



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## **FIL 236 Narrative in Films**

**Summer 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course presents a telling exploration of the basic concepts of narrative theory and its relation to film. Exploring the art of storytelling in the cinematic medium, the course delves into the intricate ways in which narratives are constructed, conveyed, and interpreted in film. Through the study of influential films across genres and periods, students will analyze the techniques filmmakers employ to shape narratives, engage audiences emotionally and intellectually, and contribute to the overall impact of cinematic storytelling.

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

1. Understand the role of visual elements, cinematography, and editing in shaping cinematic narratives.
2. Analyze the narrative structures and storytelling techniques employed in a variety of films.
3. Explore the cultural and historical contexts influencing cinematic storytelling.
4. Develop critical thinking skills to interpret and evaluate the narrative choices made by filmmakers.
5. Apply theoretical frameworks to deconstruct and analyze narrative elements in film.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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N/A



## GRADING

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

ITEM	POINTS
2 Quizzes	20 Points
2 Film Analysis Projects	10 Points
Midterm	20 Points
2 Writing Papers	20 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

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### Required Texts:

*Narrative Comprehension and Film*, Edward Branigan, Publisher: Routledge, Year: 1992.

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

None

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Narrative Schema Topic 2: Logical transformations in narrative Topic 3: Pragmatic forms in narrative Topic 4: Cognitive schema <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1



	Film Analysis Project 1
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Story World and Screen Topic 6: A preliminary delineation of narrative in film Topic 7: Top-down perception Topic 8: Temporal and spatial order</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Writing Paper 1 Quiz 2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Impossible story space Topic 10: Screen space and stylistic metaphors Topic 11: Narration Topic 12: Disparities and hierarchies of knowledge</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Levels of Narration Topic 14: A comprehensive description of narrative Topic 15: Five types of narrative theory Topic 16: Subjectivity in narrative theories</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Writing Paper 2 Film Analysis Project 2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Objectivity and Uncertainty Topic 18: Fiction Topic 19: Psychologically real theories of fiction Topic 20: Fictional pictures and Nonfictional pictures</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>

## 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**

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- 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**

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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**

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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.



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## **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:

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.