University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School

FIM 110 Introduction to Film Studies

Term: June 13th – July 14th, 2022
Instructor: Dr. Matthew L. Conboy
Home Institution: Robert Morris University
Email: conboy@rmu.edu
Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)
Office Hours: TBD
Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)
Location: WEB
Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

FIM 110 is an introduction to film analysis that examines critical approaches of authorship, genre, presentation, and narrative. Students will become literate in the language of cinema and learn basic film concepts, techniques, and terminology. Focal topics include spectatorship, ideology, social and political context, celebrity culture, ambits of meaning, and modes of film criticism. FIM 110 is designed for students who love movies but may lack the experience to make viable interpretive arguments about them.

Course Goals:

Develop literacy in filmic language within a variety of stylistic contexts. Discuss the relationship between specific films and the social settings in which they were produced. Explore significant chapters in film history. Reflect on personally and culturally determined viewing positions. Synthesize textbook and lecture material in order to work as part of a film production group. Utilize industry standard software to create a film "short."

Prerequisite:

None

Required Textbook:

Looking at the Movies, 7th Edition, Richard Barsam and David Monahan,
Print ISBN: 9780393885835, 0393885836
Edition: 7th

Grading Policy:

Weekly Quizes (4)   60% (15% each)
These will consist of True/False, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions

Weekly Discussion Questions 20% (4% each week)
These will consist of prompts that will encourage debate and discussion between you and your peers.

Group Production Project   20%
This will consist of a group working together to produce a film "short." Information provided in the readings will guide the students through all steps of film production and editing.

Grading Scale:

The quizzes and project will be graded according to the following grade scale：

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Class Rules:

A summer course (and especially an asynchronous online course!) is an intense and fast-paced learning environment. Students must make a commitment to the course in order to earn a passing grade. To create a successful learning environment all students must adhere to the following rules:

• Students must log into class and watch my lectures each day during the week.
• Students will make every effort to contribute to class discussion boards and lectures.
• Students will work collaboratively and as a team to produce a film. Your peers will need to rely on you so please do not force them to complete your share of the work.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in class is mandatory. If an absence is unavoidable, arrangements must be made in advance to avoid penalty. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any unexcused absences may impact the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has missed more than one-third of the class (6 class times) of a course will fail.

Course Schedule and Topics:

Week 1 (Introduction to Class)
Monday   Introduction to Class, Syllabus, and Film Vocabulary
Tuesday   Chapter 1 Looking at Movies

Wednesday   Chapter 2 Principles of Film Form
Thursday   Quiz and Chapter 10 Film History

Week 2 (Story Development and Storyboarding)
Monday   Chapter 3 Types of Movies
Tuesday   Chapter 4 Elements of Narrative
Wednesday   Chapter 5 Mise-en-Scene
Thursday   Quiz, Chapter 11 How the Movies are Made, and The Film Pitch and Treatment

Week 3 (Film Production)
Monday   Storyboarding Exercise and Pitch Bible
Tuesday   Chapter 6 Cinematography
Wednesday   Chapter 7 Acting
Thursday   Quiz and Production Time

Week 4 (Video Editing)
Monday   Introduction to Video Editing Software Pt. 1
Tuesday   Introduction to Video Editing Software Pt. 2
Wednesday   Production Time
Thursday   Quiz and Chapter 8 Editing

Week 5 (Post-Production)
Monday   Chapter 9 Sound
Tuesday   Post-Production
Wednesday   Post-Production and Titles
Thursday   Class wrap-up, Film Screenings and Evaluations