



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

FIM 110 Introduction to Film Studies

Term: October 10th–December 2nd, 2022

Instructor: Dr. Matthew L. Conboy

Home Institution: Robert Morris University

Email: conboy@rmu.edu

Class Hours: 240–360 minutes each week (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion session: 60–120 minutes 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.

Prerequisite:

None

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.”

Required Textbook:

Looking at the Movies, 5th Edition, Richard Barsam and David Monahan, PDF Copy supplied by

Professor

Any other readings will be supplied by the instructor

Grading Policy:

Quizzes (4) 40% (10% each)

These will consist of True/False, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions

Weekly Discussion Questions (4) 40% (10% 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:

This 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 during each 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 and Cinematic Language)

Monday: Introduction to Class, Syllabus, and Film Vocabulary

Tuesday: Chapter 1 Looking at Movies

Wednesday: Chapter 2 Principles of Film Form

Thursday: Quiz and Case Study: Juno (2007)

Week 2 (Film History)

Monday: Chapter 10 Film History Part I

Tuesday: Chapter 10 Film History Part II

Wednesday: Chapter 3 Types of Movies

Thursday: Quiz and Case Study: Stagecoach (1939)

Week 3 (Elements of Narrative)

Monday: Chapter 4 Elements of Narrative Part I

Tuesday: Chapter 4 Elements of Narrative Part II

Wednesday: Chapter 5 Mis-en-Scène

Thursday: Case Study: La La Land (2016)

Week 4 (Cinematography)

Monday: Chapter 6 Cinematography Part I

Tuesday: Chapter 6 Cinematography Part II

Wednesday: Chapter 6 Cinematography Part III

Thursday: Quiz and Case Study Citizen Kane (1941)

Week 5 (Story Development)

Monday: Chapter 11 How the Movies are Made

Tuesday: Storyboarding Exercise and Pitch Bible Part I

Wednesday: Storyboarding Exercise and Pitch Bible Part I

Thursday: Quiz and Case Study Man in La Mancha (2002)

Week 6 (Film Production)

Monday: Chapter 7 Acting Part I

Tuesday: Chapter 7 Acting Part II

Wednesday: Production Time

Thursday: Case Study Moonlight (2016)

Week 7 (Video Editing and Post-Production)

Monday: Introduction to Video Editing Software Pt. 1

Tuesday: Introduction to Video Editing Software Pt. 2

Wednesday: Chapter 8 Editing

Thursday: Case Study City of God (2002)



Week 8 (Sound and Post-Production)

Monday: Chapter 9 Sound

Tuesday: Post-Production

Wednesday: Post-Production and Titles

Thursday: Class wrap-up, Film Screenings and Evaluations