

IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Course Syllabus
HUM 122 OL01: American Film

Term: Winterim 2019

I. Faculty Information:

Instructor: Greg Badura	Office: Stuart Hall 1145
Phone: 712-325-3346	Student Assistance Hours: Contact me through Canvas email
E-mail: gbadura@iwcc.edu	

II. Course Information:

HUM 122 OL01	American Film	Credits (3)	Lecture (3)	Lab (0)
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COURSE MEETING TIMES:

Course shells are available online 24/7.

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

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: No textbook is required for the course. We will be using free online material for the duration of the course with the exception of film rentals.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

Students can download the free version of Office 365 Suite from their ROC Portal Page for use in their courses. Students are responsible for protecting their own computer equipment through use of anti-virus and anti-malware tools for work within their IWCC courses; they may consider [these free options](#) (click on link). Students using computers in labs and other facilities on campus are further held to the standards of [IWCC Acceptable Use Policy](#) and the [Computer Ethics and Use Policy](#). Both are located on the ROC Student Portal Page under the *Technology* menu button FAQ area.

Film Rentals:

Students will be required to rent 6 films over the course of the semester. The cost of a film is \$3-\$4 dollars online. If unable to rent movies, the course will be nearly impossible to pass, and withdrawal from the course is highly recommended.

Course Learning Objectives and Course Competencies:

Upon successfully completing this course students will be able to:

Differentiate between Hollywood film making techniques as art form or entertainment.
Analyze the relationship between film and the influence of society and popular culture, such as economics and history.

Analyze a variety of film genres by defining the characteristics and message of each genre.

Articulate a critical response to various American films.

Course Practices:

Plagiarism and Netiquette

I encourage everyone to read the plagiarism and cheating statement in the student handbook, as all students are responsible for knowing its contents. The major plagiarism issues that occur in a writing class are turning in work that contains the words or ideas of another person without giving that person proper credit (whether it be taken from the internet, a print source, or an acquaintance) or collaborating with another person on a paper without approval from the instructor. Penalties for plagiarism are at the instructor's discretion and can range from no-credit for an assignment to automatic failure of the course. It is also considered cheating to turn in work that you have written for another class (for example, your own high school papers). If you have any questions on this subject, please feel free to ask me.

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.

Attendance will be taken each week. All course work must be submitted through the ROC LMS. Emailed work will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE COURSES:

No late work is allowed, so please submit work on time. Online courses require a clear pattern of participation for all students. The attendance standard for IWCC is that each student logs in and participates in meaningful ways, i.e. assignment completion, forum discussion, quiz completion, etc., within the course outline a minimum of one time for each attendance period. Each attendance period is defined in the course outline. The dates of attendance recording are 12/19, 12/22, 12/24, 12/27, 12/30, 1/3, 1/6.

Communication with Instructor:

Students and faculty must use their IWCC email when contacting the instructor about matters related to the course. I will respond within 24 hours to all emails. You MUST include your course and section in the correspondence – “HUM122-OL01” or “AM Film01” must be included somewhere.

Grading:

There will be four graded components in the course:

Exam (100 points): The exam will be accessible online via ROC and will need to be completed in a single one-hour session at the end of the course. Question types will be a combination of short answer and essay.

Film reviews (100 points, 2 @ 50 points each): These two- to three-page papers will provide reflections on the films through the term. A film review will be due in the second and third weeks 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 20% penalty.

Discussion threads (100 points, 5 @ 20 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 one response to other students’ posts. Simply agreeing with or repeating what someone else has said will not earn full credit. Grammar will also be considered in discussion posts when grading. 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. Specific requirements may change week-to-week and will be posted within each discussion board.

Film Journals (100 pts) 20 pts each – 5 required journals (out of 6)

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

FINAL GRADES:

Final grades are viewable on ROC the Tuesday after the end of the semester: Self-Services Menu, Students, and Academic Profile.

Problem Resolution:

Students with concerns about the course or the instruction are advised to discuss those concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the issue, contact Jenny Kruger, Dean of Arts & Humanities - jkruger@iwcc.edu, 712-325-3326, STU 1150.

III. INFORMATION/COLLEGE POLICY

RESET PASSWORD:

Students can reset passwords by accessing the password central page through ROC. The password central page can be found by clicking the menu tab in the upper left hand corner and opening the technology tab, then clicking on password central.

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 may contact the library for assistance with research and citations. Check out the 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. The library hours are posted on ROC.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

FREE tutoring and academic assistance for a variety of core, general requirement classes are available through the Tutoring Center, located on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus. One-on-one assistance is available on a drop-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 by subject area is posted 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 a financial aid department representative before you drop a class. For more information on dropping classes see the Advising Information Site in ROC under the Academics tab.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

To provide an environment conducive to learning, Iowa Western Community College requires that cellular phones, pagers, and other personal electronic devices be turned off or set to vibrate when entering classrooms, computer labs, library, offices, auditoriums, or arena areas. Cellular phones with picture taking capabilities are not allowed in bathrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Faculty members do have the right to prohibit the use of any electronic device in their classroom.

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 education 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 education (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.

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS:

Iowa Western does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor, and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Students needing accommodations can seek assistance with accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:

It is the policy of Iowa Western Community College to provide equal educational opportunities and not to discriminate on the basis of 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 its educational programs, activities, or employment practices.

Questions or complaints? Contact Title IX and Equity Coordinator, Kim Henry, or ADA Coordinator, Samantha Larson, equity@iwcc.edu, 712-325-3200, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, (312)-730-1560, OCR.Chicago@ed.gov. More information at <https://www.iwcc.edu/about/statement.asp>.

IV. Course Topical Outline and Schedule

Tentative Reading List and Activity Schedule

This syllabus sets forth a tentative schedule of class topics, learning activities, and expected learning outcomes. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule to enhance learning for students. Any modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of the course and will conform to the policies and guidelines of IWCC.

Unit and Dates	Films to watch	Readings and assignments
Unit 1: 12/18-12/19 Introductions and syllabus, The Origins of Film	Edison Films Clips on the origins	Film Discussion
Unit 2: 12/20-12/21 The Silent Era Technical aspects	The Pawnshop, Easy Street Short clips	Discussion
Unit 3: 12/22-12/23	Rent <i>Harvey</i>	Film Journals begin

Studio System & Star System		
Unit 4: 12/24-12/27 Film Noir	Rent <i>The Usual Suspects</i>	Discussion Film Journal
Unit 5: 12/28-12-30 Auteurs	Rent <i>The Life Aquatic</i>	Film Journal Film Review 1 due
Unit 6: 12/31-1/2 Horror	Rent <i>Stir of Echoes</i>	Discussion Film Journal
Unit 7: 1/3-1/5 Science Fiction	Rent <i>Twelve Monkeys</i>	Discussion Film Journal
Unit 8: 1/6-1/7 Musicals	Rent <i>Empire Records</i>	Film Review 2 due Film Journal Final Exam