



FILM 125A - FILM GENRES: Film Noir Course Outline

Approval Date: 03/12/2020

Effective Date: 08/14/2020

SECTION A

Unique ID Number

Discipline(s) Film Studies
Theater Arts

Division Arts and Humanities

Subject Area Film Studies

Subject Code FILM

Course Number 125A

Course Title FILM GENRES: Film Noir

TOP Code/SAM Code 1007.00 - Drama and Dramatics/Theatre Arts, General /
E - Non-Occupational

**Rationale for adding this course to
the curriculum** add distant education

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks 18

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction On-Campus
Hybrid
Entirely Online

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description This course offers an in-depth analysis of the film noir genre through the study of film history, methods of production, film style, evolution of aesthetics and conventions, noted actors and directors, and sociological implications.

Schedule Description

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

1c. **Recommended:** *None*

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Critically analyze the components of film production from major historical periods and genres.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Demonstrate knowledge of film terminology.

B. Identify major film noir films.

C. Recognize plot, story conventions, and visual design of film noir.

D. Demonstrate the ability to critically understand and analyze film noir.

E. Demonstrate the ability to apply established critical film theory (auteur, feminist, historical, etc.) to film noir.

F. Understand the production of film noir in historical and sociological context.

G.

3. Course Content

A. Introduction to film studies, emphasizing the specific application of techniques, terminology and methodologies to film noir, including:

a. Terminology and Film Techniques

a. close-up,

b. continuity editing

c. cross-cutting

d. establishing shot

e. fade-out

f. long take

g. sound bridge

h. wide angle

b. Methodologies including

- a. auteur
 - b. feminist
 - c. historical
- B. Stylistic elements and components of film noir:
- a. lighting
 - b. composition and visual framing
 - c. audio design
 - d. music
 - e. plot and story
 - f. acting
 - g. setting
 - h. evolution/mutation over time
- C. Historical, sociological and thematic analysis and of film noir.
- a. Prehistory of noir
 - b. Classic period
 - a. 1940-1949
 - b. 1950-1958
 - c. Neo-noir and echoes of the classic mode
 - a. 1960s
 - b. 1970s
 - c. 1980s
 - d. 1990s - present
- D. Thematic interpretation and analysis of film noir
- E.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Activity:

Critique:

Directed Study:

Online Adaptation: Activity, Directed Study, Discussion, Group Work, Individualized Instruction, Journal, Lecture

7. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Quizzes --

Final Exam --

Mid Term --

Additional assessment information:

Final grade will be based upon:

Midterm and final. Midterms and finals may include both objective and essay style questions.

For example:

Final Exam Essay: Chose one film this semester. Identify the choices made about plot structure, scenic design, lighting, cinematography, editing, acting, sound, and other intentional artistic components the finished film product that identifies it as film noir. Essay will be evaluated on identification and discussion of the formal elements, discussion of apparent and symbolic content, and development of historical content. Thoroughness and competence of writing will also count towards final grade.

Quiz after each unit of study. Quizzes may include both objective and essay style questions.

Research paper or other writing project that develop a related topic.

For example:

Students are to select a paper topic covering a critical analysis and evaluation of the artistic elements of film noir covered in the course this semester. This paper is designed as a research project and students are expected to go beyond the level of information found in the course textbook. Students must find a minimum of five sources for this paper. Of those five, no more than two may be periodical sources and no internet sources are allowed, except where students can demonstrate the academic verifiability and validity of a source. Paper will be in the MLA format using parenthetical citations. The body of the text must be a minimum of 7 pages and no more than 15. Work will be graded on a 50 point rubric that evaluates format; development of the body of the text including a thesis, relevant examples, integration of research, conclusion and merit of original premise; punctuation; grammar; bibliography; citations; and use of images.

Participation in class discussions

Letter Grade or P/NP

8. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Selected readings from textbook, periodicals or library collection covering and expanding on lecture.

For Example:

Read Chapter 2, focusing on the definition of film noir
Read chapter 5, covering the work of Alfred Hitchcock

B. Writing Assignments

Written evaluations of films viewed in class.

For example:

Write a three-page, typewritten analysis of films by Alfred Hitchcock. Select one film and written a portion of the essay outlining techniques and stylistic elements Hitchcock used that make it part of the film noir genre.

2. Topical essays expanding on course material.

For example:

Write a three page paper comparing film noir in the 1940s to film noir in the 1950s.

C. Other Assignments

Research paper or other writing projects that develop a related topic.

For example:

Students are to select a paper topic covering a critical analysis and evaluation of the artistic elements of film noir covered in the course this semester. This paper is designed as a research project and students are expected to go beyond the level of information found in the course textbook. Students must find a minimum of five sources for this paper. Of those five, no more than two may be periodical sources and no internet

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9. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Mike Chopra-Gant

Title: Into the Dark: The Hidden World of Film Noir, 1941-1950

Publisher: Running Press

Date of Publication: 2016

Edition:

B. Other required materials/supplies.