



蘇州大學
Soochow University

FIL 213 History of Film I

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of the history of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the end of the Golden Age of Hollywood in the 1960s. Students will explore the development of cinema as an art form and an industry, and examine how cinema has reflected and influenced social, cultural, and political movements.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the historical and cultural context of cinema from its origins in the late 19th century to the end of the Golden Age of Hollywood in the 1960s
2. Analyze and interpret the formal and aesthetic elements of cinema and its evolution over time
3. Recognize the major movements, genres, and styles of cinema from the silent era to the postwar period
4. Identify and evaluate the contributions of key filmmakers, studios, and cultural contexts to the development of cinema
5. Apply critical approaches and theories to film analysis and interpretation

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

| ITEM | POINTS |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Short Writing Assignments | 40 Points |
| Midterm 1 | 20 Points |
| Midterm 2 | 20 Points |
| Final Group Presentation | 20 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:

A Short History of Film by Wheeler Winston Dixon and Gwendolyn Audrey Foster.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

| MODULE | TASKS |
|----------|---|
| Module 1 | Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Cinema Topic 2: Origins of cinema and early film technology Topic 3: Early filmmakers and pioneers of cinema Topic 4: Development of film language and narrative conventions Assessments: Short Writing Assignment#1 |
| Module 2 | Topics: Topic 5: Silent Cinema: 1895-1929 Topic 6: Major movements and genres of silent cinema Topic 7: International cinema and cross-cultural influences Topic 8: Key figures and films of the silent era Assessments: |



| | |
|----------|--|
| | Short Writing Assignment#2 |
| Module 3 | Topics: Topic 9: The Transition to Sound: 1927-1932 Topic 10: Development of sound technology and early sound films Topic 11: Impact of sound on film aesthetics and narrative Topic 12: Major figures and films of the early sound era Assessments: Midterm#1 |
| Module 4 | Topics: Topic 13: Hollywood Studio System: 1930-1945 Topic 14: Rise of the studio system and the star system Topic 15: Major genres of Hollywood cinema (e.g. musicals, screwball comedies, film noir) Topic 16: Social and political context of Hollywood during the Great Depression and World War II Assessments: Midterm#2 |
| Module 5 | Topics: Topic 17: Postwar Cinema: 1945-1960 Topic 18: Changes in film industry and audience demographics Topic 19: Major movements and styles of postwar cinema (e.g. neorealism, French New Wave) Topic 20: Social and cultural context of postwar cinema Assessments: Final Group presentation |

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 (eg., 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



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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:

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.