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## JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY

COURSE CODE: "COM 210-1"

COURSE NAME: "Introduction to Cinema (This course carries 3 semester hours of credit.)"

SEMESTER & YEAR: Fall 2024SYLLABUS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Barbara Ottaviani Jones

**EMAIL:** barbara.jones@johncabot.edu

**HOURS:** MW 3:00 PM 5:00 PM

**TOTAL NO. OF CONTACT HOURS:** 45

**CREDITS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed as an introduction to the art, history, and business of film. It presents an introduction to film aesthetics and the formal properties of film, locating specific styles and narrative forms within specific classical and alternative film movements. Film theories and critical strategies for the analysis of film will be investigated. The course will be divided into weekly screenings and lectures.

**SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT:**

This course is designed as an introduction to the art, history, and business of film. This course involves study of popular and art cinemas in the world, contextual issues in film, authorship, and realism. It presents an introduction to film aesthetics and the

On occasion, films will feature uncomfortable material. Feel free to step out of class if material is too triggering. **Be sure to communicate your concerns with me** so we can come up with a manageable plan.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will learn how to discuss the principal form and technical properties of film. They will develop an ability to discuss and analyze film as an artistic, industrial, and socio-cultural point of view. They will gain an awareness of the different contexts surrounding film production and exhibition, and the relationship between popular, documentary, and avantgarde production. They will be able to trace a history of film narrative and participate in debates including the race, gender, and the ideology and aesthetics of cinema. By the end of this course, students will be better skilled in:

- Watching, describing, and analyzing films.
- Reading and critically assessing academic literatures on films and cinema.

- Researching, drafting, and writing an academic essay/video essay.

**TEXTBOOK:**

Book Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN number	Library Call Number	Comments	Format	Local Bookstore	Online Purchase
Film Art	Bordwell	McGraw Hill	123			Ebook		

**REQUIRED RESERVED READING:**

NONE

**RECOMMENDED RESERVED READING:**

NONE

**GRADING POLICY**

**-ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Assignment	Guidelines	Weight
1. Attendance and oral discussion	Attendance and discussion in the class are absolutely vital. Students are expected to be engaged and participating fully (losing 1% every unexcused absence and missing discussion).	12
2. Reflection papers (weekly)	Reflection papers not more than 400 words (not included work citation.) Critical written analysis of the films must be submitted to Moodle/Turnitin. Students are required to provide a short analysis AND meaningful questions AND observations based on the provided readings before class (2% each submission, late submission are 0). At least 1 academic source is required, which includes the course textbook.	24
3. Short Papers (3)	All short papers are at least 750 words (not including work citation.) 1.5 spacing and 12- point font. The inclusion of images is encouraged where appropriate. At least 2 academic sources are required, which includes the course textbook.	30
4. Final project outline	A one-page outline for the final paper/project, previously discussed and approved is required.	6
5. Final research paper/video essay	Choose between 2500-3000 words essay or a 5-8 min long video essay (mainly for students with technical skills in productions). In addition, create a GIF based on the film(s) from your final project outline that highlights your topic of interest. The assignment must include a short description of the GIF and what it shows. APA or MLA formatting should be used for in-text citations and bibliography.	20
PWP Presentation of the Final Project to Class	Student's final presentation to class (only in presence for full grade).	8

**-ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:**

A Work of this quality directly addresses the question or problem raised and provides a coherent

argument displaying an extensive knowledge of relevant information or content. This type of work demonstrates the ability to critically evaluate concepts and theory and has an element of novelty and originality. There is clear evidence of a significant amount of reading beyond that required for the course.

**B**This is highly competent level of performance and directly addresses the question or problem raised. There is a demonstration of some ability to critically evaluate theory and concepts and relate them to practice. Discussions reflect the student's own arguments and are not simply a repetition of standard lecture and reference material. The work does not suffer from any major errors or omissions and provides evidence of reading beyond the required assignments.

**C**This is an acceptable level of performance and provides answers that are clear but limited, reflecting the information offered in the lectures and reference readings.

**D**This level of performance demonstrates that the student lacks a coherent grasp of the material. Important information is omitted and irrelevant points included. In effect, the student has barely done enough to persuade the instructor that s/he should not fail.

**F**This work fails to show any knowledge or understanding of the issues raised in the question. Most of the material in the answer is irrelevant.

#### **-ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

##### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATION POLICY**

You cannot make-up a major exam (midterm or final) without the permission of the Dean's Office. The Dean's Office will grant such permission only when the absence was caused by a serious impediment, such as a documented illness, hospitalization or death in the immediate family (in which you must attend the funeral) or other situations of similar gravity. **Absences due to other meaningful conflicts, such as job interviews, family celebrations, travel difficulties, student misunderstandings or personal convenience, will not be**

**excused.** Students who will be absent from a major exam must notify the Dean's Office prior to that exam. Absences from class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally be excused. Individual students who will have to miss class to observe a religious holiday should notify the instructor by the end of the Add/Drop period to make prior arrangements for making up any work that will be missed. The final exam period runs until \_\_\_\_\_

##### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

**As stated in the university catalog, any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade on the work in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty, irrespective of the weight of the assignment, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A student who is reported twice for academic dishonesty is subject to summary dismissal from the University. In such a case, the Academic Council will then make a recommendation to the President, who will make the final decision.**

##### **STUDENTS WITH LEARNING OR OTHER DISABILITIES**

**John Cabot University does not discriminate on the basis of disability or handicap. Students with approved accommodations must inform their professors at the beginning of the term. Please see the website for the complete policy.**

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##### **SCHEDULE**

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Fall 2024

