

**The Art Institute of Washington®**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Course Title:** Topics in Film  
**Course Code:** HU212

**Course Prerequisites:**

**Course Description**

This course will examine the evolving codes and conventions of the cinematic narrative in a particular way: through analysis of selected film genres in the context of critical theories concerning the narrative structure. The course will focus specifically on genre films and on genre criticism specifically on Hollywood films from the 1930's to the present.

**Core Course Competencies:** Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically view and analyze a film.
2. understand genre theory and its specific set of conventions
3. apply to film analysis an appropriate vocabulary of film related terms
4. apply different critical analysis techniques to film
5. develop and support a film analysis essay
6. present ideas effectively in a classroom situation

**Required Text:** Neal, Sam: Genre and Hollywood, 20001

Monaco, James: How to Read a Film, 2000

**Course Length:** 11 Weeks

**Contact Hours:** 44

**Credit Value:** 4

**Students with Disabilities:**

It is AiW's policy to not discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in this class, contact your instructor and a school counselor (located in the Student Services Office). Instructors should be notified during the first week of classes. You may refer to the Non discrimination Policy on the Enrollment Agreement Form for the complete policy.

**Attendance Policy:**

It is the goal of this policy to improve the academic performance of students in the classroom by stressing the importance of course attendance and reinforcing the work ready expectations of employers for employee attendance.

1. Students are required to attend all class meetings, to arrive on time, and to stay for the duration of the class.
2. Students arriving thirty minutes or more late will be marked absent.
3. Tardiness (10 + minutes) will be recorded and will affect student participation grades. Students who leave class before the class is over without the approval of the instructor will be marked absent.
4. Students who accumulate three absences in a course will be dropped from and a grade of FS (failed suspended) will be recorded for the course.
5. There are no excused absences.

**Student Conduct Policy:**

The Art Institute of Washington expects its students and employees to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. In addition, the Art Institute has a strict policy that disallows sexual harassment of either students or its employees. All students or employees are encouraged to report any professional or sexual misconduct to the Director of Student Services.

**Grading Scale:**

A	100 to 92
A-	91.9 to 90
B+	89.9 to 88
B	87.9 to 82
B-	81.9 to 80
C+	79.9 to 78
C	77.9 to 72
C-	71.9 to 70
D+	69.9 to 67
D	66.9 to 60
F	59.9 and below

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**Course Code/Section:** HU212  
**Session/Year:** Summer 2002  
**Meeting Days:** Tuesday 12:30-4:20  
**Instructor:** Wendy Tumminello  
Email: wt311@fac.aii.edu  
Voice mail: 703-358-9550 ext: 7721

**Estimated Homework Hours:** 4 per week

**Student Evaluation:**

You are required to turn in a total of 3 papers. Papers should be no less than **three - four** pages. You must cite all sources utilized. If you use anyone else's words you **MUST** give the author due credit. **Plagiarism in any form will be recorded as an F.**

**Department Criteria:**

45% papers/projects, 30% tests, 15% worksheets, 10% participation

**Class Policies:**

1. Attend every class, bring a pencil and paper to take notes, turn in all assignments on time, and take notes while watching films.
2. Late work will result in the reduction of one letter grade for each class an assignment is late. After three weeks student will receive an automatic F.
3. Makeup work will be assigned only after meeting with the instructor.
4. Students are expected to turn in original work. Plagiarized work receive a permanent F grade.
5. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, demonstrations, and to give oral presentations that accompany their projects.
6. Use of devices such as phones, headphones, calculators, etc. Will not be permitted during class time or designated class lab time.
7. There are no excused absences for Midterm or Final Exam unless student has a valid doctor's excuse.
8. Student is responsible for obtaining notes for any missed classes.

**References:**

[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) (Internet movie Database)

[www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)

**Assignments**

Analytical Essay on the Western film (15% of grade-: 3-4 pages)

Analytical Essay on Horror and or Thriller film (15% of grade-: 3-4 pages)

Analytical Essay on Film Noir (15% of grade :3- 4 pages)

Midterm Test (15% of grade)

Final Test (15% of grade)

Class Worksheets/Film Evaluation (15% of grade)

Class Participation (10% of grade)

**LATENESS PENALTY:** One letter grade per week. Papers will NOT be accepted after the third week. NO EXECEPTIONS.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance will be taken every class. If 15 minutes or more late student will receive an F for Film Worksheet/Evaluation. Student will also jeopardize their grade if more than 5 minutes late after the break.

**MLA GUIDELINES:** Please follow the MLA guidelines for citing your sources. If I do not receive sources I will return the paper to you.

**Course Outline (A schedule of course activities by week)****Hourly Lesson Plan**

	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Lab/ Activities</b>	<b>Homework Due Following Week</b>	<b>Reading</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction to course Terminology overview How to write a film analysis	Film Clips: Thrillers		Neale p. 9-28  monaco p. 155-160
<b>Week 2</b>	Horror Genre	psycho	Paper #1 Assigned: Horror genre	Neale: p. 82-85 handout  monaco 179-183
<b>Week 3</b>	WAR	Apocalypse Now	Apocalypse Worksheet	Neale p. 125-133  monaco 183-195
<b>Week 4</b>	WESTERN	The Searchers	Searchers Worksheet Paper #2 Assigned  PAPER #1 DUE	Neale p. 133-142 p. 43-46  monaco 195-212
<b>Week 5</b>	Midterm TBA	TBA		monaco 212-216
<b>Week 6</b>	Comedy	TBA		Neale p. 65-71  monaco 216-225
<b>Week 7</b>	Melodrama	THE PIANO	Piano Worksheet Paper #3	Neale p. 179-202  monaco 78-86
<b>Week 8</b>	Film Noir	Kiss Me Deadly	Film Noir Worksheet Paper #3	Neale p. 151-175

<b>Week 9</b>	Black Cinema	Menace to Society	Menace Worksheet	monaco 86-99
<b>Week 10</b>	Crime	Goodfellas	PAPER #3 DUE Goodfellas Worksheet	monaco 100-124
<b>Week 11</b>	Science Fiction	Blade Runner		p 100-104