

CM 255: Introduction to Cinema and Digital Media (CRN 61124)

3 Credits – DH

Spring 2021

CLASS TIMES:	Online, Unscheduled (Asynchronous)
INSTRUCTOR:	Kimberlee Bassford
OFFICE:	On Zoom at https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/6093191105 (passcode: windward)
OFFICE HOURS:	Email to make appointment
CONTACT:	kbassfor@hawaii.edu

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.

Satisfies the Diversification in Humanities (DH) requirement. This course is also a requirement on the filmmaking tracks of the Academic Subject Certificate in Creative Media, is equivalent to ACM 255 at UH Mānoa and fulfills foundational requirements for the bachelor's degree in Creative Media at UH West O'ahu.

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. 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). Weekly lessons will be posted on Monday mornings, with assignments due in Laulima the following Monday at noon. Weekly lessons may include:

1. Introduction of concept (in writing)
2. Lecture (via video, audio and/or writing)
3. Screenings (sometimes these will be feature-length films, sometimes they will be one or more short films – make sure to allow ample time for viewing and reflection)
4. Activities/assignments
5. Reading quiz
6. Reading assignment for next week (approximately 30-60 minutes)

Week 1	Introduction / Film Form <i>New Boy</i> (Steph Green, Ireland, 2007, 11 min) (Short/Drama)
Week 2	Phases & Roles / Genres <i>Porcelain Unicorn</i> (Keegan Wilcox, USA, 2007, 3 min) (Short/Drama/War)
Weeks 3-4	Narrative <i>Moonlight</i> (Barry Jenkins, USA, 2016, 1h 55min) (Drama/Independent) (Rated R for sexuality, drug use, brief violence and language) <i>Lady Bird</i> (Greta Gerwig, USA, 2017, 1h 34 min) (Comedy/Drama/Independent) (Rated R; language, sexual content, brief graphic nudity and teen partying)
Weeks 5-6	Mise-en-scene <i>West Side Story</i> (Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise, USA, 1961, 2h 33min) (Drama/Musical) (Rated PG; violence, language, smoking) <i>The Half of It</i> (Alice Wu, USA, 2020, 1h 44min) (Comedy/Drama/Romance) (Rated PG-13; brief language and teen drinking)
Week 7	Exam #1

Weeks 8-9

Cinematography

Roma (Alfonso Cuaron, Mexico/USA, 2018, 2h 15min)
(Drama/Independent) (Rated R; graphic nudity, some disturbing images, language)

David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet (Alatair Fothergill, Jonathan Hughes, Keith Scholey/USA, 2020, 1h 23min) (Documentary) (Rated R; graphic nudity, some disturbing images, language)

Weeks 10-11

Editing

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (Michel Gondry, USA, 2004, 1h 48 min) (Drama/Romance/SciFi) (Rated R; language, some drug and sexual content)

Becoming (Nadia Hallgren, USA, 2020, 1h 29min) (Documentary) (Rated PG; some thematic elements and brief language)

Weeks 12-13

Sound

Raiders of the Lost Ark (Steven Spielberg, USA, 1981, 1h 55min)
(Action/Adventure) (Rated PG)

The Breadwinner (Nora Twomey, Canada/Ireland/Luxembourg, 2017, 1h 34min) (Animation/Drama/Family) (Rated PG-13; thematic material including some violent images)

Week 14

Exam #2

Weeks 15-16

Documentary / **Storyboard Projects**

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

All assignments will be graded by points and then converted into percentages at the end of the semester as follows:

	Due Date	Overall percent of final grade
Participation (50% of your final grade)		
Weekly assignments (each assignment is worth various points depending on complexity)	Mondays at noon	50%

Storyboard project (solo or in groups) (each component is graded on a 10-point scale; the overall project is worth 20% of your final grade)		
Logline	M 3/8 at noon	1%
Story outline	M 3/29 at noon	2%
Rough sketches	M 4/12 at noon	3%
Final storyboard	M 5/3 at noon	10%
Shot list	M 5/3 at noon	2%
Reflection paper	W 5/5 at noon	2%
Tests (30% of your final grade)		
Reading quizzes (6 total)	Mondays at noon	5%
Exam #1	M 3/1 at noon	10%
Exam #2	M 4/26 at noon	15%
TOTAL		100%

Point System and Letter Grades:

- 90-100 points = A
- 80-89 points = B
- 70-79 points = C
- 60-69 points = D
- Below 60 points = F

Deadlines and late work: If you miss a deadline, you will be assessed a 10% late deduction for each week 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 week late, you can only earn up to 9 points. Two weeks late, you can only earn up to 8 points. Three weeks late, you can only earn up to 7 points. After 4 weeks late, it will only be worth up to 6 points.

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.

Film assignments: The main films for the course are available on Netflix. Thus, you will need access to a Netflix account for the duration of the semester. Additional films that will be assigned are available on YouTube or other free sites.

Films were selected based on the cinematic concepts they illuminate and with attention to diversity in terms of genre, age, gender, race, culture, and language. Even if you have seen a film before, please make sure to watch it again as you will be analyzing it for specific content and techniques. Also, keep in mind that you don’t have to like every film, but you should approach each film as a learning opportunity and chance to expand your cinematic repertoire.

That said, the films deal with a wide range of subject matter (their Motion Picture Association ratings are listed in the course outline above and on the course schedule), and if you are watching a film that triggers a traumatic emotional response for you, please stop watching it. You can contact me via email, and I will find an alternate assignment for you.

Reading assignments: You are responsible for completing the readings in Film Art as specified in the course schedule. Reading quizzes are due by Mondays at 12pm.

Learning environment in Laulima: You are expected to maintain a supportive learning environment in Laulima discussions demonstrated by showing consideration for others. Profanity, personal slights or non-constructive criticism are prohibited. Violations will affect your participation grade.

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

The one required textbook for the course Film Art: An Introduction 11th edition (David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson, 2016) and is available for purchase at the WCC bookstore, on Amazon or for e-rental at: <https://www.iflipd.com/+film-art>.

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/](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