



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## **FIL 220 Film Form and Culture**

**Summer 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is an interdisciplinary course that delves into the rich history of film and moving image media, offering students a comprehensive understanding of the medium's evolution. The class focuses on visual and auditory analytical tools, fostering a solid foundation in media literacy. Students will learn critical approaches to writing about film aesthetics and explore how films reflect and shape social and political ideologies.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Traverse the historical development of film and its cultural significance.
2. Master analytical methods for understanding visual and auditory elements in film.
3. Develop skills in critiquing films and authoring film poetics.
4. Recognize the impact of film on societal values and political discourses.
5. Enhance critical thinking through informed discussions and writing assignments.

### **PREREQUISITES**

None.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points



Midterm Exam	30 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction*(10th ed), 2012, McGraw-Hill Education.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>TASKS</b>
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Introduction to Film Studies Topic 2: Early History of Film and Pre-cinema Topic 3: Silent Film Era: Pioneers and Narrative Innovations Topic 4: The Advent of Sound: A New Era of Storytelling <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment # 1
Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Classical Hollywood Cinema: Studio System and Ideology Topic 6: Film Genres and Their Cultural Functions Topic 7: World Cinema and Transnational Exchange Topic 8: Narrative Techniques and Story Construction <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz # 1



Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Mise-en-Scene, Cinematography, Editing, Sound Design, Special Effects Topic 10: Documentary Film: Fact, Fiction, and Perception Topic 11: Avant-Garde and Experimental Film Movements Topic 12: Film and Politics: Propaganda, Resistance, and Dissent <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Gender, Sexuality, and Representation on Screen Topic 14: Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Identity in Film Topic 15: International Film Festivals and Global Markets Topic 16: Film Criticism: Theory, Practice, and Ethical Considerations <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment # 2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Screenwriting: Crafting Stories for the Silver Screen Topic 18: Audience Analysis: Reception and Interpretation Topic 19: Media Literacy: Navigating the Modern Media Landscape Topic 20: Future of Film: Emerging Technologies and Trends <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz # 2 Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.



## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:



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Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.