

**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES
FALL SEMESTER 2017**

COURSE TITLE: UST 250/01: THE CITY IN FILM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Richard Klein
CREDIT HOURS: (3-0-3)
CLASS ROOM: UR 241
CLASS MEETINGS: T & Th. 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.
OFFICE: UA 232-E
OFFICE HOURS: T & Th. 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
OFFICE PHONE: (216) 802-3399
EMAIL: r.klein@csuohio.edu

Last Day to Drop Course: September 8, 2107.
Last Day to Withdraw: November 3, 2017.

TEXT: Timothy Corrigan and Patricia White, The Film Experience. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course delves into one of the most enduring problems facing America society. Urban issues and problems continue to affect American life. Major urban events along with economic, religious and social trends play a large part in determining the subject matter for many movies.

What motivating factors prompt the motion picture industry to present the American urban experience in the way it does? How have movie directors, producers and screen writers handled provocative issues over the years? How have stereotyping and typecasting impacted the film industry? How did the two world wars, the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Civil Rights Movement impact the film industry? How have recent economic, political and social trends in America influenced contemporary movie directors and producers? Using movies as a backdrop, students will gain new insight and knowledge as to how movies reflect American urban attitudes at crucial time periods.

This course also will provide a theoretical and/or empirical framework for a better understanding of the many contributions movie makers made to both society and the film industry. The idea is to help students better understand urban conditions and how significant

economic, political, and social issues affecting both American society and the motion picture industry.

GENERAL EDUCATION STATEMENT

This course fulfills one of the General Education requirements. Skill areas to be emphasized in this course of study include critical thinking and information literacy.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL AREA

Critical thinking is a conscious and purposeful process of self-reflection requiring the construction and evaluation of meanings. It involves examination of actions and their consequences in order to determine what to do next. In this course, students are expected to attain higher-order thinking skills-analysis, synthesis and evaluation abilities. Through their movie viewing, assigned readings, individually written paper, and exams, they are expected to collect information, make assumptions, explore possibilities and solve intellectual problems. Classroom discussions will enhance this experience by addressing the usefulness of such knowledge on a practical decision making level. Relating, organizing and synthesizing vast amounts of relevant information from recognized electronic and printed sources are critical thinking strategies. This higher-order thinking should be reflected in both their discussions and writing assignments.

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILL AREA

Information Literacy skills require that students address the ethical and legal uses of information. In addition, students must be able to evaluate the accuracy, authority, currency, objectivity and reliability of information sources. In their term paper, students will critically analyze one of the movies they viewed in class. They will present a synopsis of the film followed by a written discussion of the major motivating factors promoting that specific movie production, and how this film addressed a specific urban issue and/or problem at the time of its release. Students must not only demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the movie reviewed; but also, show how they have utilized the best sources available electronic and hard copy to justify their arguments.

Plagiarism may result in a student receiving a failing grade for the piece of work involved. At times, students might want to quote or state directly what an author has said. If so, they must set off quotes by quotation marks and use in-text citations. If a paraphrase statement is derived from several authors then students are to use a single pair of parentheses and a series of references separated by colons: (Johnson 1999; Perry 2004; Lindquist 2006).

Paraphrasing should be used to support a student's thinking and should form the bulk of the presented material. A paraphrase is a restatement of the words or ideas of an author or authors. Paraphrasing adds weight to an argument. Whenever possible, students should maintain the intent of the original passage. However, if a student finds it appropriate to synthesize the work of one or more authors then the student should use the style indicated

above. Students should submit their work to the plagiarism detection service www.turnitin.com. Please contact the Writing Center Director for a password and ID number. (m.murray@csuohio.edu, ext. 6982).

TERM PAPER REQUIREMENTS

THIS IS NOT A WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (WAC) COURSE. However, students are expected to complete one 2,500 word term paper (10-page term paper (10 pages, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1” margins) using APA on-line guides. Students will analyze one of the movies shown in class. The paper will begin with a brief overview of the era when the movie was filmed. Questions the student needs to address include: What current events were affecting the nation at that time? What prompted the filming of this movie? The paper will then focus on the film’s background. Who wrote the movie and why? Who financed it? Who promoted it? What is the plot? What did this film say about American urban society? What role did its writers, actors and producers have on the final product? Was the movie popular with the public in its own time or did it gain greater acclaim later? The final section of this paper should concentrate on the purpose behind the class viewing the film and whether others should view it or not? Term Paper due November 9, 2017.

COURSE METHODS

The course will consist of viewing movies followed by a brief discussion. Students are expected to attend all screenings and participate in all discussions. They also are expected to read the assigned text, take the 50-question multiple choice and true and false mid term and final exams on the prescribed dates and complete the assigned papers on the prescribed date. Class discussions on the films will focus on the following:

- In-depth review of the major issues raised in the film
- Critical analysis of style and technique used to achieve the intended affect
- Focus of intended audience and how the movie played to its viewers
- Impact financial considerations might have in focus of the film

The Mid Term Exam and the Final Exam are worth 70% of the total grade; the Term Paper is worth 25% and Class Attendance is worth 5%.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

An attendance sheet will be circulated at each session. Students are expected to sign the sheet. Lateness or failure to sign the sheet will count as an absence. Students are allowed three excused absences. It is possible that traffic delays, family and/or job responsibilities might cause an occasional delay in arrival for class. Repeat offenders disrupt the learning experience of any class and will be considered absent. This means they will not be added to the class attendance list even if they arrive late.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Educational access is the provision of the classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of their disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The office is located in UC 304. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.

WRITING ASSISTANCE

Students with difficulty in writing may contact the Writing Center located in Rhodes Tower 124 for assistance.

STUDENT GRADING:

A	= 94-100%
A-	= 90-93%
B+	= 87-89%
B	= 83-86%
B-	= 80-82%
C+	= 77-79%
C	= 70-76%
D	= 60-69%
F	= 0-59%

TOPIC AND SCREENING SCHEDULE:

WEEK ONE

- 1. Sophisticated Mystery During the Great Depression of the 1930s**
- 2. Film: "The Thin Man" (1934, W.S. Van Dyke, 93 min)**

WEEK TWO

- 1. Film Noir Classic**
- 2. Film: "Laura" (1944, Otto Preminger, 85 min)**

WEEK THREE

- 1. Psychological Thriller**
- 2. Film: "Sunset Boulevard" (1950, Billy Wilder, 111 min)**

WEEK FOUR

- 1. Popular Musical Mid-Century**
- 2. Film: "Tender Trap " (1955, Charles Walter, 111 min)**

WEEK FIVE

- 1. Seeking Love in the Big City**
- 2. Film: "Marty" (1955, Delbert Mann, 94 min)**

WEEK SIX

- 1. Realistic Portrayal of Alcoholism and the Urban Experience**
- 2. Film: "Days of Wine & Roses" (1962, Blake Edwards, 117 min)**

WEEK SEVEN

- 1. Comedy filmed in Cleveland**
- 2. Film: "The Fortune Cookie" (1966, Billy Wilder, 125 min)**

MID TERM EXAM---OCTOBER 19, 2017

WEEK EIGHT

- 1. British Caper**
- 2. Film: “The Italian Job” (1969, Peter Collinson, 95 min)**

WEEK NINE

- 1. Raymond Chandler/ Dashiell Hammett spoof based on Cal. Water Wars**
- 2. Film: “Chinatown” (1974, Roman Polanski, 131 min)**

WEEK TEN

- 1. Prejudice, Privilege and Race in U.S. Society 1960s**
- 2. Film: “In the Heat of the Night” (1966, Norman Jewison, 109 min)**

WEEK ELEVEN – TERM PAPER DUE - NOVEMBER 9, 2017

WEEK ELEVEN

- 1. Complicated Issues Affect Average Urban Dwellers**
- 2. Film: “3 AM” (Lee Davis, 2001, 88 min)**

WEEK TWELVE

- 1. Romance**
- 2. Film: “September” (1987, Woody Allen, 82 min)**

WEEK THIRTEEN – THANKSGIVING RECESS

WEEK FOURTEEN

- 1. Los Angeles Black Middle Class Youth 1990s**
- 2. Film: “House Party” (1990, Reginald Hudlin, 100 min)**

WEEK FIFTEEN

- 1. Supernatural Crime Thriller Neo-Noir**
- 2. Film: “Fallen” (1998, Gregory Hoblit, 126min)**

WEEK SIXTEEN: FINAL EXAM – December 12, 2017 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.