University of North Texas
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Media Arts Department

MRTS 1320.001: Introduction to Film Studies
ONLINE INSTRUCTION
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Mr. Travis Sutton
Office Location: RTFP 229
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30 – 4:30, and by appointment
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Course Pre-requisites and Other Restrictions
A student must be registered as a Pre-Media Arts major, with the major's GPA requirement, to enroll in this course.

Course Description
This class is designed to help develop and strengthen students' abilities to analyze and interpret motion picture artistry. The end goal is to help each student develop and expand his or her own critical awareness and enjoyment of the motion picture experience. This process will begin with an overview of film form, including familiarization with cinematic language and narrative structure. The different elements that make up a film will be considered: screenwriting, production design, cinematography, acting, editing, and sound. Comparisons will be made of movies from different genres, cultures, and historical periods. Film can be understood from a number of perspectives: as a technology, as a business, as entertainment, as art, and perhaps most importantly as a socio-cultural artifact, which to some extent reflects the cultural conditions under which it is produced and received.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, every student should be able to

- Identify, through exams, the basic concepts and vocabulary associated with the field of film studies as well as significant dates, filmmakers, movies, and movements in film history
- Demonstrate visual literacy and the application of formal analysis in classroom discussion and in writing activities
- Distinguish between evaluative and interpretive arguments about a movie, with an ability to develop each kind of argument on their own
- Explain how films are made, considering both the technical and structural tools of filmmaking

Course Materials

Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film, 6th Edition by Richard Barsam and Dave
Monahan. W. W. Norton and Co., 2018.

The textbook is required for the course. Some versions of this textbook provide a
supplemental access code for online instruction through the publisher. This supplemental
material online is instructive if you wish to explore it on your own, but it not required for the
course. All of the information necessary for this course can be found on Canvas and in the course
textbook.

Course documents, such as the syllabus and the instructions for the writing assignments, will be
available on Canvas.

Communicating with Your Instructor

Email or messaging through Canvas are the primary ways to contact your instructor. The
instructor will make every effort to respond to student emails and discussion questions in a
timely manner (within 24 hours). Students should also keep in mind that instructors are not
required to respond to emails during evenings, weekends, or holidays.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Screening Discussions 10%
Writing Activities 10%
Midterm Examination.. 20%
Final Examination 20%
Film Review (500-1000 words)................................. 15%
Film Analysis (1000-2000 words)............................. 25%

Online Instruction

Students are required to complete the course content online. There will be twelve lessons to
complete the course. One lesson will be released each week, except for the weeks where students
are to complete an examination. Lessons will appear on Canvas every Monday morning
(12:00am) and are to be completed by Friday (11:59pm). Each lesson will include video
instruction, reading assignments, movie clips, and activities. Students must stay up-to-date on the
course content in order to understand the feature-length screenings.

NOTE: Online classes are not the best choice for everyone. They require time management, self-
motivation, and the acceptance of personal responsibility. This course involves not only textbook
readings, video lectures, writing assignments, and online assessments but also feature-length
films. All of these require time, so do not delay with committing your time and attention to the
course during the semester.

Writing Activities

Ten writing activities will be assigned during the semester. Each writing activity is designed for
a student to respond to an idea associated with the week's lesson. These activities are akin to in-

class writing activities, so they are not meant to be formal college essays. Students do not need to complete a rough and revised draft, conduct research, and compose a bibliography. With the writing activities, I'm mainly interested in seeing a student's recall and application of information. Writing activities are to be completed online through links posted on Canvas. Hard copies and/or late submissions, without instructor approval, will not be accepted.

Writing Projects
Students will complete two writing projects during the semester, and both will be submitted to Turnitin to verify that they are original work. Each writing project is designed to demonstrate a student's ability to present different kinds of arguments about a film: evaluation and interpretation. Detailed instructions for each writing project will be available on Canvas. A grading rubric will also be available online that details what the instructor and teaching assistants consider when assessing completed assignments.

Examinations
There will be a midterm examination and a final examination to be completed online through links posted on Canvas. The final examination will not be cumulative. Each examination will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, and the questions will be based on lesson materials, assigned readings, and film screenings.

While examinations are to be completed online, they are closed-book and should be treated with the expectations of an in-class examination. Students are not to look to outside sources during an exam: these include the textbook, notes, and other people. To mitigate the use of outside sources, the examinations will be timed.

To complete an exam, students will need to download and install Respondus Lockdown Browser (or use a campus computer available to students with Respondus Lockdown Browser installed). Respondus Lockdown Browser will also require a webcam to monitor the testing process.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Students can expect a grade for writing activities and exams to be posted on Canvas within one week of that activity or exam's due date. Writing projects may take up to two weeks for a grade to post on Canvas.

Late Work
Students are required to submit assignments on due dates listed in this syllabus. Late submissions of the **weekly writing activities** are generally not accepted. A late submission of a **writing project** (e.g. the movie review or the film analysis) will result in a deduction of 10 percentage points of the grade per day. Students are responsible for presenting appropriate documentation to excuse late work.

Grading Criteria:
- Because assignments for this course are submitted online, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that submissions are fully uploaded into Canvas and Turnitin. Additionally, it is a

good idea to **keep backup copies of all completed work** in case these online systems encounter problems during the semester.

- Because of security concerns and your right to privacy, **the instructor will not discuss grades over email**. If you have a question about your grade, send your instructor a message indicating that you want to discuss your grade, and your instructor will make arrangements to visit with you.
- Your instructor's goal is to help you improve your writing and critical thinking skills, so it is important for you to **ask questions**.
- **Extra credit assignments** or a final grade curve will not be offered in this class.
- **Grades are not negotiable**. Your final course grade will be based on your work in the course. If you are concerned about a grade, see your instructor during office hours.
- **Any form of academic dishonesty will result in an "F" for the course and possibly further sanctions at the university level.**

Numerical Grade Equivalents.

Course grades are calculated on the standard scale:

    A = 100-90
    B = 89-80
    C = 79-70
    D = 69-60
    F = 59-0

Every border creates situations where you may be "just below" the grade you want or require. This is frustrating for all concerned, but it is not a reason to change the grade.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE

Every student enrolled in this course needs access to a computer with a webcam that is capable of connecting to the Internet and a technical capacity to run Canvas and Respondus Lockdown Browser. Canvas technical requirements: https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements

Students also need a word processing program (e.g. MS Word or Google Docs) to draft and submit writing projects.

The instructor will be available for virtual office visits through Zoom. If you wish to visit with your instructor over Zoom, then send him a message through Canvas or campus email, and he can set up a link for a virtual visit.

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at

Help Desk Contact Information	Help Desk Hours
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu	Monday-Thursday, 8am-midnight

Phone: 940-565-2324 In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130	Friday, 8am-8pm Saturday, 9am-5pm Sunday, 8am-midnight

Minimum Technical Skills Needed

- Sending and receiving email
- Creating, sending, and receiving Microsoft Word documents
- Printing Word documents OR opening and printing PDF files, using Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Navigating Canvas

Netiquette
Netiquette, or online etiquette, refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Please read through "Netiquette Guide for Online Courses," available on Canvas, and treat your instructor and fellow classmates with kindness and respect.

Outages
The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty that prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in an "F" in the course and possible further sanctions at the university level.

ADA Policy
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every

semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect
Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu

Student Evaluation Administration Dates
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at http://spot.unt.edu/ or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://www.ecfr.gov/. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification
UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.
See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses.

MRTS 1320 Schedule (Fall 2021)

NOTE: Ten of the online lessons this semester include a writing activity. They are noted in the schedule. Writing activities are due when their associated lessons are due: Fridays at 11:59pm.

WEEK 1 (August 23 – August 27)	
Lesson 1: Looking at Movies READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 1 SCREEN: *Singin' in the Rain* (1953)	Writing Activity **1** Due
WEEK 2 (August 30 – September 03)	
Lesson 2: Film Form READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 2 SCREEN: *Melancholia* (2011)	Writing Activity **2** Due
WEEK 3 (September 07 – September 10)	
Lesson 3: Types of Movies READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 3 (Selection) SCREEN: *Chico & Rita* (2010)	Writing Activity **3** Due

WEEK 4 (September 13 – September 17)

Lesson 4: Genre
READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 3 (Selection)
SCREEN: *Double Indemnity* (1944)

Writing Project 1: Movie Review
Due Friday, September 17 at 11:59pm

WEEK 5 (September 20 – September 24)

Lesson 5: Screenwriting
READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 4
SCREEN: *Salaam Bombay!* (1988)

Writing Activity **4** Due

WEEK 6 (September 27 – October 01)

Lesson 6: Production Design
READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 5 (Selection)
SCREEN: *The Graduate* (1967)

Writing Activity **5** Due

WEEK 7 (October 04 – October 08)

Review Lessons 1 - 6

WEEK 8 (October 11 – October 15)

MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Lessons 1 - 6

WEEK 9 (October 18 – October 22)

Lesson 7: Cinematography
READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 6
SCREEN: *Pariah* (2011)

Writing Activity **6** Due

WEEK 10 (October 25 – October 29)

Lesson 8: Acting
READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 7
SCREEN: *Lost in Yonkers* (1993)

Writing Activity **7** Due

WEEK 11 (November 01 – November 05)

Lesson 9: Editing
  READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 8
  SCREEN: *Breathless* (1960)

Writing
Activity
8 Due

WEEK 12 (November 08 – November 12)

Lesson 10: Sound
  READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 9
  SCREEN: *Citizen Kane* (1941)

Writing
Activity
9 Due

WEEK 13 (November 15 – November 19)

Lesson 11: Industry
  READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 11
  SCREEN: *Lost in La Mancha* (2002)

Writing Project 2: Film Analysis
Due Friday, November 19 at 11:59pm

WEEK 14 (November 22 – November 26)

Lesson 12: Film History
  READ: *Looking at Movies*, Chapter 10
  SCREEN: *The General* (1926)

Writing
Activity
10 Due

WEEK 15 (November 29 – December 03)

Review Lessons 7 - 12

WEEK 16 (December 06 – December 10)

FINAL EXAMINATION
Lessons 7 - 12