The University of South Dakota  
College of Fine Arts  
Department of Theatre

SYLLABUS
THEA 201-821 Film Appreciation  
8 Week Intensive!

Instructor: Sandra Kern Mollman  
Email: access via Course Mail

Class Meeting: Online  
Semester: SPRING 2019

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 MOVIES for your required viewing. This list may change by the first day of class. Most required movies should become available from within the course or from the school library. They also should be readily available from an online streaming service like Netflix or Amazon, or from a school or local library, or borrowing from a friend. Please try to watch the movie in the WIDESCREEN format whenever possible.

- The Hunger Games (2012) Directed by Gary Ross
- Milk (2008) Directed by Gus Van Sant
- Reel Injun (2009) Dr. Neil Diamond & Catherine Bainbridge
- Life of Pi (2012) Directed by Ang Lee
- Selma (2014) Directed by Ava DuVernay
- Moonlight (2016) Dir. Barry Jenkins

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 (Online Orientation Guide). 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 MONDAY, 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.
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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**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) 10-15 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. You will have four attempts to achieve 100% on these quizzes.

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.**
Honor Code
You will be required to complete, submit, and abide by an Honor Code.

Graded Assessments: Written Assignments
There will be two options given for your final project: a movie analysis or making a movie. Both of these options have a writing element. 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 7-10 posts. Discussion posts will be graded within four days of close date.

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, and/or weekly quiz is incomplete
- Discussion posts are not read

THEN:
Your final grade will be lowered 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 Participation in Online Material)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>460+</strong></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>369-410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>328-368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>287-327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>246-286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Up to 59%</td>
<td>Up to 245</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 (Online Orientation Guide):** 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):**
  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/academics/writing-center):** 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.

University Policies

**Academic Integrity**

The University of South Dakota considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The University supports the imposition of penalties on students who have been adjudicated to have engaged in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook, and South Dakota Board of Regents policy 2-33 [www.sdbor.edu/policy/Documents/2-33.pdf](http://www.sdbor.edu/policy/Documents/2-33.pdf).

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. A student found to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty may, at the discretion of the instructor, 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.
**Freedom in Learning**
Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact the dean of the college or school that offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

**Disability Accommodation**
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 or as soon as possible after the diagnosis of a disability. 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.

Please note: if your home institution is not the University of South Dakota but one of the other South Dakota Board of Regents institutions (e.g., SDSU, SDSMT, BHSU, NSU, DSU), you should work with the disability services coordinator at your home institution.

Ernetta L. Fox, Director
Disability Services, Room 119 Service Center
(605) 677-6389
Web Site: [www.usd.edu/ds](http://www.usd.edu/ds)
E-mail: disabilityservices@usd.edu

**Diversity and Inclusive Excellence**
The University of South Dakota strives to foster a globally inclusive learning environment where opportunities are provided for diversity to be recognized and respected. To learn more about USD’s diversity and inclusiveness initiatives, please visit the website for the [Office of Diversity](http://www.usd.edu/diversity/).
# Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Notes</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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| **One**<br>(3/12-3/18) | Lesson: Your Film Appreciation Course  <br>* EACH SUNDAY check your Homepage News within the D2L course for a detailed list of that week’s responsibilities. Check the News each time you log on to check for UPDATES.  <br>**March 14 is the last day to DROP course with 100% refund.** | • 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  
• Reading: Textbook pg. xiii “To Students”  
• Reading: Textbook Chapter 1  
• Lesson and Discussion  
| **Two**<br>(3/17-3/24) | Lesson: Principles of Film Form  
Lesson: Types of Movies  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Reading: Chapter 2  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• Reading: Chapter 3  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| **Three**<br>(3/24-3/31) | Lesson: Elements of Narrative  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Reading: Chapter 4  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• MIDTERM EXAM |
| **Four**<br>(3/31-4/7) | Lesson: Mise-en-Scene  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Reading: Chapter 5  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• MIDTERM EXAM |
| **Five**<br>(4/7/4/14) | Lesson: Cinematography  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Reading: Chapter 6  
• Lesson and Discussion  |
| **Six**<br>(4/14-4/21) | Lesson: Acting  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Reading: Chapters 7  
• Viewing: *Selma* (2014) Dir. Ava Duvernay  
• Lesson and Discussion  
• Reading: Chapters 8  
Editors, Nat Sanders and Joi McMillon  
• Lesson and Discussion  |
| **Seven**<br>(4/21-4/29) | Lesson: Editing  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Reading: Chapters 9  
• Lesson and Discussion |
| **Eight**<br>(4/29-5/3) | **FINALS WEEK**  
**April 1 is the last day to DROP course with a WD grade.** | • Final Exam |