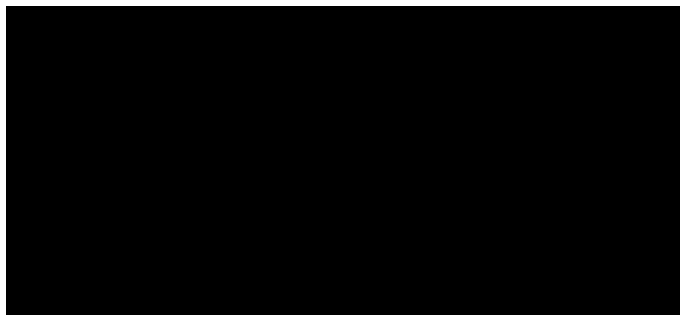


COMM 3950: Methods of Film Analysis (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hale



Semester: Fall 2020

Class Meeting: M, W, F

Time: 9:05-10:00 AM

Location:



Course Overview

This course will examine film as both an artistic and cultural form that both reflects and refracts the social and historical conditions within and from which it emerges. Throughout the semester, you will learn about and apply new terminology and film theory. You'll gain a better understanding of the history and development of imagery, screen culture, and the film industry and you will refine your analytical skills while producing original written and multimedia content.

Course Objectives

- (1) You will become a more informed and critically engaged consumer and producer of [mass] media.
- (2) You will develop your reading/writing comprehension and critical thinking skills by completing a number of written and multimedia assignments.
- (3) You will conduct and present original research and creative projects.
- (4) You will learn about and use various social theories to make sense of a number of complex cultural phenomena and social institutions.

*****Required Texts/Materials*****

Texts: All readings for this course will be provided for free via D2L.

Production Technologies: You will need a camera (anything from a smartphone or GoPro to a DSLR or prosumer camcorder) and you will need access to basic editing software (our Dept. has Final Pro X and Adobe Premiere Pro, but you can just as easily get by with iMovie or any number of free editing platforms). Basically, you need a phone and some sort of computer. If you do not have or have access to these devices, contact me ASAP.

Films: Students will be required to watch a number of feature films. Many of these can be viewed or rented as part of the available content on a number of online streaming subscription services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ and Hulu. Students can make arrangements to get access to the required films via the Felix G. Woodward Library, the Montgomery Public Library, or via Dr. Hale. Please contact me if you have any issues getting access to films that are required for viewing outside of/before class.

Course Material Expenses!!!! [3 options]

**Approx. expenses = \$60 (max for films, if you rent each online)*

***Approx. expenses = \$40 (rentals + Netflix monthly fee)*

****Approx. expenses = \$0 if you use the Woodward Library and/or local library/arrange screenings with me!! < I would prefer you do this.*

Course and University Policies

Participation: You must participate in class discussions. This means being in class (and conscious...both literally and intellectually) and on time, having completed the assigned readings/screenings before class.

Disability Access: Any student who has a disability that may affect his/her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with me to discuss this matter, or you may contact Disability Services; Telephone 221-6230; TTY 221-6278; Fax 221-7102.

Official Communication: AP Mail is the official means of communication at APSU. Correspondence between the university and students will be sent to the students' APSU Mail account; other email accounts will not be utilized. Students are encouraged to check their AP Mail account on a regular basis.

Academic Dishonesty: The Austin Peay State University Student Handbook states: Academic dishonesty may be defined as any act of dishonesty in academic work. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, the changing or falsifying of any academic documents or materials, cheating and giving or receiving of unauthorized aid in tests, examinations or other assigned work. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. Penalties for academic misconduct will vary with the seriousness of the offense and may include, but are not limited to, a grade of “F” on the work in question, a grade of “F” in the course, reprimand, probation, suspension and expulsion.

Academic And Classroom Misconduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated. Students must read the “Code of Student Conduct” in the new [Student Handbook](#) for an understanding of what will be expected of them within the academic setting. [Policy 3:005](#) will be followed in reporting any suspected cases of academic misconduct:

Professionalism and Respect: You are expected to behave professionally in your contributions to discussions, feedback given to your peers, interactions with the instructor, and, of course, in the work you do for class assignments. Discourteous, threatening, or harassing behavior will not be tolerated. Respect works both ways. I do my best to be courteous and fair in all situations and at all times. If you ever feel that you are being treated otherwise by anyone (including me), please contact me.

Policy on Minors: Minors accompanying staff, faculty, students, or visitors on campus are not permitted in classrooms. However, affiliated minors may utilize classrooms designated for use by a program approved by the university in which they are a participant.

Service Animals: Consult [Policy 3:007 Animals on Campus](#) for appropriate situations allowing service animals in the classroom.

Student Complaints and Appeals Procedure: Discuss your concerns with your faculty member or contact the department chair if you need assistance in resolving an issue. APSU has a variety of policies and procedures for students to file a complaint, appeal, or grievance. Please visit this [webpage](#) for more information.

Attendance: Due to COVID-19, I am practicing a much more flexible attendance policy to account for our multimodal engagement structures, sicknesses, etc. I will be recording attendance for online engagement as my primary metric. You must log into our D2L course website at least 2 times each week.

Assignment Submission Policy: All assignments must be submitted to the appropriate “Dropbox” on D2L by the designated time/due date indicated on the syllabus and/or in person. **I will only accept .doc or .docx files for text-based documents. No hardcopies will be accepted.** For video submissions, upload your original content to YouTube, then submit a link from said content via Dropbox.

Late Assignments: I will not accept any late assignments.

Submitting Assignments Correctly: It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive what I need to grade. Check your files. Double check to ensure your upload worked. If I attempt to open your file and there is nothing there, an unfinished draft, or the incorrect file format by the due date, I will grade what has been submitted as is. No exceptions.

Unethical Requests for Special Treatment: It is unethical for me to provide extra credit opportunities or to artificially inflate any student’s grade. Please do not ask me to increase your grade on any assignment or your final overall score for the course. If you find a grading error, please contact me. I am happy to correct it. I will treat all students equally within the classroom and with respect to grading.

Email Replies: I will do my very best to reply to all emails within a 4-24 hour period excepting holidays and weekends. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, I may have missed your email in the digital piles of emails I get each week. Feel free to re-send the email and/or to contact me during office hours or before/after class.

In Class Technology (cellphones, in other words): You should not be on your phone in class unless we are specifically using them for an in-class activity. Otherwise, no phones. If you need to make a call or answer a text, please leave the classroom. This is especially important during in-class screenings. We will be adopting the Alamo Drafthouse no talking policy. You talk during a screening, you get a warning. Next time, I will ask you to leave.

Office Hours: Office hours will be virtual this semester. Just send me an email to schedule your appointment and/or send me a text at 678-346-1228.

Grading Turnaround: I will try my best to always return graded materials with extensive feedback within one week. There are times where assignments may be longer/more involved. Accordingly, my response time may be slower.

Exceptions: As with any policies, I am willing to make exceptions under certain extenuating circumstances. If you have any conflicts with the schedule or policies outlined here, please contact me and let me know as soon as possible.

COVID-19 STATEMENT & GUIDELINES

Austin Peay State University is concerned for the health and well-being of the entire community. The nature of COVID-19 is such that each of our individual actions affects not only our personal well-being but also those of every other person with whom we interact or share a space. Given the possibility of changes to CDC guidelines or those of local or state officials, students and faculty alike will need to be adaptable and flexible as events may occur that necessitate a change in the course schedule or mode of delivery. To minimize the disruption that might occur if a student falls ill or is unable to attend classes for some other legitimate reason, class materials must be made available electronically to students unless the nature of the coursework makes this impossible.

To enhance the health and safety of the APSU community, it is expected that every member of this course acknowledges the following university guidelines:

Masks and face coverings:

All students are expected to wear masks or face coverings and maintain physical distancing in all university buildings. Both are necessary classroom requirements that will help keep our community safe.

1. All students and instructors must arrive to class wearing a mask or face covering over their mouth and nose. If a student does not have a mask or face covering, the student must pick up a disposable mask (available throughout campus – in classrooms and in administrative academic department offices) before joining the class session.

1. If a student habitually arrives to class without wearing a mask or face covering, the student may be advised that they can only attend an online section of the course, if such an option is available, for the remainder of the semester. If the course is not available online, the student will be informed that the in-person course is the only option and they will be given one more opportunity to return to class and wear a mask or face covering. The instructor will file a report with the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs. The student may face sanctions up to and including the student being administratively withdrawn from the course and not receive a refund of tuition or fees.

2. If a student refuses to put on a mask or face covering in a class, after being instructed to do so, the instructor will request that the student leave the class. The instructor will file a report with the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs. The student will face sanctions up to and including the student being administratively withdrawn from the course and not receive a refund of tuition or fees. If a student refuses to leave the classroom upon request from an instructor, campus police will be called to escort the student from the classroom. In this case, the student will again be referred to the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs. If this situation occurs, the faculty member may take a break or dismiss the class for that day at their discretion. (Questions regarding Failure to Comply Code of Student Conduct violations should be directed to the Dean of Students, 931-221-7323).

1.If a student has a medical condition that inhibits the student's ability to wear a mask or face covering, the student must contact Disability Services to receive an accommodation (931-221-6230). If a student seeks an exception to the mask requirement, the faculty member and advisor should work with the student to seek an online section of the course. If an online section is not available, or the student does not wish to enroll in the online course, the faculty member will provide instruction to the student remotely, using available lecture capture and other appropriate technology.

Student Absences:

Students unable to attend class due to COVID-19 policy or another serious illness, will:

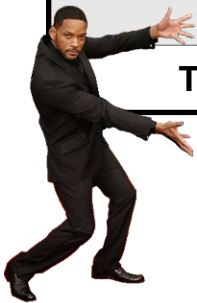
- 1.Notify their instructor and follow campus guidelines regarding a safe return to campus;
- 2.Not be penalized for class absences assuming they make up missed assignments in a timely fashion, in consultation with (and at the discretion of) the instructor; and
- 3.Be provided reasonable accommodations to access all course materials and will be given the opportunity to complete missed assignments online as is practicable.

Student Illness:

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny notes, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea), remain at home, please complete the COVID 19 reporting form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?AustinPeayStateUniv&layout_id=19), and seek medical assistance or COVID-19 testing if instructed to do so. Students may reach out to Boyd Health Services for guidance. The student should not return to class (or campus activities) until the student has been released by Boyd Health Services. Boyd Health Services will provide guidance during the quarantine/isolation period and a representative from the Office of the Dean of Students will contact the student to provide additional information.

Assignment Value Breakdown

ASSIGNMENT	POINT VALUE	DUE DATE
SEQUENCE INVENTORY/ANALYSIS	100	Sept 13
FILM SEQUENCE # 1	100	Oct 4
FILM SEQUENCE # 2	100	Oct 18
FILM REVIEW (PAPER OR VIDEO ESSAY)	100	Nov 8
AUTEUR PROFILE (PAPER OR VIDEO ESSAY)	100	Dec 4
WEEKLY SCREENING RESPONSES (10 X 10PTS EACH)	100	Sundays
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	600	



Numerical Grade to Letter Grade

LETTER GRADE	POINT RANGE
A	540 - 600
B	480 - 539
C	420 - 479
D	360 - 419
F	0 - 359

Film Terms Glossary: <https://www.filmsite.org/filmterms.html>

Course Calendar

Week 1: Getting Started [Aug 24 - 30]

(M) Aug 24 — No Physical Meeting

Read: Review Syllabus and Course Website

Watch: Video Lecture # 1: Course Introduction

Screening: *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006)

(W) Aug 26 — No Physical Meeting

Read: "[A Very Short History of Cinema](#)"

Skim: "[Coronavirus Movie Delays...](#)"

Explore: [Cinematography @ UK Science Museum Group Collection](#)

Watch: Video Lecture # 2: Early Film, Mass Culture, and Popular Entertainment

(F) Aug 28 — Virtual Discussion @ 9-10AM: *Pan's Labyrinth* + Q/A + Troubleshooting

(SU) Aug 30 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Reading Response for *Pan's Labyrinth* due @ 11:59PM

Week 2: Genre and Form [Aug 31 - Sept 6]

(M) Aug 31 — **In-Class Screening:** *Get Out* [55 min]

Skim: "[A Guide to Basic Film Genres](#)"

Watch: Video Lecture # 3: Sequence Analysis Assignment Walkthrough

(W) Sept 2 — **In-Class Screening:** *Get Out* [49 min]

Read: Daniel Chandler, "An Introduction to Genre Theory."

(F) Sept 4 — **Discussion + Assignment Walkthrough**

(SU) Sept 6 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Reading Response for *Get Out* due @ 11:59PM

Week 3: From Screen to Page [Sept 8 - 13]

(M) Sept 8 — LABOR DAY! NO CLASS!!!

(W) Sept 10 — **In-Class Screening:** *Eternal Sunshine... Spotless* [55 min]

Read: Charlie Kaufman, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind Screenplay."

(F) Sept 12 — **In-Class Screening:** *Eternal Sunshine... Spotless* [53 min]

Read: Linda Hutcheon, "Beginning to Theorize Adaptation."

(SU) Sept 13 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Sequence Analysis due @ 11:59PM

Due: Reading Response for *Eternal Sunshine* due @ 11:59PM

Week 4: Aesthetics and Ideology [Sept 14 - 20]

(M) Sept 14 — **In-Class Screening:** *Jojo Rabbit* [55 min]

Read: "Film and Ideology."

(W) Sept 16 — **In-Class Screening:** *Jojo Rabbit* [53 min]

Watch: ["Dir. Taika Waititi Breaks Down A Scene from Jojo Rabbit"](#)

(F) Sept 18 — **Discussion and Creative Projects Q/A and Brainstorm**

Watch: Video Lecture # 4: Creative Project Assignment Walkthrough

(SU) Sept 20 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Reading Response for *Jojo Rabbit* due @ 11:59PM

Week 5: The Edit [Sept 21 - 27]

(M) Sept 21 — **In-Class Screening:** *Arrival* [55 min]

Skim: "Editing: Pudovkin's Five Editing Techniques."

Watch: ["Cuts and Transitions 101"](#) (11:40)

Watch: ["Alfred Hitchcock on 3 Theories of Film Editing"](#) (7:38)

Watch: ["The 7 Laws of Film Editing"](#) (11:41).

(W) Sept 23 — **In-Class Screening:** *Arrival* [52 min]

Watch: ["Top 10 Most Effective Editing Moments of All Time"](#) (7:30)

Watch: ["Bohemian Rhapsody's Terrible Editing"](#) (13:10)

Recommended: ["How Star Wars Was Saved in the Edit"](#) (18:24)

(F) Sept 25 — **Discussion**

(SU) Sept 27 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Reading Response for *Arrival* due @ 11:59PM

Week 6: Cinematography [Sept 28 - Oct 4]

(M) Sept 28 — **In-Class Screening:** *Children of Men* [55 min]

Read: “Cinematography: The Creative Use of Reality.”

(W) Sept 30 — **In-Class Screening:** *Children of Men* [55 min]

Watch: [Full Cinematographers Roundtable](#)

(F) Oct 2 — **Discussion**

Watch: "[Two Axis Dolly and Children of Men](#)"

Skim: "[Focalisation Realism and Narrative Asymmetry...](#)"

(SU) Oct 4 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Creative Video Project # 1 due @ 11:59PM

Due: Reading Response for *Children of Men* due @ 11:59PM

Week 7: Style [Oct 5 - 11]

(M) Oct 5 — **In-Class Screening:** *The Royal Tenenbaums* [55 min]

Read: “Mise en Scène”

(W) Oct 7 — **In-Class Screening:** *The Royal Tenenbaums* [55 min]

Skim: "[Wes Anderson’s Colour Palettes](#)"

(F) Oct 9 — **In-Class Screening:** *The Royal Tenenbaums* [8 min] + **Discussion**

(SU) Oct 11 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Reading Response for *TRT* due @ 11:59PM

Week 8: Performance [Oct 12 - 18]

(M) Oct 12 — **In-Class Screening:** *TBD* [55 min]

Read: Paul McDonald, “Film Acting.”

(W) Oct 14 — **In-Class Screening:** *TBD* [55 min]

(F) Oct 16 — **Discussion**

(SU) Oct 18 — **Assignment Due Date**

Due: Creative Video Project # 2 due @ 11:59PM

Due: Reading Response *No Country For Old Men* due @ 11:59PM

Week 9: Auteur [Oct 19 - 25]

(M) Oct 19 — **In-Class Screening:** *Reservoir Dogs* [55 min]
Read: “Film Authorship”

(W) Oct 21 — **In-Class Screening:** *Reservoir Dogs* [55 min]
Skim: [“Tarantino — Development of an Auteur”](#)

(F) Oct 23 — **Discussion**

(SU) Oct 25 — **Assignment Due Date**
Due: Reading Response for *Reservoir Dogs* due @ 11:59PM

Week 10: Everyday [Oct 26 - Nov 1]

(M) Oct 26 — **In-Class Screening:** *A Single Man* [55 min]
Read: Ben Highmoore, “Figuring the Everyday”

(W) Oct 28 — **In-Class Screening:** *A Single Man* [46 min]
Read: Alex Doty, “Queer Theory.”

(F) Oct 30 — **Discussion**

(SU) Nov 1 — **Assignment Due Date**
Due: Reading Response for *A Single Man* due @ 11:59PM

Week 11: Reflect [Nov 2 - 8]

(M) Nov 2 — **In-Class Screening:** *Do The Right Thing* [55 min]
Read: Jeva Lange, [“What Do The Right Thing Can Teach Us Now.”](#)

(W) Nov 4 — **In-Class Screening:** *Do The Right Thing* [45 min]
Read: W.J.T. Mitchell, “The Violence of Public Art.”

(F) Nov 6 — **Discussion**

(SU) Nov 8 — **Assignment Due Date**
Due: Reading Response for *Do The Right Thing* due @ 11:59PM
Due: Film Review due @ 11:59PM

Week 12: Change [Nov 9 - 15]

(M) Nov 9 — **In-Class Screening:** *Lady Bird* [55 min]
Read: No Readings

(W) Nov 11 — **In-Class Screening:** *Lady Bird* [40 min]
Read: No Readings

(F) Nov 13 — **Discussion**

(SU) Nov 15 — **Assignment Due Date**
Due: Reading Response for *Lady Bird* due @ 11:59PM

Week 13: Nov 23 - 29
Thanksgiving No Classes!!!

(F) Dec 4 — Auteur Profile Paper or Video Essay Due by 11:59PM
