

**Introduction to Film
FILM 103**

Professor Sean O'Brien

Office hours: Tu W 11-12:30 and by appointment in LA 110

Readings: *Understanding Movies*

Readings on Moodle

Assignments: Weekly essay quizzes or take home review essays, midterm exam, and an 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) Politic 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.

Schedule:

I. Film Conventions and Aesthetics

8/31 Introduction

9/5 Terminology and Realism/Formalism
Readings: UM ch. 1

9/7 Quiz

9/12 *The Assassination of Jesse James*

9/14 Quiz on *The Assassination*

Mise-en-scene

Readings: UM ch. 2

9/19 *Pulp Fiction*

9/21* Quiz on *Pulp Fiction*

Discussion

9/26 Editing

Readings: ch. 4

9/28 *The Fighter*

10/3 Midterm focused on *The Fighter*
10/5 *Get Out*

II. Ethics in Film

10/10 Ethics in Film
Readings: Ethics reading Moodle
10/12 Ethics in Film
Readings: Ethics reading on Moodle

10/17 *Gone Baby Gone*
10/19* Quiz on and discussion of *Gone Baby Gone*

III. The Politics of Representation

10/24 Representing the Holocaust
Readings: Baudrillard and Lanzmann on e-reserve
10/26 First half of *Schindler's List*

10/31 *Shoah*
Essay on politics of representation assigned –
11/2 Second half of *Schindler's List*

11/7 Discussion of Holocaust films
Essay on the Politics of Representation due

IV GENRE

11/9 Sci Fi Genre
Readings: "Genre and Myth" in UM ch. 8
Sci Fi Genre readings on Moodle

11/14 "Her"
11/16 Discussion of "Her"
Essay on "Her" due

11/21 Black Comedy Genre
Readings: Black Comedy readings on Moodle

11/23 THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/28 "Office Space"
11/30 Discussion of "Office Space"
Quiz on "Office Space"

V. Film and Affirmation

12/5 American Beauty

12/7 Summary and Review

12/12 Summary and Review

There will be a final comprehensive exam Thurs., December 14 from 10:10-12:10.