

Sichuan University – Pittsburgh Institute
ENGFLM 0540
Spring 2023

Course Syllabus

COURSE & INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	John Rhym	Credits:	3
Email:	johnrhym@scupi.cn	Location:	Zone 4-204
Office:	Zone 3 – Room 317(B)	Time:	Wednesdays (13:50-17:30)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays (16:30-18:00) Thursdays (12:00-18:00) & By Appointment		

COURSE DESCRIPTION

University of Pittsburgh Course Catalog: This course both introduces students to techniques of film analysis and acquaints them with major works and movements in international cinema. The course pays particular attention to the evolution of film narrative and visual style and landmarks in film development.

The goals of the course are to equip each student with the ability to (1) analyze a variety of films as examples of audiovisual art and write critically about them from various thematic and cultural perspectives, (2) construct a critical position in evaluating films in relation to popular reviews, scholarly essays, and industry categories, and (3) demonstrate a critical understanding of the role film plays in society as an audiovisual art, an industry, and a complex set of ideological constructs.

PRINCIPLE TEXTS

All readings will be made available as PDF files in the class's Blackboard website (<https://pibb.scu.edu.cn>) under the "Content" tab. You are expected to print out the reading assignments and bring them to class on the relevant days. Being prepared for each class by reading the assigned materials will enable you to do well on your weekly forum posts, presentations, and final paper.

GRADING

Unless discussed with me previously, late assignments will not be accepted, and the failure to complete your work will result in a failing grade.

Each unexcused absence will bear a penalty of a third of a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B- or from a B- to a C+). More than three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. If you are feeling unwell or need to miss a class, inform me ahead of time, and I will excuse absences on a case-by-case basis.

Short Response Papers (6 total):	5 points each for a total of 30 points
Group Presentation:	10 points
Individual Final Paper Presentation:	10 points
Final Paper:	40 points
Participation:	10 points
Extra Credit:	case-by-case basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will award extra credit points to individuals who offer <i>especially insightful</i> comments or responses during the Q&A sessions at the end of presentation. Not all questions and comments will receive extra credit, and this will be based entirely on instructor discretion. 	

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F and a report submitted to the institute's academic affairs office.

Email Communication Policy

Each student is issued a University email address (student_number@stu.scu.edu.cn) upon admittance. This email address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their university email address to another address (qq.com, 163.com, etc.) do so at their own risk. If email is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University email address.

Additionally, when emailing me, include "ENGFLM540" in the subject field, and remember to provide your full name and student ID number somewhere in the body of your message.

SCHEDULE

Note: The following schedule is subject to change based on university announcements and the needs of the class at the instructor's discretion.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Week 1: Wednesday, Feb. 22	Introduction to Course Content; Syllabus Overview; Group Assignments	

Film Genres – Classics and Contemporary Transformations

Week 2: Wednesday, Mar. 1	Introduction to American Cinema and the Hollywood Western	At-Home Viewing (Classic): - <i>My Darling Clementine</i> (Ford, 1946) Writing: - Response Paper #1: due Tuesday, March 7 by 11 PM
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Week 3: Wednesday, Mar. 8	Group Presentations Introduction to the Disaster Film	At-Home Viewing (Classic): - <i>Deluge</i> (Feist, 1933) Writing: - Response Paper #2: due Tuesday, March 14 by 11 PM
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Week 4: Wednesday, Mar. 15	Group Presentations Introduction to the Road Movie	At-Home Viewing (Classic): - <i>It Happened One Night</i> (Capra, 1934) Writing: - Response Paper #3: due Tuesday, March 21 by 11 PM
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<p>Week 5: Wednesday, Mar. 22</p>	<p>Group Presentations Introduction to the Japanese Yakuza Film</p>	<p>At-Home Viewing (Classic): - <i>Abashiri Prison</i> (Iishi, 1965) Writing: - Response Paper #4: due Tuesday, March 28 by 11 PM</p>
<p>Week 6: Wednesday, Mar. 29</p>	<p>Group Presentations Introduction to the European Vampire Film</p>	<p>At-Home Viewing (Classic): - <i>Nosferatu</i> (Murnau, 1922) Writing: - Response Paper #5: due Tuesday, April 11 by 11 PM</p>
<p>Week 7: Wednesday, Apr. 5</p>	<p><i>HOLIDAY: NO CLASS</i></p>	
<p>Week 8: Wednesday, Apr. 12</p>	<p>Group Presentations Introduction to the Chinese Melodrama</p>	<p>At-Home Viewing (Classic): - <i>Spring in a Small Town</i> (Fei, 1948) Writing: - Response Paper #6: due Tuesday, April 18 by 11 PM</p>
<p>Week 9: Wednesday, Apr. 19</p>	<p>Group Presentations Individual Presentations I</p>	

Week 10 (Wednesday, Apr. 26)	Individual Presentations II
Wednesday, May 3	<i>HOLIDAY: NO CLASS</i>
Week 11 (Saturday, May 6)	Individual Presentations III
Week 12 (Wednesday, May 10)	Individual Presentations IV

The FINAL PAPER is due on Monday, May 15 by 11:00 PM and must be uploaded as a Microsoft Word document or PDF file to BB. Late submissions will not be accepted.