CM 255 – Introduction to Cinema and Digital Media (CRN 60345)
3 Credits - DH
Spring 2019

CLASS TIMES: W 8:45-11:15 a.m., ‘Ākoakoa 240
INSTRUCTOR: Kimberlee Bassford
OFFICE: ‘Ākoakoa 239
OFFICE HOURS: MW 1-2 p.m. but best to make appointment by email
CONTACT: kbassfor@hawaii.edu, 235-7396

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The course is an in-depth study of the process and art of cinematic storytelling. We will watch, discuss, analyze, read and write about films, television programs and/or online video with a critical eye to understanding cinematic storytelling and its various elements such as mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing and sound. 3 hours lecture. Pre-Requisites: Placement in ENG 100.

Satisfies the Diversification in Humanities requirement (DH).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze and write about films using the language and grammar of cinema.
2. Identify methods of expressing meaning through mise-en-scene, shot composition, camera angles, camera movements, lighting, editing, sound and music.
3. Work effectively within a group to plan, visualize and tell a cinematic story using a storyboard and shot list.

COURSE CONTENT

In this course, you will learn:

- Film vocabulary
- A basic understanding of film history and theory
- A critical approach to moving images and their power in shaping how we see and think
- How to analyze and write about film using the language and grammar of cinema
- How to work effectively within a group to plan, visualize and tell a cinematic story using a storyboard and shot list

Below is an outline of the course (subject to change). It is also important to note that besides the films listed, several short films and excerpts of other feature-length films will be screened in class and/or assigned for homework.

Week 1  
**Introduction / Film Form**

Weeks 2-3  
**Phases & Roles / Narrative**  
Screening: *Casablanca* (Michael Curtiz, USA, 1942, 102m)

Weeks 4-5  
**Mise-en-scene**  
Screening: *Citizen Kane* (Orson Welles, USA, 1941, 119m)

Weeks 6-7  
**Cinematography**  
Screening: *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (Julian Schnabel, Belgium, 2007, 112 minutes)

Writing response #1 due (Mise-en-scene)

Week 8  
**Midterm / Editing**

Week 9  
**Editing**  
Screening: *Chicago* (Rob Marshall, USA, 2002, 113m)

Weeks 10-11  
**Sound**  
Screening: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (J. J. Abrams, USA, 2015, 135m)

Writing response #2 due (Editing)

Week 12  
**Project 1 presentations**

Weeks 13-15  
**Genres / Documentary**  
Screening: *The Thin Blue Line* (Errol Morris, USA, 1988, 103m)

Week 16  
**Project 2 presentations**

**ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

All assignments will be graded on a point system as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1 – Storyboard (out of 25 total points)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logline</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2
Point System and Letter Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Attendance, absences and difficulties: You are expected to attend all classes. Excused absences (for illness, jury duty, military duty, bereavement, etc.) must be cleared with me via email prior to or within 24 hours of your absence. You must provide documentation (doctor’s note, jury summons, etc.). I will make the final determination of whether the absence is excused.

Unexcused absences will count against your final grade. At the end of the semester, you will be awarded up to 15 attendance points based on the percentage of classes you attended. So if you have 4 unexcused absences during the semester, you will have attended 26 out of the 30 total classes or 86.667%. This would translate to .86667 x 15 = 13 attendance points. Being tardy more than 20 minutes of class counts as an unexcused absence.

If you do miss class, you are expected to send your assignment by email, read the assigned material and watch the films screened in class. Most films are available at the WCC Library or online. It is up to you to contact me to find out what you missed.

If difficulties arise during the course, please see me before the problem affects your performance in the course. Waiting until the end of the semester does not work. We can work together to troubleshoot, but not if you allow the problems to linger and overwhelm you at the end of the semester.

Deadlines and late work: If you miss a deadline, you will be assessed a 10% late deduction for each class that the assignment is late, up to 60% of the assignment’s total worth. So if the
assignment is worth 10 points and it is one class late, you can only earn up to 9 points. Two classes late, you can only earn up to 8 points. Three classes late, you can only earn up to 7 points. After 4 classes late, it will only be worth up to 6 points.

**Reading and writing assignments:** You are responsible for completing the readings in Film Art as specified in the course schedule. There will be questions on the midterm taken directly from the readings, hence completing the readings is essential to scoring well on the exam.

**Projects:** You will have a storyboard project and genre project, both of which can be completed in groups. Guidelines will be handed out later in the semester.

**Midterm:** A midterm will be conducted in class, consisting of multiple choice, short answers and essay questions and covering material from your readings and class. There is no final exam.

**Learning environment:** You are expected to maintain a supportive learning environment with appropriate behavior in class demonstrated by showing consideration for others, paying attention and focusing on specific tasks. Personal entertainment/communication devices must be turned off during class. Listening to music, web browsing, using your phone, text messaging, tweeting, social networking and email activities are prohibited, unless authorized under special circumstances. Violations will affect your participation grade.

**Assignment specifics:** All written assignments must be typed on a computer, using a standard 12-point font, double-spaced and with 1-inch margins on each side. Assignments turned in electronically must be done in Microsoft Word or as a .pdf.

**Academic honesty:** Windward Community College follows the University of Hawai‘i Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions, such as cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting any document to satisfy an academic requirement that has been copied in whole or part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student’s language and style, or paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or drylabbing, which includes (a) obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, (b) utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms during which the course was conducted, and (c) fabricating data to fit the expected results.

To avoid plagiarism, you must give the original author credit whenever you use another person’s ideas, opinions, drawings, or theories as well as any facts or any other pieces of information that are not common knowledge. Additionally, quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or a close paraphrasing of another person’s spoken or written words must also be referenced. Accurately citing all sources and putting direct quotations – of even a few key words – in quotation marks are required. **Note that all information on the Web is copyrighted just as it is in print. Do not use any online information without attribution or permission.**
A failing grade will be given on any assignment that has been plagiarized, and you will be reported to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. The assignment must also be redone in order to pass the course.

LEARNING RESOURCES

There is one required textbook:

- **Film Art: An Introduction 11th edition** (David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson, 2016).
  This textbook is available for purchase at the WCC bookstore and on Amazon.

We will also use a variety of class handouts. Films will either be screened in class or available on reserve at the WCC library.

**MY SUCCESS**

At Windward Community College, we want every student to be successful. MySuccess is a system-wide effort that seeks to connect students to campus supports early in the semester. If I feel you’re having difficulty in the class within the first few weeks of the semester (e.g. missing class, missing assignments), you will receive an email from me through MySuccess. The email will explain my concern and encourage you to make an appointment with me and other campus resources through MySuccess.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information or go online at: https://windward.hawaii.edu/Disabilities.

**TITLE IX**

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking. For more information regarding your rights under Title IX, please visit: https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title_IX/.

Windward Community College is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, WCC has resources to support you. To speak with someone confidentially, contact the Mental Health & Wellness Office at 808-235-7393 or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at 808-235-7354 or kaahualo@hawaii.edu. To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Karla K. Silva-Park, at 808-235-7468 or karlas@hawaii.edu.
ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION
If you are unable to contact me, have questions that I cannot answer, or have any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alakai 121
Phone: 808-235-7422
Email: wccaa@hawaii.edu