

Cover Sheet for Introduction to Film Studies

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I. Learning goals

- The course is meant as an introduction to basic concepts of film analysis. We will examine how formal elements like cinematography, editing, mise en scene, sound, and narrative structure are used to create meaning in film. We will also consider how genre, authorship, film history, ideology, and gender, among other critical approaches, can be used to analyze films

This is a modification of the class Languages of Film and Television. In order to better address the extensive body of knowledge of both film and television studies, it was necessary to divide our class COM 117, Languages of Film and Television, into two classes. COM 117 will be taught as Introduction to Film Studies and COM 118 will be Introduction to Television Studies. Both classes will fulfill a core requirement in the R/TV/F specialization of Communication Studies since they will prepare students for more advanced classes in film studies and media analysis. The classes may also serve as a Communication elective in the other two specializations. In terms of the department's learning goals, the department will provide foundational knowledge in television and media theory, highlight critical thinking and analysis, as well as communication professional skills in writing and oral presentations.

II. Student assessment

- Students will have a variety of ways to demonstrate that they are engaging with the material presented in the course. Students will be expected to take exams based on the readings in the critical analysis, theory, and history of film. They will be expected to write several short papers applying concepts from methodologies discussed in the readings and class as well as a larger research paper using both readings from the class and outside research. In addition, there will also be a group project to create a short video applying some of the formal concepts to their own creative productions.

III. Learning activities

Since this class has a lecture/discussion format, learning activities will begin with readings and in-class participation on material that will be tested. Students will also write short analytic papers and a longer research paper that will show mastery of the material. In addition, they will also be responsible for a group project of creating a short video. These activities will allow students to engage with the material in both scholarly and creative ways.

