FIS 110 LANGUAGE OF FILM
Spring 2020

Section 1001: Tuesdays, 2:30pm-3:45pm & Thursdays, 2:30pm-5:15pm
Section 1002: Tuesdays, 4:00pm-5:15pm & Thursdays, 2:30pm-5:15pm
FDH 109
[Note: class will meet in CBC A108 in Week 1, Tues 1/21 & Thur 1/23]

With Kynan Dias, kynan.dias@UNLV.edu
Visiting Lecturer, UNLV Film
Office hours in FDH 432, Mondays, 12:00pm-1:00pm, by appointment

With Julie Johnson, julie.johnson@UNLV.edu
Director of Student Success Initiatives, College of Fine Arts

With Dr. Heather Addison, heather.addison@UNLV.edu
Chair and Professor, UNLV Film
UNLV Film Office 702-895-3547

With Molly Higgins, higgim2@UNLV.nevada.edu

“...The film maker must come by his convention, as painters and writers and musicians have done before him. He must make us believe that what he shows us, fantastic though it seems, has some relation with the great veins and arteries of our existence.”
—Virginia Woolf

LANGUAGE OF FILM is an introduction to the stylistic elements that make cinema a unique art form. Employing landmark films from a broad-based spectrum of styles, genres, historical periods, and national cultures, this course will acquaint you with the methods of sophisticated cinematic analysis.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to break films down into their component features (mise-en-scéne, cinematography, editing, sound, performance, and form) analyze the operation of each of these elements in detail, and then consider how each contributes to the meaning of a film as a whole.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
—Identify key cinematic elements and concepts
—Analyze texts with an eye for film grammar and structure
—Apply key concepts toward film appreciation and analysis
—Demonstrate their knowledge through critical writing
—Expand their understanding of film production contexts

READING:

The required reading is FILM ART: AN INTRODUCTION, by Kristin Thompson and David Bordwell, Eleventh Edition

Two additional required readings will be provided via Canvas. Any recommended readings will also be provided via Canvas.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance and participation, being essential to the success of the class entire, are mandatory; therefore, attendance and tardiness will be monitored at the beginning and end of each class. Film department policy states that any student with three unexcused absences will result in the dropping of a full letter grade. Four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

Students enrolled in either Section 1 or Section 2 may attend the lectures for either section to suit their schedule, with no need to inform instructors in advance. For instance, if a student is late to their normally scheduled Section 1 lecture, they may attend the end of their section and stay for the Section 2 lecture immediately after it to make up materials missed.

Attendance and civil participation is not only the most essential aspect of the course for an individual student, it also aids in the educational experience of the entire class. Therefore, attendance and tardiness will be monitored at the beginning and end of each class through a sign-in sheet. Abuse of attendance sheets is academic dishonesty and grounds for failure and referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Students should sign in before class and not once class has already started (2:30pm or 4:00pm). Students are expected to sit as close as possible to front of the class to facilitate discussion.
Should a student miss class, it is their responsibility to view any films shown before the following class. The instructor will not provide students with copies of screened films or lecture notes. Every feature film shown in its entirety is available at local media stores, UNLV’s Lied Library, Clark County Library District, or through websites that rent or sell DVDs and streaming video. Make-up notes should be obtained from a reliable fellow student. Some excerpted films and short films screened are difficult to find, often obtained at great expense to the instructor. Again, attendance is important.

GRADES:

Grades will consist of Daily Attendance & In-Class Participation, Lecture/Reading Quizzes, Screening Quizzes, a 1,000 word Paper written on a film screened outside of class (student’s choice of THE SEARCHERS or VERITGO), a Midterm Exam, and a Final Exam.

No late work will be accepted on the Paper beyond its due date. The Quizzes and Exams have recommended due dates, but will be available until a the end of the semester. The Midterm and Final Exams will be built entirely out of questions pulled directly from previous quizzes.

All told, 1000 points are possible in the course. No late work will be accepted. No make-up tests will be administered. Extra-credit may be assigned, at the instructor’s discretion.

350 points WEEKLY ONLINE QUIZZES
310 points DAILY ATTENDANCE & MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION
125 points OUTSIDE VIEWING PAPER (THE SEARCHERS / VERTIGO)
100 points ONLINE MIDTERM EXAM
100 points ONLINE FINAL EXAM
15 points ONLINE SYLLABUS QUIZ


CLASS NOTES:

As a film major, you will be presented with opportunities to work in the production of film projects (your own, other students’ or faculty’s, and even professional projects shooting in town). You are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to practice and hone your art and craft but not at the expense of your work in this or any other class. Participation in any
production is NOT an excuse for failing to complete the responsibilities established in this course.

Public Health Directives
Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the UNLV Code of Student Conduct, https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct
Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the Student Conduct Code, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct.

Auditing Classes
Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct
Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of electronic devices such as pagers, cellular phones, or recording devices, or potentially disruptive devices or activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Copyright
The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional copyright policy information is available at https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A, Room 143, https://www.unlv.edu/drc, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact
the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Final Examinations
The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the Final Exam Schedule, https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars.

Identity Verification in Online Courses
All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy, https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades
The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources
Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the Libraries’ Research Consultation website, https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian. You can also ask the library staff questions via chat and text message at https://ask.library.unlv.edu/.
Missed Classwork
Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Work policy, under Registration Policies, on the Academic Policies webpage, https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7326.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail
Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching
The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the ASC website, https://www.unlv.edu/asc, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center
One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/, located in the Central Desert Complex,
Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3–301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

Diversity Statement
As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see University Statements and Compliance, https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another’s points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.
Rehearsals and/or Screen Performances
UNLV FILM is committed to creating an inclusive and respectful environment for all students. **Whenever physical contact of any kind between performers is anticipated**, individuals coordinating the shoot or rehearsal (directors, instructors, etc.) should outline the nature and rationale of the planned contact, ensure that participants are comfortable with the actions that will occur, and provide alternatives if requested.

**Screening Content**
Some of the screenings included in this course may contain sexually explicit, violent, and/or disturbing material, all of which will be discussed in an intellectually responsible manner. Such material will be flagged in advance of individual screenings, and alternative assignments will be provided for students who request them.
CLASS SCHEDULE
The following schedule is subject to change.

WEEK 1

Tuesday, January 21
[Class meets in CBC 108]

Introductions & Syllabus
Lecture 1:
What is a Movie?

Thursday, January 23
[Class meets in CBC 108]

Screening:
GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER (1967) 108m Columbia
Directed by Stanley Kramer

WEEK 2

Tuesday, January 28

Reading Due:
Chapter 1: "Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business"

Lecture 2:
Film Analysis

Thursday, January 30

Screenings:
BLACK GIRL (1966) 55m
Directed by Ousmane Sembene
IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE (2000) 98m
Directed by Wong Kar-Wai
WEEK 3
Tuesday, February 4

Reading Due:
  Chapter 2: "Film Form"

Lecture 3:
  Film Forms & Modes

  Thursday, February 6

Screenings:
  "Mothlight" (1963) 3m
    Directed by Stan Brakhage
  FANTASIA (1940) 126m Walt Disney Productions
    Produced by Walt Disney

WEEK 4
Tuesday, February 11

Reading Due:
  Chapter 4, "Mise-en-Scene"

Lecture 4:
  Mise-En-Scene

  Thursday, February 13

Screenings:
  "Un Chien Andalou" (1929) 22m
    Directed by Luis Buñuel & Salvador Dali
  THE GLEANERS AND I (2000) 82m
    Directed by Agnes Varda
WEEK 5

Tuesday, February 18

Reading Due:
   Chapter 5: "Cinematography"

Lecture 5:
   Cinematography

    Thursday, February 20

Screening:
   CITIZEN KANE (1941) 119m Radio-Keith-Orpheum
       Directed by Orson Welles

WEEK 6

Tuesday, February 25

Reading Due:
   Chapter 6: "Editing"

Lecture 6:
   Editing

    Thursday, February 27

Screening:
   PSYCHO (1960) 109m Paramount Pictures
       Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
WEEK 7
Tuesday, March 3

Reading Due:
Chapter 7: "Sound"

Lecture 7:
Sound

Thursday, March 5

Screening:
M*A*S*H (1970) 116m 20th Century Fox
Directed by Robert Altman

WEEK 8
Tuesday, March 10

Reading Due:
Available on Canvas
From Barsam & Monahan: "Acting"

Lecture 8:
Performance

Thursday, March 12

Screening:
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (1951) 125m Warner Bros.
Directed by Elia Kazan

MIDTERM AVAILABLE THROUGH CANVAS

WEEK 9
Tuesday, March 17

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Thursday, March 19

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
WEEK 10
Tuesday, March 24

Recommended Reading Available on Canvas:
Thompson & Bordwell: "Adaptation"

Lecture 9:
Film and Other Media

Thursday, March 26

Screening:
THE GRAPES OF WRATH (1940) 129m John Ford
Directed by John Ford

MIDTERM RECOMMENDED DUE DATE

WEEK 11
Tuesday, March 31

At-Home Viewing Essay/Wegner Film Studies Award Essay Due:
THE SEARCHERS (1956) 119m Warner Bros.
Directed by John Ford
or VERTIGO (1958) 128m Paramount
Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Reading Due:
Chapter 8, "Style & Film Form"

Lecture 10:
Authorship

Thursday, April 2

Screenings:
"The Cabbage Fairy" (1896) 1m &
"The Consequences of Feminism" (1906) 7m
Directed by Alice Guy-Blache
8 1/2 (1963) 138m Cineriz
Directed by Federico Fellini
WEEK 12

Tuesday, April 7

Lecture 11:
Production

Thursday, April 9

Screenings:
"Duck Amuck" (1953) 7m Warner Bros.
Directed by Chuck Jones
CLOSE-UP (1990) 98m Kanoon
Directed by Abbas Kiarostami

WEEK 13

Tuesday, April 14

Reading Due:
Chapter 10, "Documentary, Experimental, and Animated Films"

Lecture 12:
Film Theory & Criticism

Thursday, April 16

Screenings:
"Neighbours" (1952) 8m National Film Board of Canada
Directed by Norman McLaren
WILD STRAWBERRIES (1957) 91m AB Svensk Filmin industri
Directed by Ingmar Bergman
WEEK 14
Tuesday, April 21

Reading Due:
  Chapter 3: "Narrative"

Lecture 13:
  Narrative

Thursday, April 23

Screening:
  SUNRISE: A SONG OF TWO HUMANS (1927) 95m Fox Film
  Directed by F. W. Murnau

WEEK 15
Tuesday, April 28

Reading Due:
  Chapter 12: "Historical Changes"

Lecture 14:
  Film as Artifact

Screening:
  "Me at the Zoo" (2005) 1m
  Directed by Jawed Karim

Thursday, April 30

Screening:
  BONNIE AND CLYDE (1967) 111m Warner Bros.
  Directed by Arthur Penn

Friday, May 1 & Saturday, May 2

SPRING FLICKS
Approximately 7pm
WEEK 16

Tuesday, May 5

Reading Due:
   Chapter 9: "Film Genres"

Lecture 15:
   Genre

Thursday, May 7

Screening:
   CITY OF GOD (2002) 130m 02 Filmes
   Directed by Fernando Meirelles with Katia Lund

WEEK 17

Tuesday, May 12

FINAL EXAM RECOMMENDED DUE DATE

Special Screenings
   Students attend one screening of their choice for attendance points
   Students may attend both screenings for extra-credit
   On-time sign-in and sign-out required

Tentative Schedule:

   Tuesday, 3:10pm-5:10pm
   LE SAMOURAI (1967) 103m
   Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville

&

   Tuesday, 6:00pm-8:00pm
   DR. STRANGELOVE (1964) 94m Columbia
   Directed by Stanley Kubrick

Saturday, May 16

FINAL DEADLINE:
   All Quizzes and Exams by 11:59pm (Midnight)
WEEK 18
Tuesday, May 19

Grades due to the Registrar by 4:00pm