

## FILM 103: Introduction to Film

**Professor:** Bryan Bello

**Office hours:** Th & F 11-12:00 and by appointment in LA 128

**Readings:** *Understanding Movies*; Readings on Moodle

**Assignments:** Weekly quizzes, two essays, a take-home midterm and a comprehensive final

**Course Goals/Objectives:** Students learn to assess film from three different perspectives in cultivating a deeper understanding of the moving image and its role in culture:

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

1/24 INTRODUCTION

Assigned: UM ch. 1

1/26 LESSON I: TERMINOLOGY AND REALISM/FORMALISM PART 1

Assigned: Cinematic structures - Moodle

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1/31 LESSON II: TERMINOLOGY AND REALISM/FORMALISM PART 2

2/2 Film: ***Songs My Brothers Taught Me***

Assigned: UM ch. 2

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2/7 QUIZ on *Songs My Brother Taught Me*

Discussion of film

LESSON III: MISE-EN-SCENE

2/9 Film: ***Camera Person***

Assigned: UM ch. 4 / Sharff - Moodle

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2/14 QUIZ on *Camera Person*

Discussion of film /

LESSON IV: EDITING PART 1

Assigned: Fire Burn revw / Archival theory/ Archival ethics - Moodle

2/16 Film: ***Let the Fire Burn***

Assigned: Black Media Matters - Moodle

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2/21 QUIZ on *Let the Fire Burn*

Discussion of film

Film: ***The Bombing of Osage Avenue***

Assigned: Essay on editing and content due 3/2

2/23 QUIZ on *The Bombing of Osage Avenue*

Discussion of films

LESSON V: EDITING PART 2

Assigned: Ethics readings - Moodle

II. Ethics in Film

2/28 LESSON VI: ETHICS IN FILM PART 1

3/2 Film: ***The Act of Killing***

ESSAY on editing and content DUE

Assigned: readings on *The Act of Killing*

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3/7 Discussion of film

QUIZ on the *Act of Killing*

LESSON VII: ETHICS IN FILM PART 2

Assigned: *The Look of Silence* readings; Take-home midterm due 3/28

3/9 Film: ***The Look of Silence***

QUIZ: attendance based

Assigned: Baudrillard and Lanzmann – Moodle for 3/28 class

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3/14 – 3/23 No class [In Europe / your Spring Break]

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III. The Politics of Representation

3/28 MIDTERM due

Debrief on Joshua Oppenheimer films

QUIZ on Baudrillard and Lanzmann readings

Film: First half of ***Schindler's List***

3/30 Film: Second half of ***Schindler's List***

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4/4 QUIZ on *Schindler's List*

Discussion of film

Film: ***Shoah***

4/6 QUIZ on *Shoah*

LESSON VIII: REPRESENTATION AND THE HOLOCAUST ON FILM PART 1

Film: ***Night and Fog***

Assigned: *Son of Saul* readings on Moodle; Essay on representation due 4/20

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4/11 QUIZ on *Night and Fog*

Film: ***Son of Saul***

4/13 QUIZ on *Son of Saul*

LESSON VIV: REPRESENTATION AND THE HOLOCAUST ON FILM PART 2

Assigned: "Genre and Myth" section in UM ch. 8; Sci-fi genre readings on Moodle

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IV. GENRE

4/18 ESSAY on the politics of representation DUE

LESSON X: GENRE

4/20 ***Teknolust***

Assigned: Documentary readings on Moodle

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4/25 QUIZ on ***Teknolust***

Discussion of ***Teknolust***

LESSON XI: DOCUMENTARY AND THE PURSUIT OF THE REAL

4/27 Film: ***Sans Soleil***

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5/2 Discussion of *Sans Soleil*  
LESSON XII: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW