UNT

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

MRTS 3470.001: International Film History to 1945

RTFP 184, Thursdays, 9:30am – 12:20pm, with Online Instruction
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Mr. Travis Sutton
Office Location: RTFP 229
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00 - 4:00pm
Email: Travis.Sutton@unt.edu

Teaching Assistants: Lakeisha Hayes (LakeishaHayes@my.unt.edu)

Please contact your instructor for questions about **the course, Canvas,** and **the screening quizzes**.	Please contact the teaching assistant for questions about **attendance, option selections**, and **the writing assignments.**

Course Pre-requisites and Other Restrictions
A student must be registered as an MRTS/CBCM major, with the major's GPA requirement, to enroll in this course.

Course Description
The history of film from its invention to 1945 encompasses many issues, not only in the structure and technology of film, but also in the social activity around the production and consumption of movies: political changes, new philosophies, and cultural differences and influences. This course provides an overview of some of the important developments in cinema pre-1945 and, therefore, covers a wide range of cultures, film styles, and film movements. The intention is to concentrate on the aesthetics of the films with special attention to the cultural, historical, and cinematic contexts that have helped to shape them.

Course Objectives

- To offer a global perspective on the history of cinema

- To encourage students to recognize the aesthetic styles and industrial structures of cinema and make connections across different eras and countries

- To promote an understanding of how cinema reflects the time and place of its production and to encourage students to reflect on the similarities and differences between cinema now and cinema then

This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Diversity and Global Issues. At the end of this course, students should be able to do at least three of the following:

1. Identify the origins, influences, and limits of one's own cultural heritage.
2. Demonstrate the ability to learn from and empathize with perspectives and experiences different from one's own.
3. Show an understanding of the interrelationships of the self, local society, and global environments.
4. Describe the impacts of complex, worldwide systems.
5. Explain the reasoning for one's ethical responsibilities within worldwide systems.

Course Materials
Film History: An Introduction, 5th Edition by Kristin Thompson, David Bordwell, and Jeff Smith. McGraw-Hill, 2022.

The textbook is required for the course. All of the information necessary for this course can be found on Canvas and in the course textbook. A copy of the textbook will also be available on reserve at the university library.

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

Examination 1 .... 25%
Examination 2 .... 25%
Examination 3 .... 25%
Three written assignments, OR **nine** screening quizzes 25%

Online Instruction
Students are required to complete the course content online between each screening. The course will be released in three separate units (one unit per exam). Each class will include notes, reading assignments, clips and activities, including an assignment option. Students MUST stay up-to-date on the course content in order to fully understand the screenings.

Students expecting to do well in this class should read the assigned materials, attend and take notes on all components of the class, including discussions and screenings. You do not need to notify me if you miss class, but it is up to you to view the assigned films, most of which will be available at the Chilton Media Center within a day or so after the class meeting.

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.

Attendance
Attendance is not mandatory, so there is no penalty for non-attendance. If you want to watch films outside of the classroom, then you are free to do so. All of the movies that will be screened in the course will be available on reserve on DVD in the media library. Movies that are available for streaming through the university's media library will be linked to the course on Canvas.

Extra credit is available for students who regularly attend the weekly screenings and discussions. I will give three bonus points on a final grade to anyone who attends class every week, with no more than three absences in the semester. Attendance sheets are available until 9:45am (fifteen minutes after class has started). Please do not try and negotiate attendance after this time. Rosters without signatures will be recorded as absences.

The instructor will accept a signature on a weekly attendance roster as evidence of a student's presence for the entirety of a class session. Any form of dishonesty with the attendance record, which includes signing and leaving or signing for another student, will be treated as academic dishonesty and result in a zero for the course.

Students who do not attend the first class session are subject to being dropped from the course, unless they notify the instructor ahead of time. Absences can be excused ahead of time for school-sponsored activities, religious holidays, illnesses, and other personal emergencies. Please provide documentation, such as a doctor's note or an authorized absence card, to one of the teaching assistants to excuse an absence.

Classroom Behavior
Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom. Disruptive behavior can include anything that would interfere with an instructor's ability to conduct class or with a student's ability to benefit from the instruction. Please note that behaviors likely to distract the instructor and, thus, to interrupt the flow of the class include activities designed to signal student inattentiveness, such as texting, reading, sleeping, working on material for other classes, etc. Electronic devices, such as laptops and tablets, are permitted in the classroom, as long as they are used to assist with course-related learning.

Writing Assignment and Screening Quiz Options
Students have the option to write three essays during the semester OR to complete nine online quizzes. Either option is 25% of the final grade.

> **Writing Assignment Option**
> The writing assignment option requires the completion of three essays during the semester. Each essay will answer one question from a list of questions provided to you, and each essay must be at least 600 words in length. The essays are graded on two levels:

completion and content. You must submit your responses within specific time periods (i.e. you cannot go back at the end of the semester and fill in gaps). Complete details about this option have been provided on a separate document entitled "Instructions for the Writing Assignment Option."

Screening Quiz Option
The optional weekly screening quizzes are available through the link "Screening Quiz Option." Quizzes are not based on module content alone: you will need to watch additional films on your own time. This is a useful option if you do not wish to write essays for the course this semester. Complete details about this option have been provided in a separate document entitled "Instructions for the Screening Quiz Option"

Examinations
There will be three examinations to be completed online through links posted on Canvas. Each examination assesses the content of one unit in the course, so the last 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 assignments, exams, and quizzes to be posted on Canvas within one week of that assignment or exam's due date.

Late Work
Students are required to submit assignments on due dates listed in this syllabus. Late submissions of writing assignments and screening quizzes are not accepted.

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.
- An optional assignment (a video presentation) is available for students to receive bonus points in the course. Additional 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	Friday, 8am-8pm
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130	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 Canvas 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 [insert administration dates] 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 3470 Schedule (Fall 2022)

WEEK 01 (Thursday, September 01)
Introduction to the Course READ: Course Syllabus Writing Assignment Option Screening Quiz Option
WEEK 02 (Thursday, September 08)
Unit 1, Module 1: The Invention of the Cinema READ: Chapter 1 SCREEN: *The Great Train Robbery* (1903) *Rescued by Rover* (1905) *Cinema Europe: The Other Hollywood* (Selection)
WEEK 03 (Thursday, September 15)
Unit 1, Module 2: The Expansion of the Cinema READ: Chapter 2 SCREEN: *Cabiria* (1914)
WEEK 04 (Thursday, September 22)

Unit 1, Module 3: National Cinemas and World War I
READ: Chapter 3
SCREEN: *The Cheat* (1915)

WEEK 05 (Thursday, September 29)

EXAMINATION 1
Available Online – No Class
Due Thursday, September 29 at 11:59pm

WEEK 06 (Thursday, October 06)

Unit 2, Module 1: France in the 1920s
READ: Chapter 4
SCREEN: *The Smiling Madam Beudet* (1923)
       Menilmontant (1926)

WEEK 07 (Thursday, October 13)

Unit 2, Module 2: Germany in the 1920s
READ: Chapter 5
SCREEN: *Nosferatu* (1922)

WEEK 08 (Thursday, October 20)

Unit 2, Module 3: Soviet Cinema in the 1920s
READ: Chapter 6
SCREEN: *Battleship Potemkin* (1925)

WEEK 09 (Thursday, October 27)

Unit 2, Module 4: Late Silent Era in Hollywood
READ: Chapter 7
SCREEN: *The Paleface* (1921)
       The Kid (1921)

WEEK 10 (Thursday, November 03)

EXAMINATION 2
Available Online – No Class
Due Thursday, November 03 at 11:59pm

WEEK 11 (Thursday, November 10)

Unit 3, Module 1: Introduction of Sound
 READ: Chapter 9
 SCREEN: *M* (1931)

WEEK 12 (Thursday, November 17)

Unit 3, Module 2: The Hollywood Studio System
 READ: Chapter 10
 SCREEN: *King Kong* (1933)

WEEK 13 (Thursday, November 24)

FALL BREAK
No Lesson

WEEK 14 (Thursday, December 01)

Unit 3, Module 3: Other Studio Systems
 READ: Chapter 11
 SCREEN: *The Lady Vanishes* (1938)

WEEK 15 (Thursday, December 08)

Unit 3, Module 4: Cinema and the State
 READ: Chapter 12 and Chapter 13
 SCREEN: *Pepe Le Moko* (1937)

WEEK 16 (Thursday, December 15)

EXAMINATION 3
Available Online – No Class
Due Thursday, December 15 at 11:59pm