

DR. MEGHANN
MEEUSEN

ENG 2100:
FILM
INTERPRETATION



Spring 2018

Course Objectives



Contact Info

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Office Hours

921 Sprau Tower
Tuesday/Thursday
2pm-3pm and by
appointment

Analytical Thinking: Students will work to develop an ability to engage with film on an analytical level, practicing techniques of review, evaluation, and interpretation with regards to creative choices and thematic meaning.

Terminology and Technique: Students will work to cultivate understanding of terminology associated with formal study of film, including discussion of critical approaches and theories, as well as camera, sound, and visual technique.

Historical/Cultural Context: Students will work to study texts in context, acknowledging and researching both historical and cultural components that impact and frame textual understanding.

Identifying Ideologies: Students will work to interrogate explicit and implicit ideologies of texts, including critical and popular perspectives related to gender, race, ethnicity, disability, and culture in film for young viewers.

Diversity and Multiculturalism: Students will work to explore the importance of diverse and multicultural representation in film, working to develop an evaluative perspective with regards to issues of inclusion.



93%-100% A
distinctive, exceptional,
outstanding work

88-92% BA
83%-87% B
strong, thoughtful work

78-82% CB
73%-77% C
average, complete work

68-72% DC
62%-67% D
problematic, sloppy work

Required Books and Materials

Screenings held on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm-9pm will offer students the opportunity to view films in a group setting, and students earn 15 points for attendance of each screening. Screenings are *movie theater manners*: aka, no phones or talking. If you wish to take notes using a laptop, there will be several rows reserved, but please keep the lighting turned low.

Hugo, MGM's *The Wizard of Oz*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Coraline*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Kubo and the Two Strings*, *Persepolis*, Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, *Bend it Like Beckham*, *Zootopia*, *The Great Debaters*, and *The Hunger Games* (there will also be one day of film clips and a presentation day)

Textbook Requirement: Students will read each week from the course textbook, *Looking at Movies* by Richard Barsam and Dave Monahan (ISBN 978-0-393-26519-4). While the 5th edition is the officially assigned text, the 3rd/4th editions are entirely acceptable.

Copy Card & Printing: Students will also need to purchase a \$5 Copy Card (available at the WMU bookstore) to cover the cost of printed in-class materials. For some assignments, students will need print copies for submission. If you would like something printed or copied by Dr. Meeusen, please email a digital version **at least 48 hours** before you need it.



Daily Participation

Screenings: 15 points each for **200 total points** (allows for one missed screening without penalty)

Quizzes: 60 points

Exit Tickets: 80 points

Ticket-Ins: 60 points

*This point breakdown may change with class needs, but will total in **200 points**.*

Knowledge Sharing

Critical Article Handout: **200 points**

Midterm Poster Presentation: **200 points**

Final Exam: **200 points**

Matching & Multiple Choice Questions: 100 pts
Essay(s): 100 pts each

SCREENING ATTENDANCE (20% of final grade):

Students will earn 15 points for each of 14 screenings, and may miss one screening without penalty (e-learning will drop the lowest score). Attending 13 of 14 screenings earns 195 points with 5 points free bonus (200 points, or 20% of the final grade).

CLASS PARTICIPATION (20% of final grade):

Students will have regular opportunities to practice analysis through writing activities completed as homework or during class. These include (usually worth 10 pts each):

- Quizzes: assess close reading of textbook chapter
- Exit Tickets: demonstrate understanding of in-class discussions, activities, and content
- Ticket-Ins: prepare answers to several questions before class, submitted when class begins

Note: Students can only earn credit for these assignments when present in class.

CRITICAL ARTICLE HANDOUT (20% of final grade):

Students will sign up for a key term related to a certain week's reading and create a single page handout (double sided encouraged) explaining the concept in an in-depth way, copying this handout to share with the rest of the class.

MIDTERM MINI CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

(20% of final grade): Students will compose a short piece of formal analytical writing that reviews a film of their choice, focusing on film technique and ideological analysis. They will present it as a mini conference presentation (2-3 minutes) and may include a PowerPoint slideshow and/or handout as part of the presentation.

FINAL EXAM (20% of final grade): Students will take a final exam including multiple choice and matching questions, as well as a short essay section prepared in advance and turned in during exam time.



Procedures & Resources

Students are responsible for making themselves aware of and understanding the University policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. Responsibilities can be found in the

The academic policies addressing Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog at

<http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=974>.

If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will face academic penalty based on the infraction's severity, which can include a failing grade and/or referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Please consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment.

In addition, please make yourself familiar with the following campus services and policies, and don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions:

- Disability Services for Students
www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices
- Division of Student Affairs / Diversity Questions
www.wmich.edu/students/diversity
- Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Policy www.wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct
- Religious Observance
http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/MOA0702_religious_observances_final.pdf
- Office of Student Conduct www.wmich.edu/conduct
- Civility Statement
http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2016/Civility%20Stmt.7-27-16_0.pdf

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, please call Disability Services at (269) 387-2116 or visit them at Woodlawn Place at 2210 Wilbur Ave. Please don't hesitate to speak with me about ways to meet your needs in this capacity.

Additionally, I am more than happy to discuss ways that this course could better meet any student's needs, and I encourage anyone who is struggling for any reason to contact me. I will do my very best to fairly accommodate all students who express concern in a respectful way.

Dr. Meeusen's private phone, for emergencies only: 586-651-0289



Attendance & Late Work

As active participants in an academic community, students must attend class every day. As part of the attendance policy, **attendance/response writing points (including quizzes) can ONLY be earned if a student is present in class.**

If a student must be absent, he/she is responsible for all missed content, including assignment due dates.

Please demonstrate professionalism by arriving to class on time and waiting until class concludes completely before packing up belongings in preparation for departure.

I do not accept late work. Although I reserve the right to make exceptions to this policy, this is only possible after a discussion with me. If you foresee a problem completing an assignment on time, please contact me at least 48 hours in advance, at which time I am far more open to making arrangements.