

HUM 122: American Film
Winterim 2016
Iowa Western Community College

Instructor: Greg Badura

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Text

American Cinema/American Culture, 4th ed., by John Belton

Course Description

American Film is an introductory film course designed to demonstrate the full impact of Hollywood filmmaking as an art form, an economic form, and a cultural indicator. The course looks at the message of genre, the social and psychological effects of the Hollywood film style, and the mutual influence of society and popular culture. Included are discussions of the Hollywood style, the star, the system, the western, the romantic comedy, the combat film, the film noir, and the film school generation. 3 credits

Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between Hollywood film making techniques as art form or entertainment.
2. Analyze the relationship between film and the influence of society and popular culture, such as economics and history.
3. Analyze a variety of film genres by defining the characteristics and message of each genre.
4. Identify and describe the major Hollywood film directors.
5. Articulate a critical response to various American films.

Attendance:

There are no self-paced courses at Iowa Western. Students are required to log in often as well as frequently check email. I will regularly post/update/email the course during the semester, and students are expected to keep informed by regularly logging in and checking email.

Contact Information

The best way for a student to reach me is by email at gbadura@iwcc.edu. I will check email daily, and students can expect a response within 24 hours. Direct all technical/computer/web site

issues to the IT Department. They can be reached at 712-325-3220 or via email at support@iwcc.edu.

Plagiarism and Netiquette

Plagiarism constitutes the use of any ideas, phrasings, or quotations that are not the writer's and that have not been credited to the source. This especially includes non-cited content from the Internet or writing that has been excessively doctored by a second party. Penalties for plagiarism are at the instructor's discretion and can range from no-credit for an assignment to automatic failure of the course. See the *Student Handbook* for Iowa Western's official statement about and definition of plagiarism.

In all course communication students are expected to address each other with courtesy and in a tone befitting an institution of higher learning. This means avoiding language that is overtly racist, sexist, or perverse.

Late work

Late work will not be accepted without approval by the instructor prior to the due date.

Grading and assignments

There will be three graded components in the course:

1. **Exam** (100 points): The exam will be accessible online via ROC and will need to be completed in a single two-hour session by the end of the Winterim. Question types will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer.
2. **Film reviews** (100 points, 2 @ 50 points each): These two- to three-page papers will provide reflections on the films through the term. A reaction paper will be due approximately every week and will address at least one film viewed during that period, addressing both (1) the student's thoughts or evaluations of the movie(s) and (2) a close reading of its themes, film making techniques, and/or context of the era. Use specific examples and quotes from the film, and avoid using outside sources other than the textbook for content. Papers should be double-spaced, written in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and the student's name needs to appear at the top of the first page. These papers will be submitted online as a Microsoft Word file. NO PDF or .pages files will be accepted. Failure to properly submit the assignment will result in a 10% penalty.
3. **Discussion threads** (50 points, 5 @ 10 points each): Students will participate in substantive discussions regarding the films in each unit. To earn full credit students should provide (1) an initial response to the prompt that illustrates a completion of the viewing and thought about its content, and (2) a minimum of two responses to other students' posts. Initial responses should run at least 150 words, and student responses should be at least 75 words. Students are encouraged to maintain an online dialogue as much as possible since this forum replaces the traditional classroom experience. All posts/assignments are due by 11:00 p.m. on assigned nights.

Each week there will be numerous assignments; assignments will be due on given dates by 11:00PM – not all by Sunday night.

Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

0-59 = F

Tentative Reading List and Activity Schedule

Unit and Dates	Films to watch	Readings and assignments
Unit 1: The Origins of Film December 18 – December 20	Edison Films YouTube clips on the origins Way Down East	Ch. 1 and 6 Introduction discussion Film Discussion
Chaplin and the 1920s December 21 – December 24	The Kid The Gold Rush	Ch. 2 and 3
Unit 2: Hollywood's Golden Age December 25 – December 27	Citizen Kane Rebel without a Cause	Ch. 4 and 5 Discussion, Film Review 1 due
Sci-Fi and Horror December 28 – December 29	The Matrix The Exorcist	Ch. 12 Discussion
Formula Films—Comedies and Westerns December 30 – December 31	The Outlaw Josey Wales There's Something About Mary	Ch. 8 and 11 Discussion
Unit 3: The Musical January 1 – January 2	The Wizard of Oz The Blues Brothers	Ch. 7 and 14 Film Review 2 due
The Film School Generation January 3 – January 5	Close Encounters of the Third Kind The Godfather	Ch. 16 Discussion, Exam

IWCC Policy Statements

Problem Resolution

If you have a conflict with me, concerns about my teaching and/or the course material, please discuss this first with me. If we cannot resolve the difficulty, contact Coreen Wees, English Department Chair (S-1143, x3215) or Jenny Kruger, Dean of Communication and Fine Arts (S-1150, x3326).

Cyber Library

- Students can access books, magazines, journals, newspapers, films and audio books 24/7 through the *Cyber-Library* by clicking on the Cyber Library under Academics in ROC.
- Students can contact the library for assistance with research and citations. Check out our help features on the Cyber Library page in ROC.
- For questions about finding information at your campus or center, email cyberlibrary@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3247 for the Council Bluffs Campus or 712-542-5117 for the Clarinda Campus. You can find the library hours posted on ROC.

Academic Support

- FREE tutoring and academic assistance are available through the *Academic Support Center*, located on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus in a variety of core, general requirement classes. One-on-one assistance is available on a walk-in basis.
- FREE online tutoring is available through Brainfuse on ROC. To access Brainfuse, locate Online Tutoring next to My ROC Classes.
- For more information about tutoring services or help in your classes, email tutoring@iwcc.edu or call 712-388-6841. A full tutoring schedule is posted by subject area on ROC.

Dropping classes

While we encourage you to do everything you can to complete your classes, it is always better to drop a class than to fail it. If it becomes necessary for you to drop a class you can drop a class online through ROC up to the last day to drop. We recommend that you always talk to your advisor and financial aid before you drop a class. For more information on dropping classes see the Advising Information Site in ROC under the Academics tab.

Honor Code – Academic Honesty

Upon enrolling at Iowa Western Community College, each student assumes an obligation to conduct her/his academic affairs in a manner compatible with the standards of academic honesty established by the College and its faculty. If this obligation is neglected or ignored by the student, disciplinary action will be taken. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

FERPA

Student rights concerning access to educational records are spelled out in Federal Public Law 98-380 as amended by Public Law 93-568 and in regulations published by the Department of Education. The law and regulations require educational institutions to limit the disclosure of

information from the student's record to those who have the student's written consent or to officials specifically permitted within the law. Students who wish to grant access to their educational (class schedule, transcript of final grades, and progress reports) or financial records (grants, loans, financial aid documents, statements and billing) may do so by submitting an Access to Student Information Consent Form to the Records and Registration Office. Access to information is only given at the Records and Registration Office or Financial Aid and Cashier Offices.

For more information, including the full Access to Student Information policy, refer to the Iowa Western Community College General Catalog or contact the Records and Registration Office.

Diversity Statement

Iowa Western Community College values diversity and supports learning experiences that promote intellectual growth and human enrichment.

American with Disabilities Act Statement

If you are an individual with a disability who requires an accommodation to fully participate in academic programs or campus activities, please email disabilityservices@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3299. Accommodations are arranged through the Disability Services Office, on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus. Please allow adequate time to implement your accommodations.

Any student with mobility impairments should prepare for an emergency ahead of time by instructing faculty and/or classmates on how to assist in case of an evacuation.

Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of Iowa Western Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.).

Individuals having questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy should contact Kim Henry, Dean of Student Life and Student Success, phone number, 712/325-3207 or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, phone number 312/730-1560 fax, 312/730-1576.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-HARASSMENT

Iowa Western Community College is committed to a policy of equal educational opportunity. Therefore the College prohibits discrimination on the basis of unlawful criteria such as race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, genetic information, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, AIDS/HIV status, citizenship, or medical condition, as those terms are defined

under applicable laws, in admitting students to its programs and facilities and in administering its admissions policies, educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, and other institutionally administered programs or programs made available to students. In keeping with this policy of equal educational opportunity, the College is committed to creating and maintaining an atmosphere free from all forms of harassment.