Introduction to Film
FILM 103

Professor: Bryan Bello
Office hours: M & W 9-10:30 and by appointment in LA 128
Readings: Understanding Movies
Readings on Moodle

Assignments: Weekly essay quizzes or take home review essays, midterm exam, and in-class comprehensive final exam

Course Goals/Objectives: This class requires the students to assess film from three different perspectives:

1) Aesthetics - Students will learn the conventions involved in putting together a film, and the aesthetic commitments involved in using these conventions.

2) Ethics - Many, if not most films, have at their center some ethical issue or dilemma. Students will learn to identify, characterize and write clearly about the filmic expressions of these dilemmas.

3) Politics of Film - Students will learn to be critical viewers of film and to look for the social significance in the apparently neutral image and in the medium itself.

I. Film Conventions and Aesthetics

8/30 Introduction
Assigned: UM ch. 1

9/1 Terminology and Realism/Formalism prt 1
Assigned: Cinematic structures - Moodle

9/6 Terminology and Realism/Formalism prt 2

9/8 The Assassination of Jesse James
Assigned: UM ch. 2

9/13 QUIZ on The Assassination of Jesse James
Discussion of film / Mise-en-scene

9/15 Pulp Fiction
Assigned: UM ch. 4

9/20 QUIZ on Pulp Fiction
Discussion of film / Editing
Assigned: Fire Burn revw / Archival theory/ Archival ethics - Moodle

9/22 Let the Fire Burn
Assigned: Black Media Matters - Moodle

9/27 The Bombing of Osage Avenue
Assigned: Essay on editing and content due 10/6

9/29 Discussion of films
Assigned: Ethics readings - Moodle
II. Ethics in Film
10/4 Ethics in Film
10/6 TBD
   ESSAY on editing and content DUE at beginning of class
   Assigned: Prepare for Mid-term

10/11 Discussion of film
   MIDTERM on Gone Baby Gone
   Assigned: Baudrillard and Lanzmann – Moodle
10/13 First half of Schindler’s List

III. The Politics of Representation
10/18 Representing the Holocaust
10/20 Shoah

10/25 Second half of Schindler’s List
10/27 Discussion of Holocaust films prt 1
   Night and Fog
   Assigned: Son of Saul readings from Film Comment/ NYTimes/DW/New Republic
   Cinema Scope
   Assigned: Essay on politics of representation due 11/10

11/1 Son of Saul
11/3 Discussion of Holocaust films prt 2

11/8 ELECTION DAY
11/10 NO CLASS
   ESSAY on the politics of representation DUE by noon at my office
   Assigned: “Genre and Myth” section in UM ch. 8/ Sci-fi genre readings - Moodle

IV. GENRE
11/15 Genre/Sci-fi
11/17 Her

11/22 QUIZ on Her
   Discussion of Her
   Assigned: Black Comedy readings on Moodle
11/24 THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/29 Black Comedy Genre
   Li’l Quinquin part 1
12/1 Li’l Quinquin part 2

12/6 QUIZ on Li’l Quinquin
   Discussion of film
12/8 Summary and Review

There will be a final comprehensive exam. Date TBD.