Course Objectives
This course is an introduction to the theory, history and practice of film--film as art, as industry, and as a language of sounds and images. The lectures are closely tied to the screenings, and are organized as a combination of the following perspectives: the "language," the genres, the history, the theory, and the industry.

Screenings
Nearly half the class time will be devoted to film screenings, either of complete films or of films clips. The films are your PRIMARY TEXTS, not just entertainment. You will be required to think--seriously and critically--about what you are seeing. In short, an active (rather than passive) viewing is required. Exams will cover the screenings, as related to the lectures and readings. The instructor reserves the right to assign up to six out-of-class viewings, either for theatrically released current films, or for films available on DVD/Netflix.

Required Readings
2. COM 221 Class Outlines—To be found ONLINE, updated intermittently. You’ll want to have the outlines with you during class. Again, the site is [http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf](http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf) (click on “Summer 2010, COM 221”). The website will also provide updated extra credit film lists, announcements, and other information and materials.
3. COM 221 Additional Readings—To be found ONLINE, updated intermittently. These readings are generally very short (1-3 pages), pulled from popular and trade publications. They are intended to give you more information about current and specialized topics in film.
4. Readings from the recommended Geiger and Rutsky book (see below) may be assigned as required or for extra credit, at the discretion of the instructor. The Geiger and Rutsky book will be on reserve at the CSU Library.

Your weekly required reading assignments are attached to this syllabus.

Required Viewings
In addition to in-class screenings, the instructor may assign up to five out-of-class feature films. Such viewing assignments will be announced in class and posted on the class website. Out-of-class viewing may require paid admission to a theater.

Strongly Recommended:

Membership in Netflix—there’s so much streaming now, you can complete all your required viewing, and extra credit viewing, online.

NOTE: The Internet Movie Database has not yet become a useful replacement for the Katz (et al.) book, which at over 1,500 pages and around $23 is the best book buy around. Check it out on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Other Recommended Books


Screening and Class Rules

1. Some of the films we see will come close to two hours in length. You are expected to see THE ENTIRE FILM, and may be tested especially on the beginning and the end, since these are often important parts of the film. Film running times are listed in the course outline; usually, a brief introduction will precede the film.

2. Each individual has a right to his/her own personal emotional response to a film. But remember that you are seeing these films in a classroom, not in your own home, nor in a movie theater! Therefore, students who publicly impose their inappropriate responses (whispering, open comments, cheers, boos, etc.) upon the other students in the class will be penalized through point deductions and/or being dropped/expelled from the class. However, laughter is an appropriate response to comedies, and is encouraged. The rustling of candy wrappers is not, contrary to popular belief, appropriate filmgoing behavior.

Grading

Grading is based on a midterm and a final exam, film logs, and completion of class activities. Each exam is valued at 30% of your course grade. Class activities points will be given for a variety of in-class and out-of-class tasks, to be announced.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film viewing logs (5)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class activities</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Exams: Both exams will be mainly objective (multiple choice, matching, T/F) with a few short answer essay questions possible. The final exam is primarily not cumulative.

Film viewing logs: Each student is required to view five approved films, from five different categories, with completion of Viewing Logs. Instructions and the current list of approved films will be found on the class website, and some hard copies will also be available. The required Logs are due at the last class period before the final exam, and none will be accepted after that time. Additions to the list of approved films will be posted on the class website.

Your instructor reserves the right to require other small assignments (including quizzes) that may replace a
portion of one of the exams.

Extra Credit Opportunities
There are a couple of ways in which you can add points to your course total. No matter what type(s) of extra credit you complete, you may not receive more than 15 percentage points total in extra credit for the course. Two types of extra credit are available:

(1) An extra credit paper, worth up to 10 percentage points (5-8 is the usual or typical addition). Papers may take several forms, but will usually be research reports from outside reading and viewing, graded according to the quality and depth of your treatment of the topic. More information about specific requirements for the paper is contained in an additional handout to be found at the course website. In all cases, you must submit a proposal BEFORE YOU BEGIN your project (due the class period after the midterm). Unapproved papers will not be accepted. Papers must be typewritten, double spaced on one side of the paper. All papers are due at the final exam period, and none will be accepted after that time.

(2) Additional Viewing Logs (beyond the five required, one from each of the five categories) may add up to one percentage point per completed log.

Make-up Exams, Incompletes
If you must miss an exam, you should discuss the problem with Dr. Neuendorf at least one class period before the exam is scheduled. In an emergency and as a last resort, you should notify the School of Communication staff and/or leave a note or send an email explaining the problem. Mere notification does not mean your excuse is automatically approved, and some points will typically be deducted even if approval for a make-up is given.

University rules indicate that "a grade of Incomplete is given only by prior arrangement with the instructor and only when a course requirement is unfulfilled through no fault of the student." In all cases where there is a problem, talk to the instructor as soon as possible--an early good-faith effort is likely to be rewarded. After-the-fact pleas will be rejected.

Attendance
Attendance will be taken near the beginning of each class period via a sign-in sheet. Three absences are allowed without penalty. Subsequent absences will result in a loss of points from the class activities portion of the grade—3% for each absence. And, you are responsible for all lecture material, film content, clips shown in class, handouts, announcements, changes in assignments, etc.—in short, for everything that happens in class. Dr. N will not be held responsible for repeating lecture material outside of class, and there will be no "makeup" viewing of materials viewed in class. And, while many of the films for the class are available on video/DVD, or may be found on YouTube, they may be in a somewhat different form, and you are responsible for seeing each as shown in class.

Cheating
Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism (copying from a source without careful attribution), copying from another student’s assignment (all instances of identical and near-identical answers will be considered illegitimate), talking with others during an in-class exam, obtaining copies of an exam prior to the test date, etc. Please refer to the CSU student handbook for the university’s official stance. If you have any questions about this subject (e.g., how to adequately attribute to a source), feel free to speak with me. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of “zero” for that exam/assignment and risks failing the entire course.
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (5/24/10)

Week 1A  Authorship: Hitchcock as auteur
   "Film As. . . " (Perspectives on the entire 115-year film era)

Week 1B  More “Film As. . . “
5/26 & 5/27  Buster Keaton as auteur
   Current Issues in Film
   Screening: Edwin S. Porter, U.S., "The Great Train Robbery," 1903, 10 min. AND

5/31—MEMORIAL DAY—NO CLASS

Week 2A  Film Language: Shots, angles, camera movement, transitions

Week 2B  Film Language: Lighting, lenses, stock, editing, continuity
   1993, 90 min.

Week 3A  Film Language: Sound, acting, special effects
6/7 & 6/8  Film Crew Roundup

Week 3B  Avant-garde & Surrealist Film Styles
6/9  Screening: Salvador Dali & Luis Bunuel, Spain/France, "Un Chien Andalou"
   ("Andalusian Dog"), 1928, 20 min.; Maya Deren, U.S., "Meshes of
   the Afternoon," 1943, 17 min.; at least one short film by Stan Brakhage

MIDTERM EXAM—Thursday, June 10, in class

Week 4A  Documentary Film
6/14 & 6/15  Acting & Writing for Film

Week 4B  The Hollywood Studio System & Other Systems
6/16 & 6/17  European Movements
   Theories of Film Critique/Analysis, and Genre Theory
   Out-of-class Viewing: TBA

Week 5A  Bollywood and Other International Cinema
6/21 & 6/22  Screening: TBA
Week 5B  Indie & Regional Filmmaking
6/23 & 6/24  Regional filmmaking
2003, 101 min.

Week 6A  Animation
6/28 & 6/29  Screening: TBA—Studio Ghibli anime feature

Week 6B  In love with the movies--films about the movies
AND Giuseppe Tornatore, Italy/France, “Cinema Paradiso,” 1988, 123 min. (one
will be outside of class)

FIVE REQUIRED VIEWING LOGS DUE JUNE 30 IN CLASS

FINAL EXAM—Thursday, July 1, in class

EXTRA CREDIT VIEWING LOGS AND EXTRA CREDIT PAPERS DUE AT FINAL EXAM
Required Reading Assignments

Week 1A  --
Week 1B  Giannetti Chs. 1, 2, 7, 8
Week 2A  Giannetti Chs. 3, 4, 5
Week 2B  Giannetti Ch. 12
Week 3A  Readings: “Avant-Garde” and “Documentary”
          From Giannetti earlier editions (ONLINE)
Week 3B  Check class website for other short readings
          required for midterm exam

MIDTERM EXAM—Th., 6/10, in class

Week 4A  Giannetti Chs. 10, 11
Week 4B  Giannetti Chs. 6, 9
Week 5A & 5B  Check class website for other short readings
Week 6A & 6B  TBA

FINAL EXAM—Th., 7/1, in class