

**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.