

FILM 130 – Introduction to Film

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2017	Instructor	James Patterson, PhD
Room	2734	Email	james.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN	20525	Webpage	http://faculty.imperial.edu/james.patterson
Days	Tuesdays	Office	Office 406
Time	6:30-9:40 p.m.	Office Hours	Monday through Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Course Description

This survey course will foster a student's appreciation of film/video and the cinematic arts. The course examines the duties and responsibilities of the various creative artists such as director, producer, actor, designers, and writers, and the process of creating recorded performances.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the various duties and skills applicable to the creative artists involved in film/video production.
2. Identify and describe the iconography of various genres.
3. Evaluate the efficacy and artfulness of cinematography, lighting, and sound design.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the place of cinema within human society since the beginnings of the art.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the various aspects of film/video production.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the various aspects of the cinematic text.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical periods of film art.
5. Develop skills as an active (as opposed to passive) audience/reader appropriate to the study of film art.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Textbook materials for this course will make use of online sources such as the [AMC Filmsite](#), "Film History by Decade," written and edited by Tim Dirks.
- Optional Textbook: *Film Art: an Introduction*. 10th edition. David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The measurable learning objectives for this course will be addressed in objective quizzes and various writing assignments.

Film quizzes (10)	100
Out-of-Class Assignments	20
Cinematography essay	10
Lighting essay	10
Sound design essay	10
Midterm examination.....	20
Final examination.....	30

Minimum points necessary for a passing **grade of C: 160 points**

Film Quizzes: For each of the twelve films shown in class, the student will attempt a short objective quiz in Blackboard. At the end of a given class period, the quiz for that evening's film will be opened for students to attempt. Each quiz will be available for 48 hours.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Due to instructor absences, two class periods will need to be covered with an out-of-class assignment. For each scheduled non-class period, the student will view a selected feature film and develop and submit ten (10) multiple choice quiz items for the selected film.

Essays: The student will write three short essays to demonstrate her/his understanding of three aspects of film production: cinematography, lighting, and sound design. In each essay, the student is expected to use clear and correct English grammar and punctuation. In each essay, the student will discuss the cinematography, lighting, or sound design for one or more selected films.

1. Select a film you have seen recently or will watch again for this assignment.
2. Select one scene from the film for your analysis.
3. Analyze the scene based upon your understanding of cinematography, lighting, or sound (as appropriate).
4. Type your analysis paper in MLA format, double-spaced, left-aligned, Times New Roman 12 pt. font.
5. The paper should be more than one page but not longer than two pages of text.
6. Make sure you include bibliographic documentation for the film selected.

Late Essays or Out-of-Class Assignments will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12.

Examinations: The students will be given a midterm examination and a final examination covering all films and course content provided in class. The midterm examination will cover the first seven weeks of the semester; the final examination will cover weeks nine through fifteen of the semester.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices may be turned on during class. Please step out of the classroom to make or receive a call or text message. Students who bring laptop computers to class are expected to sit in the back of the classroom so their screens do not distract other students. **WARNING:** *the films shown in class are protected by international copyright law; any unauthorized recording of audio and/or visual content is a violation of copyright law.*
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

February 14	Introduction to the Course: Visions of Light	
February 21	Musical: Singing in the Rain	Quiz
February 28	Musical: Phantom of the Opera	Quiz
March 7	Western: True Grit	Quiz
March 14 *	<i>Out-of-Class Assignment</i> (due March 21)	
March 21	Western: Open Range	Lighting Design essay, Quiz
March 28	Animation: Snow White & the Seven Dwarves	Quiz
April 4 *	<i>Out-of-Class Assignment</i> (due April 11)	Midterm Examination (online)
April 11	Animation: Big Hero 6	Sound Design essay, Quiz
April 25	Experimental cinema	
May 2	Documentary: Cinematographer Style	
May 9	Horror: Halloween	Cinematography essay, Quiz
May 16	Horror: Trick 'r Treat	Quiz
May 23	Documentary: American Movie	Quiz
March 30	Science Fiction: Star Wars	Quiz
June 6	Course & Instructor Evaluation	Final Examination (online)

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first

official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. Dr. Patterson will only drop students twice during the semester: the Opening Day Roster and the Census Roster. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from the course.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- **WARNING**: Some of the films selected for classroom viewing will include graphic language and/or images. Students should communicate with the instructor for alternate assignment.

Taking Quizzes in Blackboard

1. Go to the Imperial Valley College website: www.imperial.edu.
2. Find **For Students** tab and click onto **Blackboard**.
3. The username is the first part of your student email. Do not add the @students.imperial.edu.
4. The password is your Student Portal or Webstar six-digit number. Click **Log in**.
5. Once you are in Blackboard, you will see boxes containing Tools, My Announcements, My Calendar, and My Courses.
6. If you are registered and have classes, you will find information for the classes in the My Courses box.
7. Click the **FILM 130** link, and it will direct you to the materials for the FILM 130 class.
8. Once you are in the FILM 130 course shell, you will find a navigation box on the left side of the screen containing Syllabus, Assignments, Resources, Tests & Quizzes, Email, and Grades.
9. Click on **Tests & Quizzes**. This will take you to the list of available quizzes.
10. Click on the appropriate quiz title.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. As a general rule, any three words or more taken in sequence from a published source must be identified with correct punctuation and documentation (in text and bibliographic).

You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly cite a source, you must ask for help. There is no difference between accidental and intentional plagiarism.

Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism, (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment, (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination, (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service.

Additional Help

- Blackboard support is available from other students and your instructor.
- Learning Labs: There are several labs on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Study Skills Center (library annex). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. Additional information is available online. The IVC [Student Health Center](#) is located in the 1500 building in Room 1536, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials [online](#).