For each chapter, there is a diagnostic quiz at the course textbook website that you may take prior to taking your online graded quizzes and exams.

**Graded Assessments: Quizzes and Exams**
Each chapter quiz worth (approx) 10 points will be administered via D2L and will be graded as it is completed. Once graded, students will be able to go back into the quiz to view the feedback and correct answers.

Two exams worth (approx) 100 points each will also be administered via D2L. Exams will be returned within a week after the exam close date, or when the last exam has been submitted – whichever is later. Once graded, students will be able to go back into the exam itself to view the feedback correct answers. **You cannot pass this class if you FAIL BOTH EXAMS.**
Graded Assessments: Written Assignments
There will be one movie analysis due as a final project. Smaller papers may be assigned throughout the semester, depending upon the discussions.

Graded Assessments: Discussions
For each chapter, there will be an associated discussion or group activity on topic for the lesson. You will be assigned into groups for these various activities. Participation in the discussions is required. You can expect to write approximately 7 posts.

Important:
- You will need to pay particular attention to the due dates for the group/discussion activities. Some portions of the assignments may take place EARLY in the week, others later.
- Weekly discussion boards will be closed and NOT reopened on Sunday @ 11:59 PM CT.
- You are required to read all the postings of your peers.
- IMPORTANT: because of the interactive nature of discussions, if you miss a weekly discussion, even for an excused absence, you will NOT be able to make it up.

Participation/Attendance
You will be expected to log onto and participate in the course a minimum of 3 times per week.
Participation/attendance is of the utmost importance and will be measured in this course in three ways:
- Weekly Discussion Assignments
- Viewing ALL discussion posts available to you
- Completing quizzes and exams as assigned

IF:
- More than two weekly discussion absence is recorded, or
- Discussion posts are not read
- More than one weekly quiz is incomplete

The instructor may lower the student’s final grade by two (2) percentage points per additional absence. Anyone missing two or more weeks, or who is not otherwise satisfying the course’s expectations, may be withdrawn from the course at the instructor’s discretion. You cannot pass this class without participation in the online discussion.

Course Point Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance (Discussions and Posts)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Total</td>
<td>460</td>
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Note: the actual number of points in the course may slightly vary from this model.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points (approx.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>414-460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>368-413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>322-367</td>
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Student Resources:
The University of South Dakota provides a number of useful services to students:

- **CE Online Student Orientation Document** ([http://www.usd.edu/ce/Orientation.pdf](http://www.usd.edu/ce/Orientation.pdf)):
  This contains very important information related to the services provided by the University of South Dakota as well as the University policies. In it, you will find such information as:
  - Academic support services such as the library, writing center, proctor and testing information, book purchasing, etc.
  - Student support services such as advising and enrollment information, financial aid, student life, and counseling, etc.
  - Technology support services like technology requirements, ITS Help Desk contact information, discounts on computers and software, etc.

- **USD Portal** ([http://myu.usd.edu/](http://myu.usd.edu/)):
  The USD Portal is your one-stop place for a majority of services offered to any student taking a USD course – like this course. You can access the following services from the “Academics” tab in the portal:
  - WebAdvisor
  - I.D. Weeks Library

- **The USD Writing Center** ([http://www.usd.edu/wcenter/](http://www.usd.edu/wcenter/)):
  The USD Writing Center was established to provide writing assistance to students in order to help them become better writers. It is available on campus during regular business hours and **online in the evenings**. Please visit the URL above for more information.

Other Course Policies
Policies and procedures covering this course are detailed in the [Online Orientation Packet](http://www.usd.edu/continuing-and-distance-education/courses.cfm).

University Statement on Dishonest Assignments:
No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:
- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

Course Policy on Dishonest Assignments: This class follows the official definitions of academic dishonesty as stated in the Student Handbook. The relevant passage is reproduced below. Any student violating this code of conduct will suffer one of the consequences as stated above under University Statement on Dishonest Assignments.

A. *Academic Dishonesty: Acts of dishonesty, including, but not limited to the following:*

1. **Cheating**, which is defined as, but not limited to the following:
   - a. use or giving of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examination;
   - b. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or
   - c. acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the institutional faculty or staff.
2. **Plagiarism**, which is defined as, but not limited to, the following:
   - a. the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment consistent with the practices of the discipline;
   - b. the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers of other academic materials.
3. Other forms of dishonesty relating to academic achievement, research results, or academically related public service.
4. Furnishing information known or believed to be false to any institutional official, faculty member, or officer.
5. Forgery, fabrication, alteration, misrepresentation, or misuse of any document, record, or instrument of identification, including misrepresentations of degrees awarded or honors received.
6. Tampering with the election of any institutionally recognized student organization.
7. Claiming to represent or act in behalf of the institution when not authorized to represent or to act.

Freedom in Learning
Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Statement of Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

For information contact:
Ernetta L. Fox, Director
Disability Services
Room 119 Service Center
(605) 677-6389
http://www.usd.edu/academics/disability-services/; dservices@usd.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Notes</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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| One   | Lesson: Your Film Appreciation Course | • Post Self- Introduction to Discussion  
• Contact Instructor Via D2L Email  
• Check out the Course Homepage NEWS!  
• Tour the D2L site and your textbook companion website |
| Two   | Lesson: Looking at Movies       | • Reading: Textbook pg. xiii “To Students”  
• Reading: Textbook Chapter 1  
• Lesson and Discussion  
| Three | Lesson: Principles of Film Form | • Reading: Chapter 2  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• Viewing: Milk (2008) Dir. Gus Van Sant |
| Four  | Lesson: Types of Movies         | • Reading: Chapter 3  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| Five  | Lesson: Elements of Narrative   | • Reading: Chapter 4  
• Viewing: Smoke Signals (1998) Dir. Chris Eyre  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| Six   | Lesson: Mise-en-Scene           | • Reading: Chapter 5  
• Viewing: Life of Pi (2012) Dir. Ang Lee  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• Midterm Exam |
| Seven | Lesson: Cinematography          | • Reading: Chapter 6  
• Lesson  
• Discussion |
| Eight | Lesson: Acting                  | • Reading: Chapters 7  
• Viewing: Selma (2014) Dir. Ava DuVernay  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| Nine  | Lesson: Editing                 | • Reading: Chapters 8  
• Viewing: Chocolat (2000) Directed by Lasse Hallstrom  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| Ten   | Lesson: Sound                   | • Reading: Chapter 9  
• Viewing: Interstellar (2014) Dir. Christopher Nolan  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| Eleven| Lesson: History/FINAL PROJECT   | • Reading: Chapter 10  
• Viewing: Various Movies within D2L  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| Twelve| FINALS WEEK                     | • Final Exam |

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