



**Humanities Division | Spring 2021**  
**CIN 101: Introduction to the Art of Film | Online | MPT 3130**

**Credit Hours:** 3.0

**Co-requisites:** None

**Prerequisites:** Grade of "C" or better in ENG 096 and RDG 096 or placement

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**Course Description:** This is an introductory course designed to acquaint students with the art of film and to enable them to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of this important medium. The course covers the history of cinema, various cinematic theories and genres, and profiles of the industry's most influential directors.

**General Education Goals:**

**CIN 101 is affirmed in the following General Education Foundation Category: Humanistic Perspective,** which is as follows: Students will analyze works in the field of art, music, or theater; literature; and philosophy and/or religious studies; and will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. recognize and describe the historical development of film as an art form; (GEG 7)
2. analyze types and genres of films as they vary across time, culture and cinematic traditions; (GEG 1, GEG 6, GEG 7)
3. utilize film analysis terminology involving form, storytelling and narrative elements to evaluate their function within film; (GEG 1, GEG 6, GEG 7) and
4. acquire, evaluate and cite print and online information sources about films and film criticism. (GEG 1, GEG 4, GEG 9)

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs):** Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Recognize and describe the historical development of film as an art form:
  - 1.1 *recognize and discuss key figures and works in the development of film as a medium, both in the United States and internationally*

2. Analyze types and genres of films as they vary across time, culture and cinematic traditions:
  - 2.1 *identify different types of films, including but not limited to narrative, documentary and experimental;*
  - 2.2 *identify different genres of films, including but not limited to horror, science fiction, Westerns, musicals, film noir, romance, action, comedy and crime drama;*
  - 2.3 *analyze various genre conventions in theme, setting, presentation, character types, story formulas and actors to critique film;* and
  - 2.4 *explain how genres are dynamic and vary across cultures*
3. Utilize film analysis terminology involving form, storytelling and narrative elements to evaluate their function within film:
  - 3.1 *utilize film analysis terms involving narrative elements to evaluate their function within film, including but not limited to story, plot, characters, and setting;*
  - 3.2 *utilize film analysis terms involving aspects of mise-en-scene to evaluate their function within a film, including lighting, framing, kinesics, setting, costume and makeup;*
  - 3.3 *utilize film analysis terms involving cinematography to evaluate their function within film, including but not limited to film stock, lighting, composition, framing, camera movement and POV;*
  - 3.4 *utilize film analysis terminology involving editing to evaluate their function within film, including but not limited to transitions, temporal and continuity editing;* and
  - 3.5 *utilize film analysis terminology involving sound to evaluate their function within film, including but not limited to diegetic and nondiegetic, sound design and sound POV.*
4. Acquire, evaluate and cite print and online information sources about films and film criticism:
  - 4.1 *utilize established research methodologies and sources to aggregate information for at least one 5 – 7 page research paper;*
  - 4.2 *write in MLA style and cite source material in MLA format to effectively communicate research;*
  - 4.3 *utilize paraphrasing as well as quoting directly from sources;*
  - 4.4 *distinguish between acceptable and questionable research sources, particularly in relation to Internet-based sources;* and
  - 4.5 *recognize and adhere to ECC and general academic plagiarism and ethics policies.*

**Methods of Instruction:** Instruction will consist of a combination of lecture, demonstration, use of visual aids (DVDs, etc.), and hands-on work.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Complete assigned readings and view all required screenings.
2. Participate actively in class discussions and activities.
3. Complete all written assignments on time and take all quizzes and exams as scheduled.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

| <b>Grading Components</b>  | <b>% of<br/>final course grade</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Quizzes and Class Participation/Forums</b><br/>Analysis of quiz and exam question responses will indicate the extent to which students have achieved some of the course objectives.<br/>Class participation includes attendance, completing class assignments, and involvement in class discussion. Assignments and discussion will provide evidence of student mastery of course objectives.</li></ul> | <b>50%</b>                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Critical Essays</b><br/>Students will write at least one 5 – 7 page or 5-10 minute MLA-format research paper or video essay conducting an extensive film analysis with a central organizing thesis related to course objectives. Students will complete a mid-term essay as well.</li></ul>   | <b>50%</b>                         |

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
- cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
- interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
- fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Attendance:** Excessive lateness or absences will negatively affect your class participation grade, which along with quizzes, makes up 50% of your grade.

**Students with Special Needs:** If you are a student with documented disabilities, you are entitled to

receive appropriate accommodations as recommended by the Office of Disability Support Services, which will occur once you provide the necessary documentation to this office. It is not enough for you to request such accommodations directly from me. You must contact a counselor in the Office of Disability Support Services, as soon as possible to receive valuable guidance and support. The office is located in Room 4122I and the phone number is 973-877-3071.

**Course Content Outline:** based on the text by Richard Barsam and Dave Monahan. Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film. Students are required to log in to Moodle for additional readings, screenings and assignments.

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Chapter/Topic</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| 1           | Course introduction   read chapter 1                                    |
| 2           | Early film history   read chapter 10   Forum 1                          |
| 3           | Types of movies   read chapter 3   <b>Quiz 1</b>                        |
| 4           | Mise-en-scene   read chapter 5   <b>Quiz 2</b>                          |
| 5           | Cinematography   read chapter 6   <b>Quiz 3</b>                         |
| 6           | Editing   read chapter 8   <b>Quiz 4</b>                                |
| 7           | Review   Film analysis   Forum 2  |
| 8           | <b>Midterm Essay due</b>  |
| 9           | Acting   read chapter 7   Forum 3                                       |
| 10          | Sound   read chapter 9   <b>Quiz 5</b>                                  |
| 11          | Documentary   OWL Purdue MLA citation reading   Forum 4                 |
| 12          | Film criticism   OWL Purdue research paper/plagiarism reading   Forum 5 |
| 13          | Film criticism   Prepare for final essay                                |
| 14          | Film criticism (continued)   <b>Research essay due</b>                  |
| 15          | Course wrap up  |