

Syllabus for
TVF 317-GEN 317—Film Analysis & Worldview
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2024
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GC 613

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with essential skills to critically evaluate the content of film genres in popular society. Students evaluate multiple works and develop written critiques across genres.

Fundamental concepts, both technical & artistic are covered, such as story elements, genres, lighting, setting/scenery, set dressing/costumes/makeup, sound/effects/music/scripts, cinematography, and adaptation sources—plays/novels/short stories. Directing and producing are addressed. Through the movies viewed, students experience and come to appreciate some of the “language of the craft.” Students experience films across multiple decades. Finally, students gain an historical/cultural understanding of events which may have influenced the message of each movie. Movies are a product of their time, whether the message is reaffirming the present, exploring relationships, reacting to society, reflecting on history, or casting a vision of what the future might hold.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. No previous knowledge is required

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

After completing this course successfully, students will be able to:

- A. Analyze how filmmakers project a worldview through their artform.
- B. Evaluate films and explain their connection to context and popular culture.
- C. Examine and distinguish film content issues, including story line, technical experience, technical advances, dramatic structures, and directorial contributions.
- E. Assess ethical implications in films storylines and character motivation.

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program CTD and general education

- A. CTD major
Students will demonstrate basic competency in the processes of storyline development and scriptwriting.
Students will demonstrate business acumen reflecting Christian worldview, emphasizing honest and ethical behavior at professional industry venues.

- B. General Education
Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Aesthetic Appreciation - The ability to formulate opinions and draw conclusions through exploration, analysis, and evaluation of issues and arguments, including the capacity to innovatively combine and synthesize ideas and to produce and recognize various forms of artistic expression

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit
- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Textbooks
Boggs, J.M., and Petrie, D.W. (2017). *The Art of Watching Films*. 10th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN13: 9780073514284

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
2. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

3. Students are to be in compliance with University, School, and Departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. Whole Person Assessment—Refer to:

<http://www.oru.edu/academics/resources/whole-person-assessment.php>

2. **Attendance**—Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss one class. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal day or sick leave. If a student more than one absence, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's complete documentation.

3. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for university sponsored activities must follow these procedures:

- a. Inform the professor before the event.
- b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
- c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
- d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.

4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Late work is not accepted in TVF 317.

VII. COURSE SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students should be aware that in this class, they will watch films that may include strong language, violence, partial nudity, and sexual content. The instructor makes every effort to avoid gratuitous content, but some exposure to these elements may take place in the viewing of quality films. Films that espouse a non-Christian worldview will also be seen in an effort to examine Christian and non-Christian worldviews.

VIII. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The student's total grade (100 pts.) is earned by successfully completing various assignments.

Those may include the following:

- **10 pts.:** One-Minute Quizzes (A 60-second quiz based on assigned reading; given during the first minute of the class session)
- **25 pts.:** Class Discussion. After screening each film in class, each student is expected to contribute meaningful observations to the overall analyses' conversations.
- **25 pts.:** A mid-term (in lieu of exam) personal Reflection Paper that describes the student's journey through the course to date. This paper may explore ideas such as:
 - * New understanding of films, genres, and elements within our text
 - * Exploration of personal opinions, biases, ideas, and changes in attitudes toward movies

(* 5 points (out of 25 total) will be deducted for every 24 hour period submission of this paper is late – up to a total of 50% (12.5 pts)

- **40 pts.:** A final term paper (in lieu of final exam) that analyzes one of the films we've viewed this semester. In this paper the student will:

- * Develop an argument for how the selected film reflects or was shaped by a specific cultural context
- * Detail in your argument how ideology, politics, or other social influences are seen in the film
- * Semiotic Analysis: the possible use (critique these as effective – or not) of symbols, metaphors, analogies to convey meaning to the audiences
- * Narrative Analysis: examine the story's elements, structure, characters, plot in order to explicate your understanding of the writer's intentions
- * When appropriate, consider an historical analysis, especially for period films
- * Provide a personal overall critique of the film, but it must be informed by elements from class lectures and the textbook

(* 5 points (out of 40 total) will be deducted for every 24 hour period submission of this paper is late – up to a total of 50% (20 pts)

A grade is given on the basis of the accuracy and quality of each assignment. The following scale is used for the course grade:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

Below 60% = F

IX. COURSE CALENDAR – TBA – Please refer to Course Calendar in D2L for specifics.

This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

OUTCOMES		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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Spiritual Integrity					
TVF 317-GEN 317				X	
Program	Outcome 5		X		

Personal Resilience					
TVF 317-GEN 317				X	
Program	Outcome 5			X	

Intellectual Pursuit					
TVF 317-GEN 317		X			
Program	Outcome 5	X			

Global Engagement					
TVF 317-GEN 317			X		
Program	Outcome 5		X		

Bold Vision					
TVF 317-GEN 317				X	
Program	Outcome 5			X	

(Revised 9.15.22)